

# BARNSELY AND DISTRICT JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Affiliated to the Sheffield & Hallamshire County FA



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# MINI SOCCER & YOUTH FOOTBALL RULES AND PROCEDURES 2024 - 2025

ENGLAND FOOTBALL ACCREDITED LEAGUE

It is the responsibility of every Manager and Team Representative to have a copy of this Handbook available at every match (electronically or hard copy), familiarize themselves with the rules and procedures of the Barnsley & District Junior Football League

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League Website Address: [www.barnsleyanddistrictjfl.co.uk](http://www.barnsleyanddistrictjfl.co.uk). Here you will find links to the League Facebook and Twitter pages as well as up to date Club and League Contact Details, Referee Contact Details, League News and access to the League Divisions Tables, and recent Results.



## MANAGEMENT LEAGUE OFFICERS CONTACT DETAILS

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Welfare Officer	John Neville	07753 413229	welfare@barnsleyanddistrictjfl.co.uk
Fines Secretary	Karen Parton	07740 012056	fines@barnsleyanddistrictjfl.co.uk
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U7s & U8s Registrar	Michelle Logan	07596 335015	U7registrar@barnsleyanddistrictjfl.co.uk
U9s Registrar	Karen Parton	07740 012056	U8registrar@barnsleyanddistrictjfl.co.uk
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Management & Cups	Mark Thompson	07889 119414	Mark.thompson69@sky.com
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## LEAGUE MEETINGS

THURSDAY 1st AUGUST 2024

THURSDAY 5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024

THURSDAY 7<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

THURSDAY 6<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2025

THURSDAY 6<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2025

THURSDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> APRIL 2025

LEAGUE AGM – THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025

Further meetings may be arranged throughout the season and details distributed to clubs accordingly.

MEETINGS WILL COMMENCE AT 7.30pm (unless informed otherwise)

VENUE:

ST PAUL'S PARISH CHURCH

PARISH CHURCH HALL

CROSS STREET

BARNSELY

S71 2HQ

It does not have to be the Club Secretary who attends the League Meetings, it can be a Team Manager or Club Representative, however, it would be advisable for all Team Managers to attend at least one meeting throughout the season as there is a lot of valuable information distributed.

NON-REPRESENTATION FOR YOUR CLUB/TEAM AT ANY MEETING or ONLINE TEAMS MEETING WILL INCUR A FINE OF £25.00 (**NO APOLOGIES ACCEPTED**) PLUS AN INCREMENTAL FINE OF £10.00 WILL BE ADDED TO ALL ADDITIONAL MEETINGS NOT ATTENDED. (See Rule 8.H) – Example:- miss 1 meeting = £25, attend 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting no fine, miss 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting = £25 plus £10 (£35), miss 4<sup>th</sup> = £35 plus £10 (£45) as illustrated in table below

MEETING	FINE
Missed 1 Meeting	£25.00
Missed 2 Meeting	£25.00 plus £10.00 = £35.00
Missed 3 Meeting	£35.00 plus £10.00 = £45.00
Missed 4 Meeting	£45.00 plus £10.00 = £55.00
Missed 5 Meeting	£55.00 plus £10.00 = £65.00
Missed 6 Meeting	£65.00 plus £10.00 = £75.00

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**STANDARD CODE OF RULES FOR MINI SOCCER AND YOUTH FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS  
INCORPORATING THE RULES OF THE BARNSELEY & DISTRICT JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE 2024 - 2025  
STANDARD CODE OF RULES**

This document contains the Standard Code of Rules developed by The Football Association for Mini Soccer and Youth Football Competitions (the "Standard Code"). The Standard Code is mandatory for all Mini Soccer and Youth Football Competitions. Competitions seeking sanctions must draft their Rules in conformity with the Standard Code, using the same numbering and standard headings. The mandatory rules are printed in normal text and the optional rules in italics. It should be noted that in many cases rules are so printed because they are alternatives and the procedure to apply should be retained and the others omitted. In all cases where a [] is shown the necessary name, address, number, or wording to complete that rule must be inserted. Competitions may add to the core of the Standard Code, which is mandatory, providing the additions are approved by the Sanctioning Authority and do not conflict with the mandatory rules or any relevant principles and policies established by The FA. Guidance from the Sanctioning Authority should be sought in advance if there is any doubt as to the acceptability of additional rules.

**DR1 DEFINITIONS (Relates to Standard Code of Rule 1)**

**1(A)** In these Rules: "Affiliated Association" means an Association accorded the status of an Affiliated Association under the rules of The FA.

"AGM" shall mean the annual general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

"Club" means a club for the time being in membership of the Competition.

**"Club Portal" means the system used by Clubs to affiliate teams as determined by The FA from time to time.**

"Competition" means the ["Barnsley & District Junior Football League"].

"Competition Match" means any match played or to be played under the jurisdiction of the Competition.

"Contract Player" means any Player (other than a

Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play under a written contract of employment with a Club.

"Deposit" means a sum of money deposited with the Competition as part of the requirements of membership of the Competition.

"Fees Tariff" means a list of fees approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any matters for which fees are payable under the Rules, as set out at Schedule A.

"Fines Tariff" means a list of fines approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any breach of the Rules, as set out at Schedule A.

"Ground" means the ground on which the Club's Team(s) plays its Competition Matches.

"Management Committee" means in the case of a Competition which is an unincorporated association, the management committee elected to manage the running of the Competition and where the Competition is incorporated it means the Board of Directors appointed in accordance with the articles of association of that company.

"Match Officials" means the referee, the assistant referees and any fourth official appointed to a Competition Match.

"Mini Football" means those participating at ages under 7s to under 10s,

"Non-Contract Player" means any Player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play for a Club but has not entered a written contract of employment.

"Officer" means an individual who is appointed or elected to a position in a Club or Competition which requires that individual to make day to day decisions.

"Participant" shall have the same meaning as set out in the rules of The FA from time to time.

"Player" means any Contract Player, Non-Contract Player or other player who plays or who is eligible to play for a Club.

"Player Registration System" means The FA System to register players as determined by The FA from time to time.

"Playing Season" means the period between the date on which the first competitive fixture in the Competition is played each year until the date on which the last competitive fixture in the Competition is played.

"Rules" means these rules under which the Competition is administered.

"Sanctioning Authority" means [The FA] [the [Sheffield & Hallamshire] County Football Association Limited].

"Scholarship" means a Scholarship as defined in The FA Rules.

"Season" means the period between an AGM and the subsequent AGM.

"Secretary" means such person or persons appointed or elected to carry out the administration of the Competition.

"SGM" means a special general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

"Team" means a team affiliated to a Club, including where a Club provides more than one team in the Competition in accordance with the Rules.

"The FA" means The Football Association Limited.

"written" or "in writing" means the representation or reproduction of words or symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.

"Youth Football" means those participating at ages under 11s to under 18s.

**1(B)** Unless stated otherwise, terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and also the other way around.

## **GOVERNANCE RULES**

### **DR2 COMPETITION NAME AND CONSTITUTION (Relates to Standard Code of Rule 2)**

**2(A)** The Competition will be known as [**“The Barnsley & District Junior Football League”**] (or such other name as the Competition may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A Club which ceases to exist, or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.

**2(B)** This Competition shall consist of not more than [**50**] Clubs *and/or* [**250**] Teams approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

**2(C)** The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be [**within a 20 Miles radius from the Barnsley Town Hall**].

**2(D)** The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Management Committee in accordance with the rules, regulations, and policies of The FA.

**2(E)** All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a member of the Competition to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee in relation to them subject to the provisions of **Rule 7**.

**2(F)** The Rules are taken from the Standard Code of Rules for Youth Competitions (the “Standard Code”) determined by The FA from time to time. In the event of any omissions from the Standard Code then the requirements of the Standard Code shall be deemed to apply to the Competition.

**2(G)1.** All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association.

**2.** This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Sanctioning Authority and the constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding [**10**] in number.

**2(H)** Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

**1.** The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (including those contained in the Equality Act 2010).

**2.** This Competition and each Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability, or disability or otherwise.

**3.** Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.

**2(I)** Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including, but not limited to, England Football Accredited and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of [**£50**] in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**2(J)** All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children and Regulations for Safeguarding Adults at Risk as determined by The FA from time to time.

**2(K)** Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing in the Competition in any other competition (with the exception of FA and County FA Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of [**£50**] in accordance with the Fines Tariff. **A Club must immediately inform the Competition of the details of any fixture(s) in any other competition in which the Club has entered, for which written consent of the Management Committee has been obtained.**

**2(L)** At the AGM or an SGM called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the constitution of the divisions at their discretion. When necessary, this Rule shall take precedence over **Rule 22**.

**2(M)** Only one Team from a Club shall be permitted to participate in a single division unless there is no viable alternative because of logistical issues and/or reasons linked to participation and geographical boundaries in which case the Competition will obtain the prior approval of the Sanctioning Authority. This Competition will ensure that, where permission is given, Teams from a Club operating in the same division are run as separate entities with no interchange of players other than by transfers of registration in accordance with these Rules.

### **DR3 CLUB NAME (Relates to Standard Code of Rule 3)**

**3(A)** Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority following consultation with the Competition, In the event that permission is granted, the Club must advise the Competition Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of [**£25**] in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

#### **DR4 ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT (Relates to Standard Code of Rule 4)**

**4(A)** Applications by Clubs for admission to the Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same Club must be made in writing to the Secretary by the [15<sup>th</sup> July] annually and must be accompanied by an entry fee of [£75] for each Team as set out in the Fees Tariff, which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

Applications, of which due notice has been given, will be received at the AGM or an SGM if confirmed by a majority of the accredited voting members present. When Rule 22(B) is applied or a Team seeks a transfer or, is compulsorily transferred to another division, no Entry Fee shall be payable.

**4(B)** The annual subscription of [£75] shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff for each *Club/Team payable, at the date agreed at the AGM or set by the Competition on or before the [15<sup>th</sup> July] each year. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of [£25] in accordance with the Fines Tariff.*

**4(C)** *In the event of any issue concerning the membership of any Club with the Competition the Management Committee may require a Deposit of [£75] to be paid in accordance with the Fees Tariff by or on behalf the Club/Team on such terms and for such period as it may in its entire discretion think fit and shall be payable on or before the [15<sup>th</sup> July] in each year. Any teams wishing to withdraw any teams after this date will not be entitled to any refund unless they have a valid and substantiated reason for withdrawal. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of [£25] in accordance with the Fines Tariff.*

**4(D)** A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the entry fee, annual subscription, and deposit (if required) have been paid.

**4(E)** *Clubs must ensure that all its teams participating in the Competition are recorded as affiliated on the Club Portal For the forthcoming Playing Season by the following date [1<sup>st</sup> September]. Clubs must advise the Secretary in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority, or on the prescribed form, of details of its Headquarters, its Officers and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of [£25] in accordance with the Fines Tariff.*

#### **DR5 MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION (Relates to Standard Code of Rule 5)**

**5(A)** The Management Committee shall comprise of the Officers of the Competition [President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and Welfare Officer and up to [10] Management Team] members who shall all be elected at the AGM.

**5(B)** Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination provided that the Officer notifies the Secretary in writing no later than [1<sup>st</sup> June] in each year. All other candidates for election as Officers of the Competition or members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the secretaries of two Clubs, not later than [1<sup>st</sup> June] in each year. Names of the candidates for election as Officers shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being no nomination for any office by the date stated in the earlier part of this Rule, nominations may be received at the AGM.

**5(C)** The Management Committee shall meet a minimum of twice a season or as and when required. On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Management Committee.

**5(D)** Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.

**5(E)** All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Officers and sent to the Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of [£25] in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Telephone Calls o/r Text/WhatsApp Messages to any League Officer, Registrar, Committee Member or Member Club Official must not be made before 8.00am or after 8pm unless agreed.

#### **DR6 POWERS OF MANAGEMENT (Relates to Standard Code of Rule 6)**

**6(A)** The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all sub-committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have power to deal with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of The FA or Affiliated Association.

**6(B)** Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each Season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any club which may have withdrawn during the Season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the Season.

**6(C)** Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee meetings and have one vote at all such meetings, but no member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly relating to that member or to the Club so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest. (This shall also apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).

**6(D)** In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

**6(E)** The Management Committee shall have the powers to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules and shall also have authority over all matters affecting the Competition. Any action by the Competition must be taken within 28 days of the Competition being notified.

With the exception of **Rules 6(I), 8(H) and 9**, for all alleged breaches of a Rule the Management Committee shall issue a formal written charge to the Club concerned. The Club charged shall be given 7 days from the date of notification of the charge to reply. In such reply a Club may: -

1. Accept the charge and/or submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee; or
2. Accept the charge and notify the Competition **[in writing]** that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or
3. Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee; or
4. Deny the charge and notify the Competition **[in writing]** that it wishes to have a hearing before the Management Committee.

Where the Club charged fails to respond within 7 days, the Management Committee shall determine the charge in such manner and upon such evidence as it considers appropriate. Having considered the reply of the Club (whether in writing or at a hearing), the Management Committee shall make its decision and, in the event that the charge is accepted or proven, decide on the appropriate penalty (with reference to the Fines Tariff where applicable).

Where required, hearings shall take place as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of the reply of the Club as more fully set out above. With the exception of Teams playing at Regional NLS Feeder League of the National League System, the maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Management Committee must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence: taking into account any mitigating circumstances. The maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule by a Team at Regional NLS Feeder League level is £500. The maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule by a Team playing with the [BDJFL] League level is **[£100]**. No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined. All breaches of the Laws of the Game or the Rules and Regulations of The FA shall be dealt with in accordance with FA Rules by the appropriate Sanctioning Association.

**6(F)** All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with **Rule 7**. Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 7 days.

**6(G)** A maximum of **[60%]** of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any of its sub-committee.

**6(H)** The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill, in an acting capacity, any vacancies that may occur amongst their number.

**6(I)** A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of up to **[£100]** in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**6(J)** Subject to the Club's right of appeal in accordance with **Rule 7** below, all fines and charges must be paid within **[10 days]** of the date of notification of the decision. Any Club failing to do so will be fined up to **[£100]** in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine, including the additional fine within a further **[7 days]** will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.

**6(K)** A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or Competition Match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.

**6(L)** The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the AGM or SGM called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Playing Season, subject to the provisions of the National League System Regulations or Women's Football Pyramid Regulations (which shall take precedence if applicable).

**6(M)** The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

#### **DR7 PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS (Relates to Standard Code of Rule 7)**

**7(A)1.** All questions of eligibility, qualification of Players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee.

**2.** Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the Match.

**7(B)** Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests, and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within **[7]** day's (excluding Sundays) of the Competition Match or occurrence to which they refer.



A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of their Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

**7(C)** No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum of **[£25]** in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the inquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

**7(D)** All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days before the protest or complaint being heard.

1. All parties must have received a minimum of 7 day's notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.

2. Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should indicate such when forwarding the written response.

**7(E)** The Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Management Committee shall direct.

**7(F)** Any appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of the posting of the written notification of the decision causing the appeal, accompanied by a fee of **[£25]** (as set out in the Fees Tariff), which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. A copy of the appeal must also be sent to the Secretary. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority, and the Sanctioning Authority may (but is not obliged to):

1. invite submissions by the parties involved.

2. convene a hearing to hear the appeal.

3. permit new evidence; or

4. Impose appropriate deadlines.

Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee.

**7(G)** No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless this is on the grounds of unconstitutional conduct.

**7(H)** All protests, claims or complaints relating to these Rules and appeals arising from a Player's contract shall be heard and determined by the Management Committee, or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee. The Clubs or Players protesting, appealing, claiming or complaining must send a copy of such protest, appeal, claim or complaint and deposit a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff) which shall be forfeited in the event of the protest, appeal, claim or complaint being upheld, and in these circumstances may, in addition, be ordered to pay the costs at the direction of the Management Committee. All such protests, claims, complaints and appeals must be received in writing by the Secretary within 14 day's of the event or decision causing any of these to be submitted.

#### **DR8 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & LEAGUE MEETINGS (Relates to Standard Code of Rule 8(A))**

The AGM shall be held not later than **[30<sup>th</sup> June]** in each year. At this meeting, the following business shall be transacted provided that at least **[60%]** members are present and entitled to vote: -

1. Confirm the minutes of the last AGM.

2. Adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts from the previous season or accounting period.

3. Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.

4. Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Season.

5. Election of Competition Officers and Management Committee Members.

6. Appointment of auditors/verifiers.

7. Alteration of Rules, if any (**see Rule 14**).

8. Agree the date for the beginning of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.

9. Agree the date for the end of the Playing Season.

10. Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted by the Chair as being relevant to an AGM.

**8(B)** A copy of the duly *audited/verified* balance sheet, statement of accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 7 days prior to the meeting together with any proposed Rule changes.

**8(C)** A signed copy of the duly *audited/verified* balance sheet and statement of accounts shall be sent to the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of its adoption by the AGM.

**8(D)** Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only 14 day's notice shall be given of any AGM.

**8(E)** Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the Playing Season being concluded or who are not continuing membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the Season being concluded. *This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 12.*

**8(F)** All voting shall be conducted by a show of hands or count of email for virtual responses (for virtual meetings),

unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chair so decides.

**8(G)** No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Club.

**8(H)1.** Any continuing Club must be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of **[£50]** in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**2. Any Club that has submitted a valid application to join the Competition for the forthcoming season must have the opportunity to be put forward for membership and has to have a vote taken on their membership application. Clubs must be represented at all Competition League Meetings including On-Line Meetings, there will be (NO APOLOGIES ACCEPTED). This does not have to be the Club Secretary who attends the Meetings. It would be advisable for all Team Managers to attend at least one meeting throughout the season. There is a lot of valuable information distributed. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of [£25] in accordance with the Fines Tariff, plus an incremental fine of for each additional meeting will be added (see page 3 of this handbook). This does not include members of the Competition Management Team.**

**8(I)** Officers of the Competition and Management Committee Members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM, but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a club (See Rule 8.G)

**8(J)** Where a Competition is an incorporated entity, the Officers of the Competition shall ensure that the Articles of the Association of the Competition are consistent with the requirements of these Rules.

#### **DR9 SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS (Relates to Standard Code of Rule 9)**

**9(A)** On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call an SGM.

**9(B)** The Management Committee may call an SGM at any time.

**9(C)** At least **[7]** day's notice shall be given of a meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.

**9(D)** Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.

**9(E)** Any Club failing to be represented at an SGM shall be fined **[£25]** in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**Apologies for non-attendance at these meetings do not waiver the fine. (This does not include members of the Management Team Committee).**

**9(F)** Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote for all SGMs but cannot cast a vote on behalf of a club **(See Rule 9D).**

#### **DR10 AGREEMENTS TO BE SIGNED (Relates to Standard Code of Rule 10)**

**10(A)** Each Club shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the Competition together with the application for membership for the coming Season. "We, (A), (name) [ ] of (address) [ ] (Chair)/Director and (B) (name) [ ] of (address) [ ] (Secretary/Director) of [ ] Football Club (Limited) have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the [ ] Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, if elected or accepted into membership, to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with **Rule 7.**" **The agreement shall be signed:**

**1.** Where a Club is an unincorporated association, by the Club Chair and Secretary; or

**2.** Where a Club is an incorporated entity, by two directors of the Club.

Any change of the Chair, Secretary or Director of the Club as named on the above agreement must be notified to the **[Barnsley & district Junior League]** County Football Association to which the Club is sanctioned and to the Secretary of the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of **[£25]** in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**Only Secretaries registered with the County FA will be recognised as being the Secretary registered with the Competition. Every Club shall appoint a Club Welfare Officer whose particulars shall be forwarded to the Competition Secretary together with any amendments to their Clubs Child Protection Policy. The Club Welfare Officers details must be added onto the FA WGS Portal together with all Club/Team Managers and Assistant Managers. All Welfare Officers, Managers and Assistant Managers are also required to have an in-date FA, DBS, Safeguarding Children's Qualification and the FA Emergency First Aid Qualification. The maximum number of team officials allowed within the technical area is no more than [3] at any game and all these officials must be assigned to the Club/Team on the FA WGS Portal.**

#### **DR11 CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB (Relates to Standard Code of Rule 11)**

**11(A)** Any Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a Team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the Secretary in writing of such intention by **[15<sup>th</sup> August]** each season. This does not apply to a Club moving in accordance with **Rule 22.B.** Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of **[£50]** in accordance with the fines tariff. **During the current season, Club must inform the Competition Secretary immediately in writing and Club/Team will be fined [£50] in accordance with the Fines Tariff.**

**11(B)** The Management Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a Team being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season, including but not limited to, issuing a fine of **[£50]** in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**11(C)** Notwithstanding the powers of the Management Team Committee pursuant to **Rule 6.1**, in the event of a Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of **[£50]**, the Management Committee

#### **DR12 EXCLUSIONS OF CLUBS OR TEAM, MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (Relates to Standard Code of Rule 12)**

**12(A)** At the AGM or SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of **Rule 9**, notice of motion having been duly circulated on the agenda by direction of the Management Committee, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to:

1. Remove a member of the Management Committee from office.
2. Exclude any Club or Team from membership, both of which must be supported by more than two-thirds of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A member of the Management Committee or Club which is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

**12(B)** At the AGM, or at an SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of **Rule 9**, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any *Club* whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, provided this is supported by more than two-thirds of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

**12(C)** Any Officer or member of a Club found guilty of either a breach of Rule, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a Player or Players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of clauses 12(A) and/or 12(B) of this Rule.

#### **DR13 TROPHY (Relates to Standard Code of Rule 13)**

**13(A)** The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the cup or trophy: - "We (A) (name) and (B) (name) the Chair and Secretary of [ ] FC (Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of [ ] cup or trophy, and it is having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the cup or trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before **[1<sup>st</sup> March]** in each year. If the cup or trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care, we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair or replacement." Failure to comply will result in a fine **[£100]** in accordance with the fines tariff. **Clubs/Teams are responsible for the engraving on all cups/trophies received with the Season -Year and Team name (for example) 2024-2025 BARNESLEY JFL in Font Ariel size 12. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of [£25] in accordance with the Fines Tariff.**

**13(B)** At the close of each Competition awards may/shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

#### **DR14 ALTERATIONS TO RULES (Relates to Standard Code of Rule 14)**

**14(A)** Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at an SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with **Rule 9**. Any alteration during the Playing Season to these Rules shall not take effect until the following Playing Season, except in exceptional circumstances and approved by Sanctioning Authority and The FA.

**14(B)** Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by the **[1<sup>st</sup> April]** each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by **[1<sup>st</sup> May]** and any amendments to these proposals shall be submitted to the Secretary by **[15<sup>th</sup> May]**. The proposals and proposed amendments to these proposals shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a **[2/3]** a majority of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.

**14(C)** A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or SGM shall be submitted to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA (as applicable) at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

#### **DR15 FINANCE (Relates to Standard Code of Rule 15)**

**15(A)** The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.

**15(B)** All expenditure in excess of **[£2500]** shall be approved by the Management Committee.

**15(C)** The financial year of the Competition will end on **[31<sup>st</sup> May]**.

**15(D)** The accounting records, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be *audited/verified* annually by a suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

## **DR16 INSURANCE (Relates to Standard Code of Rule 16)**

**16(A)** All Clubs must have a valid Public Liability Insurance cover of at least ten million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.

**16(B)** All Clubs must have valid Personal Accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Player's Personal Accident Insurance cover must be in place prior to the Club taking part in any Competition Match and shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time to time by the Sanctioning Authority. In instances where The FA is the Sanctioning Authority, the minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which a Club affiliates.

**16(C)** Failure to comply with **Rules 16(A) or 16(B)** will result in a fine up to **[£100]** in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

## **DR17 DISSOLUTION (Relates to Standard Code of Rule 17)**

**17(A)** Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at an SGM by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant SGM.

**17(B)** In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.

**17(C)** The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:

**1.** Any surplus assets, (save for a trophy or any other presentation), remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or Affiliated Association or The Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the Sanctioning Authority.

**2.** If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the Sanctioning Authority.

## **MATCH RELATED RULES**

### **DR18 QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS (Relates to Standard Code of Rule 18)**

**18(A)** A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has: -

**1.** Registered through the Player Registration System and received approval from the Competition, except in the case of a player who has been registered on the day of a match. For any player's registered on the day of a match, a Club Officer must email the Competition with details of the registration **[48]** hours prior to the scheduled kick off time in order for the player to be eligible to play in that match. The player shall not play again in any subsequent match in the Competition until the Club has registered the player through The FA Player Registration System and is in possession of the approval from the Competition. A maximum of **[0]** Players may be registered in this manner.

or

**2.** *Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink on a match day prior to playing which is countersigned by an Officer of the opposing Club and submitted to the Competition within two days (Sunday excluded) subsequent to the Competition Match. The Player shall not play again in a subsequent match in the Competition until the Club has registered the player through The FA Player Registration System and is in possession of the approval from the Competition. A maximum of **[0]** Players may be registered in this manner. Any registration that is not fully and correctly completed will be returned to the Club unprocessed and the player classed as unregistered. If a Club attempts to register a player via The Player Registration System but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via the Player Registration System, the registration will not be processed.*

For Clubs registering Players under **Rule 18(A)** registration forms will be provided in a format to be determined by the Competition. For Clubs registering Players by The Player Registration System Clubs must access The Player Registration System in order to complete the registration process.

***The registration document must incorporate a current passport-size photograph of the Player seeking registration together with confirmation that the Player's proof of date of birth has been checked by the Club and is accurate.***

***This verification must be carried out by a Club Official having personally viewed a copy of the player's proof of date of birth documentation, i.e. birth certificate or passport. (see the Scory Rules regarding validity of foreign birth certificates and passports).***

**Any registration that is not fully and correctly completed will be returned to the Club unprocessed and the player classed as unregistered. If a Club attempts to register a player via The Player Registration System but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via The Player Registration System, the registration will not be processed.**

**Random spot checks will be carried out by the Registrations Secretary, or any member of the Competition Management Team, any information which needs to be provided by the Club, will need to be received within 7 days of the date of request otherwise players are liable to have their registrations suspended until the required information is received of **[£10]** for each player in accordance with the Fines Tariff.**

**No player's registration will be approved after 8.30 pm every Friday of each week, payment must be received prior to approval.**

**18(B) 1.** Contract Players are not permitted in this Competition with the exception of those Players who are registered under contract with the same Club who have a Team operating at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System, or Tiers 1 to 4 of the Women Pyramid System.

**2.** It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any Player registered to the Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any Player aged 10 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland, and Ireland.

**3.** Each Team must have at least **[the following number of]** Players registered **[10]** days before the start of each Playing Season: (This season minimum number of players must be registered on or before 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023).

**4.** In the event of a Non Contract Player changing their status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, or with a Club in another Competition their registration as a Non Contract Player will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in **Rule 18(B)1**. A Player registered with a Premier League or EFL Academy under the Elite Player Performance Plan contained within Youth Development Rules will not be permitted to play in this Competition, except for those in the under 11 age group and below where consent has been given by the relevant Premier League or EFL (such consent can be withdrawn at any time).

Trial players are not considered to be registered with a Premier League or EFL Academy for these purposes and therefore the prohibition on playing in the Competition does not apply to them. The relevant Premier League/EFL Academy remains responsible for managing the frequency of the player's playing time. Details of the Youth Development Rules are published on The FA website.

A Player registered with an FA Emerging Talent Centre, or an FA Professional Game Academy may play in this Competition subject to the FA Girls Emerging Talent Centre Operating Criteria and Professional Game Academy Youth Development Rules

FORMAT	MINIMUM NUMBER
5v5	5
7v7	7
9v9	9
11v11	11

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of **[£25]** in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**A child who has not attained the age of 6 shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match of any kind.** The relevant age for each Player is determined by his or her age as at midnight on 31 August of the relevant Playing Season i.e., children who are aged 6 as at midnight on 31 August in a Playing Season (together with those who attain the age of 6 during the Playing Season) will be classed as Under 7 Players for that Playing Season.

Children who are aged 7 as at midnight on 31 August in a Playing Season will be classed as Under 8 Players for that Playing Season, and so on.

Notwithstanding the above, a child is permitted to play up in the age group above his or her chronological age group, irrespective of any changes of format or competition structure, save that a child who attains the age of 6 after 31 August is permitted to play only in the Under 7 age group, and may not play in the Under 8 age group, for that Playing Season.

Girls in all female teams may also be permitted to play an age group down in accordance with **Rule 4(F)**. The age groups that children are eligible to play in are set out in the table below, subject to **Rule 4(F)** along with the permitted football formats for each of those age groups.

For the purposes of this **Rule 18(C)**, provisions relating to playing in the specific age groups that include participating in training as well as playing in matches. Children shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match between sides of more than the stated number of players, according to their age group:

Age on 31 August of the relevant Playing Season	Eligible Age Groups	Maximum Permitted Format	Minimum Pitch Sizes		Maximum Pitch Sizes		Recommended Goal Sizes in feet	Ball Size
			Yards	Metres	Yards	Metres		
6	Under 7	5v5	30 x 20	27.45 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12 x 6	3
	Under 8		30 x 20	27.45 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12 x 6	
7	Under 8	5v5	30 x 20	27.45 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12 x 6	3
	Under 9	7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	
8	Under 9	7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
	Under 10		50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
9	Under 10	7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
	Under 11	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
10	Under 11	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
	Under 12		70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	
11	Under 12	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
	Under 13	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	
12	Under 13	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	4
	Under 14		90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	
13	Under 14	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	4
	Under 15		90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	5
14	Under 15	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	5
	Under 16		90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	
15	Under 16	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	5
	Under 17		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	
	Under 18		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	
16	Under 17	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5
	Under 18		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	
	Open Age		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	132 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	

**18(C)** A Player that owes a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) shall be permitted to register for a Club but will be suspended from football activities if the Player does not comply with the terms of the Football Debt Recovery Regulations in respect of that Football Debt.

**18(D)** A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff of [£3] shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered from the [1<sup>st</sup> August].

All Player Registrations will be subject to the approval of the Registration Secretary.

This league supports The FA's best practice guide in which it states that all players in a team should have equal playing time in a match.

## The maximum number of players permitted to be registered in a squad.

FORMAT	Maximum number of registered Players
5v5 (Single Team)	10
7v7 (Single Team)	14
9v9	14
11v11	16

**18(E)** The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes. In the event of a Player signing a registration form or having a registration **submitted for more than one Club in the Competition, the valid registration submitted first shall take precedence.** The Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the Player of the fact of the previous registration.

**18(F)** It shall be a breach of Rule for a Player to: -

1. Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.
2. Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season, except if the purpose of a transfer, or where the Competition adopts Rule 18(P).
3. Submit a signed registration form as per **Rule 18(A)2.** or submit a registration through the Player Registration System that the Player had willfully neglected too accurately or fully complete.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of **[£100]** in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**18(G)1.** The Management Committee shall accept the Registration of any Player subject to the provisions of **Rules 18(G)2 and 18(G)3** below.

**2.** The Management Committee shall have the power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player or may fine any Player, at their discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (**subject to Rule 7**).

**3.** The Manage Committee shall have the power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (**subject to Rule 7**) subject to the right of appeal to the Sanctioning Authority. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the Player is registered or intending to be registered with. Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in the Competition.

**4.** A Player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule **18(G)3** but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the Player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition may consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

**Note:** Action under **Rule 18(G)3** shall not be taken against a Player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and then only in cases of the Player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any event be subject to an appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. All decisions must include a period of restriction. For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the Competition into disrepute can only be considered where the Player has received in excess of 112 days suspension, or 10 matches in match-based discipline, in any competition (and is not restricted to the Competition) in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence).

**18(H)** Subject to compliance with the FA **Rule C** when a Club wishes to register a player who is already registered with another club it shall submit a transfer notification to the Competition via the Player Registration System. A fee of **[£5] each Player** as set out in the Fees Tariff **will/may** be required. Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to the Club for which the player is registered. Should this club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the player concerned within 3 days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within 3 days, the Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or {4} days after receipt of such transfer. In the event of an objection to a transfer the matter shall be referred to the Management Committee. **No transfers will be approved until the 1<sup>st</sup> October in each year.**

**18(I)** A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after the **[28<sup>th</sup> February]** except if by special permission of the Management Committee.

**18(J)** Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.

**18(K)** A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding Competition Match (as specified in **Rule 22(A)**) unless the Player has played **[3]** Competition Matches for that Team in the current Playing Season.

**18(L)** A Team shall not include more than [0] Players who has/have **played** in [0] or more senior Competition Matches during the current Playing Season unless a period of **21 clear days** has elapsed since they last played. **21 clear day's is counted by excluding the day when the relevant Player has played and the day when the Player intends to play again.** For the purpose of this Rule a senior competition(s) is/are []. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of [0] in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**18(M)1.** Subject to Rule **18(M)2**, any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a Competition Match or Matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that Competition Match deducted from its record, up to a maximum of 12 points, and have levied upon it a fine of [**£100**] in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**2.** The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at **Rule 18(M)1** only in circumstances where the ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate or where the ineligibility is related to the Player's status.

**3.** Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule **18(M)1** above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion order one or more of the following (if appropriate).

**(a)** Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed; or

**(b)** Levy penalty points against the Club in default; or

**(c)** Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).

**18(N)** The following clause applies to Competitions involving Players in full-time secondary education.

**1.** Priority must be given at all times to the activities of school and school organisations. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of [**£25**] in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**2.** The availability of children and young people must be cleared with their Head Teacher or Principals (except for Sunday League Competitions).

**3.** To play open age football the Player must have achieved the age of 16

**18(O)** A Player who has played for a Team in the [] division [] times or more shall not in that Playing Season be eligible to play in the lower division except by permission of the Management Committee.

**18(P)** If a Club wishes to cancel a Player's registration within the Competition, it must make a request via The FA's electronic Player Registration System giving the reasons for the request. The Competition may either approve or decline the request. If a Player's registration is cancelled, they will not be eligible to re-register in the Competition for a period of [**7**] days from the date of cancellation.

**Note** - Team Managers must show their teams WGS ID squad printout or show the WGS ID section for their team via a mobile device and make them available to their opposite number prior to the start of any match organised by the Competition and any such member of the Management Committee present and requesting the same. If a team member fails to produce the WGS ID in any form mentioned above for his/her team prior to commencement of the match, then the **MATCH SHOULD NOT GO AHEAD**. The team in default shall forfeit the match. The match will be awarded to the opposition Team, in addition, the Management Committee may fine and/or otherwise deal with the offending team. All home Club/Teams shall provide a designated areas for spectators. This area can be marked by a painted line, the use of cones uses a respect barrier. No spectators will be permitted to stand behind or to the side of either goal. Each home team shall mark out a technical area either side of the halfway line on the opposite side of the ground to the spectators for the use and purpose of the coaches and from where the substitutes shall leave or enter the field of play. A technical area should also be marked out on the opposite side of the pitch to the spectators. The recommended size of the technical area for each team is 10 yards by 3 yards but if not feasible due to space restrictions each area should be of equal size. Any club failing to provide designated respect barrier/ technical area or similar, suitable spectator safety zone will be fined up to [**£100**] in accordance with the fines tariff. Clubs/Teams must not advertise for players or hold trials until after 31<sup>st</sup> May and up to the 31<sup>st of</sup> August in each year.

#### **DR19 CLUB COLOURS (Relates to Standard Code of Rule 19)**

**19(A)** Every team must register the colour **and design** of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by [**31<sup>st</sup> July**] and the Competition Secretary shall decide as to their suitability.

**19(B)** Any team **wishing to change the Colour(s) and/or design(s) of its shirt(s) and short(s)** during the Playing Season must **obtain permission from** the Competition Secretary **in the advance of making that change**.

**19(C)** Goalkeepers must wear Colours which distinguish them from all other Players and the Match Officials.

**19(D) No Player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.**

**19(E)** Any Team not being able to play in its normal Colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents the Colours in which they will play (including the Colours of the goalkeeper's jersey) at least [**5**] days before the Competition Match.

**19(F)** If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar Colours, the **away/ home** Team shall make the change. Should a Team delay the scheduled time of kick-off for a Competition Match by not having a change of



Colours they will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**19(G)** Shirts must all be numbered, and no two shirts shall have the same number, failing which a fine of [**£10 per shirt**] will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**The names of Youth Players shall not appear on the shirts, failing which is a fine of [£10 per shirt] will be issued in accordance with the Fines Tariff.**

## **DR20 PLAYING SEASON CONDITIONS OF PLAY TIMES OF KICK-OFF POSTPONEMENTS SUBSTITUTES**

### **(Relates to Standard Code of Rule 20)**

**20(A)** All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board. Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their Grounds in a playable condition. All Competition Matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee. If through any fault of the home Team a Competition Match has to be replayed, the Management Committee shall have power to order the venue to be changed. The Management Committee shall have power to decide whether a pitch and/or facility are suitable for Competition Matches and to order the Club concerned to play its Competition Matches on another ground. Artificial Football Turf Pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition provided they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA's Register of Football Turf Pitches <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register>. All Football Turf Pitches used must be tested (by a FIFA accredited test institute) every three years and the results passed to The FA. The FA will give a decision on the suitability for use and add the pitch to the Register. The home Club is also responsible for advising Participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements in accordance with **Rule 20(C)**. Within Regional NLS Feeder Leagues, all Competition Matches shall have a duration of 90 minutes. All other Competition Matches shall have duration of 90 minutes unless a shorter time (not less than sixty (60) minutes) is mutually arranged by the two Clubs in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves. Two matches involving the same two Teams can be played on the same day providing the total playing time is not more than 120 minutes. The times off kick-off shall be agreed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs and the Competition. Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition. The home Team must provide goal nets, corner flags and at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if not provided. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. No overhead netting is allowed for 9v9 and 11v11 affiliated matches. Regional NLS Feeder Leagues; Overhead wires used to support pitch divider netting are removed for all affiliated matches at Regional NLS Feeder League level. For those leagues which are not Regional NLS Feeder Leagues: Overhead wires used to support pitch divider netting are ideally removed for affiliated matches but if they cannot be removed then discretion is given to the match official to restart the match in accordance with the laws of the game.

**For Mini soccer, the duration of play shall be as follows,**

<b>U7s and U8s</b>	<b>- 20 minutes each half,</b>	<b>U9s and U10s</b>	<b>- 20 minutes each half.</b>
<b>U11s and U12s</b>	<b>- 30 minutes each half,</b>	<b>U13s and U14s</b>	<b>- 35 minutes each half,</b>
<b>U15s and U16s</b>	<b>- 40 minutes each half,</b>	<b>U17s and U18s</b>	<b>- 45 minutes each half.</b>

Competition Matches should be played in accordance with the Laws appropriate to the relevant age group, as laid down by The FA, as detailed below.

Age Group	Minimum Duration of play per quarter (minutes) (Mini-Soccer)	Maximum Duration of play per quarter (minutes) (Mini-Soccer only)	Minimum duration of play per half (minutes)	Maximum duration of play per half (minutes)	Maximum playing time in one day in all organised development fixtures (minutes)	Maximum playing time in one day in all tournaments and trophy events/festivals (minutes)	Competition structure
Under 7 and Under 8	5	10	10	20	40	60	Development focused with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 2-week periods. (6 weeks)

Under 9 and Under 10	10	12.5	20	25	60	90	Development focused with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 4-week periods. (12 weeks)
Under 11	N/A	N/A	20	30	80	120	Development focused with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 6-week periods. (18 weeks)
Under 12	N/A	N/A	20	30	80 (if applicable)	120	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 13 and Under 14	N/A	N/A	25	35	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 15 and Under 16	N/A	N/A	25	40	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table

Competition Matches for age groups from U7 to U10 can be played in either quarters or halves. This Competition uses quarters/halves (details as appropriate). For round robin/trophy events, the maximum duration of play per half cannot be exceeded, but the minimum duration of play per half may be adjusted. For trophy events the Competition may award mementos. The times of kick-off shall be fixed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs prior to the scheduled date of the Competition Match with written notification given to the Competition at least [5] days prior.

**Sept/Oct/ Mar/Apr - 9.30am to 2.30pm**

**Nov/Dec/Jan/Feb - 9.30am to 2.00pm**

**Clubs with several teams will have to stagger kick off times. The Kickoff times shall be at the discretion of the Home Team but within the hours shown above, all Clubs/Teams are to be flexible.**

Referees must order Competition Matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition. The home Team must provide goal nets, corner flags and at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of [£25] in accordance with the Fines Tariff. The home team must provide at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report on the Competition to see if the footballs are unsuitable.

**The size of football to be used shall be as follows:**

**Size 3 - U7s, U8s, U9s, U10s**

**Size 4 - U11s, U12s, U13s, U14s**

**Size 5 - For all other age groups.**

**20(B)** Except with permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches must be played on the dates originally agreed but priority shall be given to The FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a Competition Match with the consent of the Competition (*Fixtures*) Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of [£25] in accordance with the Fines Tariff. In the case of a revised fixture date, the Clubs must be given by the Competition **5 clear day's** notice of the Competition Match unless otherwise mutually agreed.

**20(C)** An Officer of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to the Ground, and time of kick-off **and kit Colours (including goalkeeper)** to the Match Officials and an Officer of the opposing Club at least [5] clear days prior to the playing of the **Competition Match**. **The opposing Club must confirm receipt and give notice of its kit Colours (including goalkeeper)** at least [5] days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. If **either is** not provided, the **relevant** Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of [**£10**] in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**All teams in the Competition will be allowed up to two fixture relaxation requests per season. All such requests must be submitted in writing via email to the appropriate Divisional Registrar or the Competition Secretary giving 28 day's notice before the scheduled fixture with your reason for the request. This will then be discussed with the Management Team for a decision. There will be no fixture relaxations granted whatsoever between the months of March, April, and May unless there are exceptional circumstances which we will require confirmation details for consideration by the Management Team. All Clubs/Teams should make themselves available every Sunday during the season between the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025, (the only exception to this rule will include Christmas Day/New Year's Day and Easter Sunday only). Where a fixture has been postponed due to poor weather and/pitch conditions both teams must inform your Divisional Registrar or the Competition Secretary immediately without delay with the reason for postponement. Please check with your opposition team to see if a reversal of the fixture is possible before postponing any fixture. Where postponements due to poor weather and/pitch conditions mean it is not possible to complete any competition within the scheduled time frame, then midweek fixtures will be considered and scheduled where necessary. Any club wishing to book tours or attend gala's during the playing season must first get written permission from the League prior to booking or entering any tours or galas. Failure to comply with this rule will incur a fine of [£25] in accordance with the Fines Tariff, and or your match will be forfeited. All Barnsley & District Junior Football League Competitions shall be scheduled such that they can be completed (in their entirety and subject to no postponement).**

**20(D)** In accordance with the Laws of the Game, the minimum number of Players which will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is 7 as follows:

FORMAT	MINIMUM NUMBER
5v5	4
7v7	5
9v9	6
11v11	7

**Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of [£10 each player] in accordance with the Fines Tariff.**

**20(E)1.** Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall decide whether it should either:

**a - award the points from the Competition Match in question to the Club's opponent (without the award of goals).  
or**

**b - order the Competition Match to be rescheduled. *The Management Committee shall also have power to order the rescheduled Competition Match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent Club's Ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the -circumstances.***

***In addition, the Management Committee may at its discretion order one or more of the following (if appropriate)***

***a - impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).***

***b - deduct points from the defaulting Club***

***c - order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses by the opponents.***

**2. Any Club with more than one Team in the Competition shall always fulfill its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of procedure – First Team, Reserve Team, A Team**

**3. Any Club unable to fulfill a fixture or where a Competition Match has been postponed for any reason must, without delay give notice to the Competition [ ] the Secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff.**

**4. In the event of a Competition Match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Competition. Failing such agreement and notification to the Competition (Fixtures) Secretary within [7] days the Competition shall have the power to order the Match to be played on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition. The Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand. Providing gate money is taken and retained the visiting Club shall receive their actual standard class rail or bus fares or the equivalent for [ ] persons, or car allowance at [ ] p per mile for transporting [ ]**

persons or hire charge of a coach (receipt to be submitted). The residue (if any) to be equally divided between the two Clubs after deducting the cost of advertising, printing, posting, police, and Match Officials charges. The home Club shall take the whole of the proceeds of the second Competition Match. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of [ ] in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**5.** The Management Committee shall review all Competition Matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a Competition Match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Team or its Club member(s) they shall award the points for the Match to the opponent. In cases where a Match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule that neither Team will be awarded any points for that Match, and it shall not be replayed. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned Match. The Management Committee shall review any Match that has taken place where either or both Teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by The FA or Affiliated Association. In each case the Team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible players in accordance with **Rule 18(M)** above. Where both Teams were under suspension the Match must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.

**20(F)** A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use substitute Players in any Competition Match. A Club may name up to [ ] substitute Players of whom not more than [ ] may be used. A Player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace a Player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football. Where a Competition does not allow return substitutes, a – Team may use up to [3] from 3 substitute Players [ [4] from 4 substitute Players [5] from 5 substitute Players [6] from 6 substitute Players [7] from 7 substitute Players] in a Competitive Match. The referee [and a representative of the opposing Club] shall be informed of the names of the Players taking part in the Match (including the substitutes) not later than [ ] minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a Player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match. A Player who has been named as a substitute before the start of the Competition Match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a Player in that Competition Match within the meaning of Rule 18 of this Competition.

**For Under 17s and Under 18s** – a Club may name up to [5] substitute Players of whom not more than 5 may be used. Where a Competition does allow return substitutes:

**For Under 11s - Under 18s** – a Club may use up to [3] from 3 substitute players [[4] from 4 substitute players [5] from 5 substitute players [5] from 6 substitute players [5] from 7 substitute players. A Player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace any Player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with **Law 3** of the Laws of Association Football.

**For Mini-Soccer** – **Up to [5] substitutions may be used at any time** with the permission of the referee. Entry onto the field of play will only be allowed during a stoppage in play. A Player who has been replaced may return to play as a substitute for another Player. In Youth Football only, the referee shall be informed of the names of the substitute Players not later than [5] minutes before the start of the Competition Match A Player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match. A Player who has been named as a substitute before the start of a Competition Match but does not play in the game shall not be considered to have been a Player in that Competition Match within the meaning of **Rule 18** of the Competition.

**20(G)** The half time interval shall be a minimum of [ ] minutes duration, but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

**20(H)** The Teams taking part in a Competition Match shall identify a Team captain who *may/shall wear* an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his/her teammates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of [£10] in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**in Under 7s to Under 11 or Youth Football shall identify a Team captain who *may/shall wear* an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his/her teammates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of [£10] in accordance with the Fines Tariff.**

**20(I)** Where a suspension imposed in relation to a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) upon a Club by The FA or Affiliated Association is not lifted, and/or the Club does not provide confirmation from The FA or Affiliated Association that such suspension is lifted, to the Competition Secretary by (Time) [1 or 2] days before a fixture, that fixture will be treated as an unfulfilled fixture and dealt with in accordance with Rule 20(E).

## **DR21 REPORTING RESULTS (Relates to Standard Code of Rule 21)**

**21(A)** The *Competition [Secretary]* must receive within **[0]** days of the date played, the result of each Competition Match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the Team Players (in block letters) *and also the referees Full name, Fan Number and marking is required by Rule 23, or any other information required by the Competition.* Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of **[£10]** in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**21(B)** The Home Club/**Both Clubs/Teams** shall use Telephone/WhatsApp/Sms/Email or FA Full Time as directed by the Competition to notify the result of each Competition Match to the [Fixtures/Results Secretary] by [5pm] on the same day of the match or in the case of a midweek match [20.30pm]. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of **[£10]** in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**21(C)** The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by an Officer of the Team, or as prescribed by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of **[£10]** in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**Before a game commences both teams shall complete a match report form listing (Teams, Players, Substitutes Names, Referee Name and Fan Number, Result) to be forwarded to the Fixtures Registrar for each age group to be received before 5pm on the Sunday or before 8pm if you have a midweek match. The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect but NOT publish results or any grading tables for divisional league fixtures involving Under 7s, Under 8s, Under 9s, Under 10s, and Under 11s. Any Competition failing to abide by this Rule will be dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and any Club failing to abide by this Rule will be fined up to [£100] in accordance with the Fines Tariff. The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect and publish results for trophy events.**

## **DR22 DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP (Relates to Standard Code of Rule 22)**

**22(A)** Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn Competition Match. The Teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the end of the Playing Season shall be adjudged the winners. Competition Matches must not be played for double points. In the event of two or more Teams being equal on points at the end of the Playing Season, rankings may be determined by **the following criteria, in the order of priority in which they appear. (NB; for Regional NLS Feeder Leagues criteria 1 & 2 are mandatory; for all other Competitions they are optional)**

- 1. [Goal difference (where the goals scored against each Team shall be deducted from the goals scored by that Team and the Team with the most favorable goal difference shall be placed highest).**
- 2. In the event of two or more Teams being equal, the Team which has scored the most goals during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.**
- 3. In the event of two or more Teams being equal, the Team that has won the most matches during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.**
- 4. In the event of two or more Teams being equal, the Team which has the better playing record against the other Team in their head-to-head Competition Matches during the Playing Season will be placed highest.**
- 5. One-off fixture or play-off games as determined by the League Management Committee.**

**22(B)** *Automatic promotion shall be applied to the first [2] Teams and automatic relegation shall be applied for the last [2] Teams in each division except as provided for hereunder, subject to provisions of Rule 2(L).*

**1.** *Should one or more Teams withdraw from any one division after the Playing Season has commenced an equal number of Teams to those withdrawing in that division shall not be automatically relegated.*

**2.** *Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the Playing Season may be filled in the following ways:*

**(a)** *retention of otherwise relegated Team(s); or*

**(b)** *additional promotion of the next ranked Team(s) from the division below; or*

**(c)** *election*

**3.** *The last [ ] Teams in the lowest division shall retire, but be eligible for re-election except as below, and be subject to the conditions of Rule 22B.1 above.*

**4.** *When a senior Team is relegated to a lower division of which its Reserve Team is a member, or entitled to be a member, each Reserve Team must accept relegation to, or retain its position in, the next lower division, and should the Senior Team be relegated to the lower division its Reserve Team automatically retires from the Competition.*

**5.** *Should either or both of the leading Teams in any of the divisions have its Senior Team in the next highest division, promotion shall fall at the discretion of the General Meeting to the next highest Team in the division concerned.*

**22(C)** *In addition to the Team(s) automatically promoted under Rule 22B, a maximum of one further Team shall be promoted by virtue of being the winner of a play-off match or series of matches (the Play-offs). The eligibility criteria and format of the Play-offs are as follows:*

**22(D)** *In the event of a Team withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the Playing Season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting Team shall be expunged from the Competition table. For the purposes of this Rule 22(D) a completed fixture shall include any Competition Match(es) which has been awarded by the Management Committee.*

**22(E)** Where a promotion and/or relegation link exists between Competition [] Clubs, providing they meet the appropriate grading criteria, will be eligible to make application to the [] Competition at their AGM. Should the champion Club not wish for promotion or, alternatively, not have the necessary grading criteria then the [] or [] placed Club will be eligible under the same condition. At the end of each Season and depending on the geographical location of Clubs gaining promotion to or being relegated from the [] Competition it may be necessary for the Competition either (a) to accept a Club from the [] Competition, or (b) have a Club transferred to the same Competition. The bottom[] Clubs in the [] Competition will be relegated. Each relegated Club will be allocated either to the [] Competition or to the Competition recommended as most appropriate by the Joint Liaison Committee. REGIONAL NLS FEEDER LEAGUES ONLY; The bottom [] Clubs in the [] Competition will be relegated. Any Club not maintaining the ground set for the Competition may be relegated at the end of the Playing Season. Each relegated Club will be allocated to the highest division in either [] Competition or the Competition recommended as most appropriate by the Joint Liaison Committee. [] Clubs will be promoted to the [] Competition from the [] Competition and the [] Competition providing that each Club is either the Competition Club or Runners-up or [] placed Club and has the necessary grading criteria. In the event of there being no eligible Club wishing promotion or not having the necessary grading criteria from any of the Competition this will reduce the number of Clubs to be relegated from the [] Competition. If only [] Clubs are eligible or wish for promotion, the bottom [] Clubs in the [] Competition will be relegated. If only [] Club is eligible or wishes promotion, only the bottom Club in the [] Competition will be relegated. If no Clubs are eligible, or wish for promotion, no Clubs will be relegated from the [] Competition. In the event of a [] Competition Club not being placed in the bottom [] Club at the end of the Playing Season, wishing to resign from the Competition at the end of the Playing Season, or having been excluded under Rule [] only [] Clubs will be relegated at the end of the Playing Season. In the event of a [] Competition Club opting to be relegated or being relegated under Rule [] such Club or Clubs will replace the Club or Clubs otherwise due for relegation.

### **DR23 MATCH OFFICIALS (Relates to Standard Code of Rule 23)**

**23(A)** Registered Referees (Asst Referees were approved by The FA or County FA) for all Competition Matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Authority.

**23(B)1.** In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed referee the appointed senior assistant referee shall take charge and a substitute assistant referee appointed by the competing Team.

**2.** In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that Competition Match, have the full powers, status, and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any Competition Match.

**Any individuals under the age of 14 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any Competition Match. Referees between the ages 14 and 16 are only eligible to officiate in competitions where the Players age band is at least one year younger than the age of the referee, for example a 15-year-old referee may only officiate in competitions where the age banding is 14 or younger. The person appointed to referee any Competition Match must have a relevant FA DBS Certificate, Fan Number and must have completed an online FA Safeguarding Workshop. In the event the referee appointed to the game fails to attend, as a last resort, if both teams agree, a parent can be appointed.**

**23(C)** Where assistant referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club assistant referee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of **£10** in accordance with the Fines Tariff being imposed on the defaulting Club.

**23(D)** Regional NLS Feeder Leagues; No Clubs shall postpone a Competition Match on account of the apparent state of the ground, in the event that such circumstances prevail, Clubs should comply with procedures provided for in the document published but The FA Recommended procedure for the guidance of Clubs and Referees in determining the suitability of grounds in adverse weather conditions. Should the ground be declared unfit it is the responsibility of the home Club to immediately advise the Competition, the Appointing Authority, the visiting Club and the Match Officials. For those Leagues which are not Regional NLS Feeder Leagues: The appointed referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground in all Competition Matches and that decision shall be final, *subject to the determination of the Local Authority or the owners of a Ground, which must be accepted.*

**23(E)** Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Authority, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff and travel expenses of **0** per mile/or inclusive of travel expenses. Match Officials will be paid their fees and/or expenses by the home Club before /immediately after the Competition Match, unless otherwise ordered by the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of **£25** in accordance with the Fines Tariff. To use as a guideline, Match Officials appointed under this Rule it is suggested they are to be paid a match fee as follows: U7s to U10s - £20 per game, U11s to U12s - £25 per game, U13s to U16s - £30 per game. The Home Club/Team shall pay the Officials their fees before the Competition Match unless otherwise ordered by the Management Committee. No Referee shall be expected to wait more than 5 (five) minutes, except in extreme circumstances. After this period, the referee is required to report

any/all payment issues to the Competition Secretary or the CFA Referees Development Officer in writing. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of [£25] in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**23(F)** In the event of a Competition Match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to *full fee plus expenses/half fee plus expenses/expenses only*. Where a Competition Match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Ground, **their full fee**, and expenses. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of [£25] in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**23(G)** A referee not keeping their engagement and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Affiliated Association with which he or she is registered.

**23(H)** Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The FA, award marks to the referee for each Competition Match and the name of the referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined [£10] in accordance with the Fines Tariff or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.

**23(I)** The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided by the prescribed date each Season, shall submit a summary to Sanctioning Authority.

**23(J)** *The referee shall submit a report form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the Competition Match, the number of Players in each Team and the time of kick-off to the (Registration) Secretary within two days of the Competition Match.*

**23(K)** *Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.*

**23(L)** *Match Officials shall have undertaken a RESPECT briefing offered by The FA/CFA or the Competition.*

*All cautions, dismissals, or serious incidents of misconduct must be reported by the referee to the County Football Association via the WGS within 2 days of the match. Where Unqualified referees have officiated a game, the forms may be downloaded from the CFA website and transmitted electronically to the CFA. Any club appointing a referee for any fixture must provide a competent referee and will be held responsible for the referee's conduct, including the reporting of all cautions, dismissals, and serious incidents to the County FA in the manner required. Any Club/Team appointed referee IS NOT allowed to coach the team whilst refereeing the game. A club failing to comply will be fined for each breach of misconduct and will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the Clubs/Teams shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that Competition Match, have the full powers, status, and authority of a registered referee, however this person must have a minimum of an FA DBS and done the FA Safeguarding For All online course. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff being imposed on the defaulting Club.*

**DR24 POWER PLAY RULE FOR MINI-SOCCER (5v5 & 7v7) (Relates to Standard Code of Rule 24)**

During a match when the goal difference reaches 4, the losing team may field an additional player. If the goal difference reaches 6, the losing team may field another additional player (taking the total up to 2 additional players). At that point, the goal difference falls to 5, the losing team must withdraw one of their additional players. At that point, the goal difference falls to 3, the losing team must withdraw their final additional player. (This does not need to be the same player that was put on as the additional player).

The diagram below will help explain the process.

Score	What		
Red Team 3-0 Blue Team	No Change	5v5	7v7
Red Team 4-0 Blue Team	Blue Team bring on one extra player	5v6	7v8.
Red Team 4-1 Blue Team	Blue Team remove one player	5v5	7v7.
Red Team 5-1 Blue Team	Blue Team bring on one extra player	5v6	7v8.
Red Team 6-1 Blue Team	No Change	5v6	7v8
Red Team 7-1 Blue Team	Blue Team bring on another extra player	5v7	7v9.
Red Team 7-2 Blue Team	Blue Team remove one player	5v6	7v8.
Red Team 7-3 Blue Team	No Change	5v6	7v8
Red Team 7-4 Blue Team	Blue Team remove final	5v5	7v7.

**DR25 TEMPORARY DISMISSALS (SIN BINS) (Relates to Standard Code of Rule 25)**

In accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by International Football Association Board (the FA has sanctioned the mandatory use of Temporary Dismissals (Sin Bins) for Dissent offences only. Following a successful two-year trial period, Sin Bins will become mandatory across all leagues within the country at Step 7 and below. There are also ongoing talks as to whether this will be extended to leagues operating at Step 5 & 6 of the footballing pyramid however this has not yet been confirmed. This change will have a direct impact on referees, players, clubs & leagues throughout the nation and the following information will allow you to understand the process of Sin Bins and how they will operate on a match day.

## **DR26 IFAB LAW 4 THE PLAYERS EQUIPMENT (Relates to Standard Code of Rule 26)**

Children and grassroots football: LAW 4: THE PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT IFAB Laws of the Game 2020-21 Although sports eyewear is intended to offer the best protection available, there is always the possibility that the wearer may sustain an eye or facial injury due to severe impact or because of the nature of the athletic activity. Referees should ensure that if a request has been made to wear glasses/goggles, that they must not be a danger to himself or to any other player. Safety - A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous. All items of jewelry (rings, necklaces, bracelets, earrings, leather bands, rubber bands, etc.) are forbidden and must be removed. Using tape to cover jewelry is not permitted. The players must be inspected before the start of the match and substitutes before they enter the field of play. If a player is wearing or using unauthorized/dangerous equipment or jewelry the referee must order the player to: - remove the item, leave the field of play at the next stoppage if the player is unable or unwilling to comply. A player who refuses to comply or wears the item again must be cautioned. Whilst The FA recommends Polycarbonate lenses, we recognise this may be an issue for children playing grassroots football. Therefore, we encourage referees officiating in grassroots youth football to be tolerant over glasses. However, the individual referee must show concern for all those playing in that game and if s/he feels there is something dangerous in the glasses i.e., sharp edges, etc., then in order to protect players and also the wearer him/herself s/he has the authority to say the glasses can't be worn. Flying footballs and close physical contact make football a moderate risk sport for eye injuries. Spectacles or goggles may provide protection from injury and can also be worn with those who need to wear prescription lenses. Polycarbonate Lenses: This is the most important property of all protective sports spectacles or goggles. Good polycarbonate is unbreakable and will sustain the impact of a ball or finger. Sports Band: an elasticised band and not temple pieces should secure the frame. Players must have secured tight to the head so that the sport spectacles or goggles will not fall off. A frame with temples will not hold tight enough and a jab from a finger could lift the frame off and potentially damage the eye.

### **ADDITIONAL RULES OF MINI SOCCER**

The rules of the Barnsley and District Junior Football League shall apply to this Mini Soccer Competition with the addition of the following: Games are to be played on a Sunday, however if both teams agree they can play on a Saturday. The number of players in each age group will be as follows:

- U7s - five players each team with five roll-on roll-off substitutes
- U8s - five players each team with five roll-on roll-off substitutes
- U9s - seven players each team with five roll-on roll-off substitutes
- U10s - seven players each team with five roll-on roll-off substitutes.

#### **The "retreat rule" is to be used in all U7s to U10s fixtures.**

The children will need the Laws explained to them as the game proceeds (e.g., handball, in/out of play).

It will also be necessary to demonstrate in certain instances how to re-start the game (e.g., throw ins).

Both boys and girls over the age of six and under the age of ten [Updated by The FA Council on 15th May 2008]. U7's to U10's are not permitted to play in leagues where results are collected or published, this is deemed to be detrimental to the development of the player and the game and will not be sanctioned.

Size 3 Football is used for all age groups. Each league/competition will determine its own playing time within the maximum time permitted. The half time interval must not exceed 5 minutes. [Please refer to Standard Code of Rules for Youth Leagues] kick-off is taken at the Centre of the playing area to start the game and after a goal has been scored, opponents must be 4.5m (5 yards) away from the ball, and in their own half of the field.

Power Play is recommended – see details on **page 27**.

There is no offside in the age groups U7s to U10s In Mini-Soccer all free kicks are direct.

**The Back Pass Rule is mandatory, it is the responsibility of the home team to advise the referee of this Rule.**

### **HEADING IN U7-U11 YOUTH GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL MATCHES TO BE PHASED OUT OVER THE NEXT THREE SEASONS FOLLOWING IFAB TRIAL**

After two seasons of the IFAB trial in English football, we will now introduce a new rule to phase out deliberate heading in matches in all affiliated grassroots youth football between U7-U11 level over the next three seasons.

This includes all leagues, clubs, and any affiliated school football matches – starting with U7-U9 level from the 2024-25 season, then increasing to include U10 level from 2025-26, and U11 level from 2026-27.

### **ADAPTING THE HEADING TRIAL FOR THE 2024-25 SEASON**

We have researched and collected feedback from leagues and clubs taking part in the IFAB trial to remove deliberate heading in grassroots football matches at U12 level and below to see how the experience of the players taking part could be further improved. Our aim is to also create more technical opportunities for players with the ball at their feet, allow for more effective playing time, and to reduce the amount of time the ball is in the air during a match. As a result, from the



start of the 2024-25 season for U7-U9 teams, we will also be rolling out the following:

#### **Deliberate Header Restart:**

- Deliberately heading the ball is an offence punishable by an indirect free kick
- The indirect free kick is taken at the point where the ball was deliberately headed, except:
  - o Where a player deliberately heads the ball within their own penalty area, the referee will stop the game and restart with an indirect free kick to the opposition from the nearest side line of the penalty area where the offence took place.

#### **Touchline Restart:**

- When the whole of the ball passes over the whole of the touchline, on the ground or in the air, instead of a throw-in, a pass-in/dribble-in is awarded
- The kicker that takes the pass-in/dribble-in may touch the ball again before it is touched by another player
- At the moment of delivering the ball:
  - o The ball must be stationary on the touchline at the point where it left the pitch; only the kicker may be off the pitch
  - o All opponents must stand at least five yards from the point on the touchline where the pass-in or /dribble-in is to be taken from
- A goal cannot be scored directly from a pass-in
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves

#### **Sanctions in the event of a deliberate header in a match:**

- From the start of the 2024-25 season, there will be no disciplinary sanctions applied for a deliberate header in a match, unless the action is considered a persistent deliberate offence, which could then result in a caution.

#### **WORKING WITH THE GRASSROOTS GAME TO HELP IMPLEMENT THE NEW RULE**

The County FA network, leagues, clubs, coaches, referees, and schools across the country will play a key part in helping to implement the new rule. In conjunction with this announcement, we will be providing the relevant guidance and will work closely with them over the coming weeks to ensure that they have the support they need to successfully implement the new rule from the start of next season.

We will also support any league, club and school who is taking part in the current IFAB trial across the U10-U12 ages groups if they wish to continue with the trial on a voluntary basis next season, ahead of the transitional phasing of the new rule from the start of the 2025-26 season.

#### **RESTRICTIONS FOR PLAYERS AGED UNDER SIX**

A few seasons ago the County FA were alerted to the fact that several clubs were involved in Under 6 football matches. It is important that you read the information below and make sure you are following the guidelines from the Football Association. So, can we remind ALL clubs and everyone, ONCE AGAIN about the FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION rules that **ONLY** allow competitive or friendly games between affiliate teams/clubs to be played where the player/players are aged 6 by midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017. **Affiliated Football is from Under 7s upwards, i.e. Under 6 tournaments and matches are not sanctioned by the County FA.**

From the Football Association's Standard Code of Rules for Youth Competitions, Rule 8C – Qualification of Players states: A child who has not attained nor will have attained the age of six as at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in a playing season shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match of any kind in that playing season. If the County FA discover that teams/clubs have been playing games against other teams/clubs, this could result in a disciplinary charge being brought against the club and where appropriate welfare issues raised. Young players should be developing their football and general ball skills and coordination through enjoyment and practice, the County FA would ask clubs/teams to be mindful of this.

#### **BOARD OF APPEAL**

Within 14 days of the posting written notification of any decision of the Management Committee of the Competition a Club, Official or Player against whom action is taken may appeal against such decision by lodging in duplicate with the Discipline Team of the Sheffield and Hallamshire County Football Association, including a fee of £25.00 for adjudication of a Board of Appeal. The grounds of appeal shall be in accordance with FA Rules. The Board of Appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited and shall decide by whom the costs of the appeal shall be borne. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned.

**SCHEDULE A**

<b>FEES TARIFF</b>		
<b>RULE NUMBER</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>MAXIMUM FEE</b>
4 (A)	CLUB ENTRY FEE	£75.00
4 (B)	CLUB/TEAM ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£75.00
4 (C)	DEPOSIT	£75.00
7 (C), 7(E), 7(H)	PROTEST/APPEAL FEES	£25.00
18 (D)	PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE	£3.00 (EACH PLAYER)
18 (H)	TRANSFER FEE	£5.00
23 (E)	REFEREE FEES - U7s - U10s	£20.00
	REFEREE FEES - U11s - U12s	£25.00
	REFEREE FEES - U13s - U16s	£30.00
	REFEREE ASST - U7s - U10s	£10.00
	REFEREE ASST - U11s - U12s	£15.00
<b>FINES TARIFF</b>		
<b>RULE NUMBER</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>MAXIMUM FINE</b>
2 (G)	FAILURE TO AFFILIATE	£50.00
2 (I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£50.00
2 (K)	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	£50.00
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	£25.00
4 (C)	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£25.00
4 (E)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE AFFILIATION NUMBER/DETAILS FORM	£25.00
5 (E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£25.00
6 (I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£100.00
6 (I)	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£100.00
8 (H)(1) & 9(E)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM or SGM	£50.00
8 (H)(2)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT LEAGUE MEETING	£25.00 (Incremental)
10	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES	£25.00
11 (A)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE	£50.00
11 (B)	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£50.00
13 (A)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£100.00
16(A)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£100.00
16 (C)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£100.00
18 (A)	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£10.00
18 (B)3	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE PLAYING SEASON COMMENCING	£25.00
18 (F)	REGISTERING/PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION	£100.00
18 (G)2	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£100.00
18 (M)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£100.00
18 (N)	FAILURE TO PRIORITISE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£25.00
19 {G}	FAILURE TO HAVE NUMBERS ON SHIRTS	£10.00 EACH SHIRT
19 (F)	DELAYING KICK OFF TO DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS	£25.00
20 (A)	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT	£25.00
20 (B)	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	£25.00
20 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£10.00
20 (D)	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS	£10.00 EACH PLAYER
20 (E)	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	£25.00
20 (H)	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£10.00
21 (A) & 21 (C)	LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION FORM	£10.00
21 (B)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT	£10.00
21(D)	PUBLISHING RESULTS/GRADING TABLES FOR FIXTURES INVOLVING U7s, U8s, U9s, U10s OR U11s	£100.00
23 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£10.00

23 (E)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES	£25.00
23 (F)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£25.00
23 (H)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£10.00

## SAFEGUARDING GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES

These notes are for managers, assistance, coaches, and anyone who is involved with any child under the age of 18 connected with the Barnsley and District Junior Football League. Here are some simple do's and don'ts when working with children.

Never be alone with a team member, always ensure another adult or child is always present.

Do not carry team members in your car alone.

Ensure someone else is with you (can be useful to also check your insurance if carrying players!)

Only use the family phone number to contact players.

Do not have players mobile numbers in your phone memory.

If you use email to contact players use the family email address not the players private email address.

Be aware of the language you use with players.

Ensure it is age appropriate! Never swear in front of the player or at them.

Do not invite players to your home unless accompanied by their parents.

Never take part in rough, physical, or provocative games including horseplay!

Do not do any act of a personal nature that a player can do for themselves.

Be aware of the ages and stages of development of your players.

Be alert to signs of abuse in your players.

Note any changes in behavior, appearance, or attitude which you feel are unusual for that player and report them to your Club Welfare Officer immediately.

All allegation of racism must be reported to your Club Welfare Officer and the League Welfare Officer who will report the incident to the Welfare Officer at County FA for investigation.

Any allegation of bullying must be reported to your Club Welfare Officer and the League Welfare Officer who will report the incident to the Welfare Officer at County FA for investigation.

Ensure all allegations of abuse, in any form, are reported to your Club Welfare Officer immediately.

You are in a position of trust and must uphold a level of maturity and distance from all players.

If you have any questions about these guidelines, please contact:

**John Neville - League Welfare Officer: 07753 413229**

email: [welfare@barnsleyanddistrictjfl.co.uk](mailto:welfare@barnsleyanddistrictjfl.co.uk)

or

**Sarah Pridmore - SHCFA welfare officer: 07534 442015**

email: [Sarah.Pridmore@sheffieldfa.com](mailto:Sarah.Pridmore@sheffieldfa.com)

## FA RESPECT CAMPAIGN

The Barnsley & District Junior Football League have signed up to the RESPECT campaign.

The RESPECT campaign aims to improve the standards of behavior across the professional and grassroots game, reducing the drop-out of referees and the number of abandoned matches and reintroducing formed into football.

Local registered leagues and clubs are being asked to sign up to RESPECT and to introduce the following recommendations and guidelines into their matches and club management.

Step 1: Codes of conduct for players, referees, coaches, and spectators which set down basic principles that everyone must sign and adhere to.

Step 2: Designated Spectators Areas defined by touchline barriers to keep spectators back from the pitch.

Step 3: Captains take responsibility for their players and become the main point of contact for the referee.

Step 4: Referees managing the game and dealing with any open show of dissent.

Step 5: The Fair play handshake takes place prior to the start of all fixtures.

Step 6: All spectators on one side of the field of play and the managers/coaches should remain on the other side, preferably in the technical area.

The RESPECT campaign is crucial to helping us all work together to change the negative attitudes and unacceptable behavior which threatens the future of football.

This is a long-term commitment but, if we all play our part, together we can really make a difference.

The appearance of the RESPECT campaign will be closely monitored, and any discrepancies will be dealt with

by the management committee.

Further details of the RESPECT Campaign can be found on the FA website: <http://www.thefa.com/my-football/more/respect/respect-resources>.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT - CLUB OFFICIAL**

Show respect to every player.

Be conscious of the safety of every player.

Be aware and follow the guidelines of the governing body (Barnsley & District Junior Football League)

Be of good behavior and appearance.

Be respectful of all decisions made by match officials.

Never use inappropriate or foul or abusive language.

Must abide by medical advice concerning an injured player.

Always ensure all players are aware of the times of matches a training session and have a contact number in case of any cancellations.

Attempt to play all players whenever possible to play and develop their skills, being always encouraging.

Must always abide by the equality procedures and encourage all players to feel inclusive.

Encouraged to attend Coaching Courses to keep up to date with the latest techniques and drills.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT - CLUB PARENTS & SUPPORTERS**

Parents will be responsible for ensuring that their child gets to the club match or activity in plenty of time.

They will also be responsible for getting their child home safely.

They must respect every player on the park including the opposition.

They should avoid coaching their child during a game or club activity.

They should be encouraged to applaud good play from both sides.

They should not shout and scream.

They should on no account question the match official's decision.

If adults are seen to be questioning decisions, then how are we expected to teach the children to accept the decision?

They should support and encourage all club officials.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT – PLAYERS**

Respect the property of the club, i.e., kit, training facilities, dressing rooms.

Respect the club officials and fellow players on the park including the opposition.

Respect the decisions of the match officials.

They should, where possible, be encouraged to make an effort to study the laws of the game appropriate for the age group they play in.

Ensure they are punctual for all matches and training sessions.

Respect your opponents.

Advise the manager / coach when they will not be available.

They should inform their manager / coach of any medical conditions or injury sustained before or during club activities.

They should show a high standard of behavior during all club activities and refrain from displaying dissent or bad language.

**This list is not a comprehensive set of standards, but we would encourage all clubs to develop their own codes of conduct. It is then a good idea to get everybody including parents to sign an agreement stating they will abide by the club's codes of practice plus the club's Child Protection Policy.**

## Sheffield & Hallamshire County FA - Contacts:

### **League Co-Ordinator**

Fern Morgan 07719 072136 Fern.Bond@Sheffieldfa.com

### **Discipline Officer**

Robert Burkill 07811 654619 Robert.Burkill@Sheffieldfa.com

Zoe Bond 07719 028918 Zoe.Bond@Sheffieldfa.com

### **Development Officer**

Molly Johnson 07837 294310 Molly.Johnson@Sheffieldfa.com

Tom Measham 07704 170915 Tom.Measham@Sheffieldfa.com

### **Disability Officer**

Julie Callaghan 07736 946696 Julie.Callaghan@Sheffieldfa.com

### **Referee Officer**

Danny Guest 07704 170918 Danny.Guest@Sheffieldfa.com

## **COMPLAINTS – (Guidance only)**

One thing that you can guarantee as a club committee is that you will get complaints. Complaints about players, parents, managers, coaches and even committee members. Not all these need to be dealt with formally but should still be recorded. However, some complaints will be more complicated, it is important to have a clear process for dealing with these so that there is consistency, transparency, and a clear timeframe. If a complaint is allowed to drag on for a long time, then it can get blown out of all proportion and becomes extremely stressful and time-consuming. Bear in mind that if the complaint is upheld you may be looking at dismissing the subject of the complaint from the club so it is important to know that you have all the information and you can justify your decision and the action of the club. Equally, you may decide NOT to dismiss this person from the club, again you need to be able to demonstrate why that decision has been made. The simple steps in this guide should help to keep you aware of what to do and how to do it.

**Step 1: Complain Received** - At the time of receiving the complaint whether in person, by face or email, it is Important to get as much information about the incident or incidents as possible. Names, dates, location and if there are any witnesses are important areas to cover.

**Step 2: Record the Information** - You need to keep recording the information as you go along. Set up a folder, electronically or paper, saved under a sensible name, the initials of the subject of the complaint and the date.

**Step 3: Ongoing Referral** - Do you need to refer this to another person or agency? If it is an emergency and someone is at immediate risk, then you must call 999 straight away. If you want further advice, you can call the NSPCC helpline on 0808 500 8000. Also consider calling the Designated Safeguarding Officer at the County FA for additional help and advice.

**Step 4: Inform Committee Members** – You do not have to deal with this on your own, your club's committee should work together to manage all complaints and to support one another. Decide who is going to take charge of the complaint and who is going to take what action. You may think that the complaint warrants a temporary suspension of the person concerned so this must be done as a whole committee.

**Step 5: Inform subject of complaint** - You must do this as soon as possible whether you are taking a decision to suspend them or not. If possible, it is best to do this in person, backed up by a letter, preferably given to them by hand. The subject of the complaint will be worried, upset, and angry, if you talk to them face to face, they will have the chance to ask questions about what the process is and what will happen to them so that you can reassure them that you are dealing with it quickly, appropriately, and discretely. Do not tell them who has made the complaint as this will lead to a potential escalation. Ask them not to talk to the parents of the team about the situation and not to put anything on any social media. Also put that in the letter as a condition.

**Step 6: Investigate and Write Reports** - Get as many witness statements as possible. Ask people to email you with their impression of the incident. Get a statement from the subject of the complaint and ask coaches, managers, and committee members if there is any other information that might be helpful. Check if there

are any other recorded incidents, pull all the information together into a report. Keep the report anonymised so that there are no names of club members included. The information can be on the lines of "6 statements were received that said..."

**Step 7: Hold Committee Meeting** - Discuss the witness statements, discuss any mitigations or additional incidents, and decide what action to take. Make sure that this meeting is minuted and that the minutes, witness statements and any testimonials are stored in the folder.

**Step 8: Inform Relevant People** - Firstly inform the subject of the complaint, again best-done face to face. Invite them to a meeting with a couple of committee members, not the whole committee otherwise it can be seen as intimidating. Let them know how you have investigated the complaint, and that the committee have met and agreed what action is to be taken. Remember that the witness statements and testimonial are confidential, the subject of the complaint does not have any right to see them or to know those from whom the information has come. Inform the original complainant that you have investigated, taken appropriate steps, and are closing the concern. Remember that the complainant does not have the right to know what action has been taken and does not have the right to see the report.

### **ACTIONS**

So you have done all your investigations, gathered evidence, and are now meeting to discuss what action to take. There are obviously several different routes you could use depending on the findings of your investigation.

**NO ACTION** - The complaint is unfounded, with no evidence, no witnesses, contradictory information.

This is a common outcome, just make sure the complaint is recorded in case something happens in future.

**REMINDER OF CODES OF CONDUCT** - There is some evidence of poor practice but as a club/committee you feel that you can manage it and the subject of the complaint is aware of their behavior and is appropriately contrite. Make sure they re-sign the code of conduct, remind them of the club ethos and what you expect from them.

**REDO THE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN WORKSHOP** - This would be appropriate for a coach or manager if they have not done any Safeguarding training for a while.

**PUT THEM ON A BEHAVIOUR CONTRACT** - Monitor their behavior for a set period, tell them what you expect and what the consequences will be if they break the contract. If this is for an u18 player, it is important that the parents are signed up to this as well and are supporting the club.

**TEMPORARY SUSPENSION** - Clubs are perfectly within their constitutional rights to suspend any member including parents or other spectators linked to a player, do this in writing. Be clear about the dates or number of matches, sessions that the suspension will last for and the reasons.

**PERMANENT DISMISSAL** - This is obviously the last resort as no one wants to get rid of any club member but sometimes it gets to that stage. This should only be done if other actions have been taken such as suspension, and those actions have been properly documented. This needs to be set out in writing by the Club Chair and the committee. If this happens, other club members need to be informed so work out a formal statement to send out.

**HINTS AND TIPS** - Not all complaints require a full investigation process, but all complaints should be noted. If the subject of the complaint is under eighteen, then the parent/carer needs to be involved at all stages. All the information should be kept confidential. Time frames need to be set out clearly at all stages, the more people you have on the committee the easier it is to follow due process. The subject of the complaint may want to appeal against the decision or escalate it to the County FA. The complaints procedure should be available for all club members to view.

**ESCALATION** - If the subject of the complaint is dissatisfied with the overall outcome, then they may wish to escalate to the County FA. In this case the incident will be referred to the DSO or to the Discipline Officer, Officer. If an incident is escalated the CFA officer in charge of taking this on will need to see the route and information about the complaint, the club's investigation and how the outcome was reached. The escalation investigation does not necessarily reopen the original complaint but looks at how the complaint has been handled by the club to see if there has been any mishandling. If the CFA felt that the original investigation mismanagement in the Club's handling of the investigation, then the CFA would work with the club's committee to look at their procedures and act accordingly.

**Barnsley & District Junior Football League Cup Competition Rules**  
**2024 – 2025 COMPETITION TITLE**

The competition shall be called “**The Barnsley & District Junior Football League Supplementary Cup or Challenge Cup Competition**” and shall be played for each season and confined only to the members of the League.

The Management Committee may from time to time decide to organise a Supplementary Cup, Challenge Cup or Trophy Cup Competition either on a knockout or round-robin basis for all teams within an age group to participate in.

Teams who were eliminated in the first round and quarter final of the Cup Competition or for teams within their division.

Entry of teams may or may not be optional and may or may not incur an entry fee. The Management Committee may decide to organise trophy events for the Under 7’s to Under 11’s inclusive, of which they will be able to promote and publicise the winners of the different competitions.

These trophy events can be in a variety of formats such as Champions League, Place Competition, Ladder Events, Festivals and Round Robin or Cup Events. In between trophy events it is vital that teams understand the importance of playing development matches and scores from these games can be kept and used to seed teams in different events.

The Under 7’s and Under 8’s can play in a maximum of three trophy events during the season, lasting a maximum of two weeks each.

The Under 9’s and Under 10’s can play in a maximum of three trophy events during the season, lasting a maximum of four weeks each.

The Under 11’s can play in a maximum of three trophy events during the season lasting a maximum of six weeks each.

**RULES**

The Rules of the Barnsley & District Junior Football League will apply. The entire control and management of the Competition shall be vested in the Management Committee. Alterations, for which consent has been given by the sanctioning association, shall be made to these Rules only at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with SCORY.

**SOUVENIRS**

The cups and trophies are the property of the Barnsley & District Football League. When the winning and runner-up clubs have been decided, the League shall present the cups or trophies to such teams, who shall be responsible for their return to the League by the 28<sup>th</sup> February in the ensuing year in good order and condition. (See SCORY RULE 13). Failure to comply will result in a fine as determined by the Management Committee. In addition to the cups or trophies, the League may present souvenirs to the players and substitutes in the final ties as follows.

Teams playing 5 v 5	Maximum 10 Medals
Teams playing 7 v 7	Maximum 12 Medals
Teams playing 9 v 9	Maximum 14 Medals
Teams playing 11 v 11	Maximum 16 medals

**ELIGIBLE CLUBS**

Entry of teams is by invitation to all Clubs who have completed an application form to join the League & the entry fee shall be inclusive within the League’s annual fees. Entry should be assumed unless otherwise informed, but the Management Committee may refuse a team entry. Where a team withdraws from the League it shall be deemed to have withdrawn that team from the Cup competition.

**ELIGIBLE PLAYERS**

Only players registered for a Club shall be eligible to play in the Competition. A player shall not in the same season play for more than one competing Club. (Even if the original team are subsequently withdrawn from the Competition), but the members of each respective team may be changed throughout the series of matches. Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player, or players, will have a formal

written charge issued against them as per SCORY18. If found guilty that Club may be removed from the Competition. Only those players who were qualified to play in a previous round shall be eligible to play in the semi-final and final ties.

### **THE DRAW**

The Competition shall be played on a group format followed by a knockout basis. The ties will be drawn in a manner approved by the Management Committee. All Cup matches will take precedence over League fixtures and must be played on the date specified. Non-fulfilment of a Cup fixture will result in the offending team forfeiting the game and fined.

### **GROUND**

In each tie preceding the semi-final and final, the game shall be played on the ground of the club first drawn. If the ground of the home team is unfit for play, the match may be moved to the opposition team's ground.

### **EXTRA TIME**

If teams are level after the completion of normal playing time, a period of extra time shall be played as follows:

U7s to U10s - Five minutes each way

U11s to U16s - Ten minutes each way

If after extra time the scores are still level, the match will be decided by kicks from the penalty spot. A series of five kicks from the penalty spot shall be taken by each team against the opponent's goalkeeper with the teams taking alternate kicks. FIFA and FA Rules for penalty kicks shall apply and the Referee shall decide which goal is to be used. Should each team score the same number of goals in this series of kicks from the penalty spot then sudden death shall apply.

### **PROVISIONS FOR FINAL TIES.**

All clubs shall make their grounds available for final ties.

All final ties will be played on grounds appointed by the Management Committee.

Where Clubs provide the grounds for the final ties then any costs incurred will be borne by that Club, but they shall be allowed to take any proceeds as approved by the Management Committee such as from a raffle or catering.

Clubs shall not be allowed to charge an entry fee without first seeking approval from the league.

The Management Committee shall fix the grounds and dates for the final ties.

The grounds will be appointed on suitability factors to host such games and will be announced as early as possible in the season. This may mean a tie could involve a hosting club.

In the final ties Referees and Assistant Referees will be appointed by the Management Committee where appropriate. Fees will be paid in accordance with SCORY RULES and shall be shared by both participating teams equally.

Where the Colours of the two competing teams are similar, both teams must change unless alternative arrangements are mutually agreed.

In final ties both teams must provide a football fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition to see if the footballs are unsuitable.

In final ties both teams must provide a team/squad sheet to the referee prior to the start of the match. The names of all substitutes must be given and any substitute whose name is not given to the referee at this time may not take part in the match.

### **REFEREES**

In all ties preceding the semi-finals the referee shall be appointed by the league.

In semi-final ties Referees may be appointed by the Management Committee and the home club shall pay the Referee his/her fee before the match.

### **FORMAT OF TROPHY EVENTS**

The trophy events for the Under 7s to Under 11s age groups can be arranged in many different formats as per The FA's Youth Development Review. Rules for these events will be published by the Management Committee, on a case-by-case basis, in advance of the competition and may include:

Knock-out ties with some element of extra-time and replays, Round-robin groups, or festivals, with three



points to be awarded for a win and one point for a draw.

Where teams are level on points, they may be separated by using; goal difference, goals scored, the result between the teams concerned and the number of wins.

If teams still cannot be separated, then a penalty shoot-out may take place.

When extra time is allowed, the FA's maximum playing time in any one day will be taken into consideration

The duration of play may be altered as required to suit the format of each cup/trophy event but always allowing for the FA's maximum playing time in any one day for the Under:

U7s, U8s, U9s, U10s - 60 minutes,

U11s and U12s - 80 minutes

U13s and U14s - 90 minutes.

All Clubs shall make their grounds available for all ties or games and the Management Committee shall fix the grounds and dates for those ties or games including any replays or play-offs.

In all ties and matches preceding the semi-finals or Final's Day referees will be appointed in accordance with SCORY RULES.

Entry of teams is by invitation to all Clubs who have completed an application to join the League including any Clubs entering new teams who join the League during the winter break.

Entry should be assumed unless otherwise informed, but the Management Committee may refuse a team entry.

To be qualified to play for any team, a player must be registered for that team at the time of the trophy event.

**BARNSELY & DISTRICT JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY CUP & CHALLENGE CUP (Proposed Formats)**  
**U7s TO U11s : CHALLENGE CUP FORMAT**

**Challenge Cup Group games :** Teams to be placed into groups of four or five teams. Group games to be played over 3/4 consecutive weekends, at the end of the 3/4 weeks the teams finishing in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the groups will be moved to the Knockout Cup Section A competition and the teams that finish in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> (if there is one) of their group will be moved to the Knockout Cup Section B competition. All teams in the relevant A or B cups will be put together and a draw will be done to determine who plays who in the knockout stages to finals.

**U7s GROUP QUALIFYING ROUNDS: [ ] TEAMS**

TOP 2 INTO CUP A, 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> (IF THERE IS ONE) INTO CUP B – ALL GAMES INCLUDING QUALIFYING GAMES PLAYED TO A FINISH: QUALIFYING ROUNDS PLAYED: JAN, FEB, MAR

CUP GROUP A & B – KNOCKOUT ROUNDS INCLUDE FIRST ROUND, QUARTER FINALS, SEMI FINALS, FINALS

**U8s GROUP QUALIFYING ROUNDS: [ ] TEAMS**

TOP 2 INTO CUP A, 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> (IF THERE IS ONE) INTO CUP B – ALL GAMES INCLUDING QUALIFYING GAMES PLAYED TO A FINISH: QUALIFYING ROUNDS PLAYED: JAN, FEB, MAR

CUP GROUP A & B - KNOCKOUT ROUNDS INCLUDE FIRST ROUND, QUARTER FINALS, SEMI FINALS, FINAL

**U9s GROUP QUALIFYING ROUNDS: [ ] TEAMS**

TOP 2 INTO CUP A, 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> (IF THERE IS ONE) INTO CUP B – ALL GAMES INCLUDING QUALIFYING GAMES PLAYED TO A FINISH: QUALIFYING ROUNDS PLAYED: JAN, FEB, MAR

CUP GROUP A & B - KNOCKOUT ROUNDS INCLUDE FIRST ROUND, QUARTER FINALS, SEMI FINALS, FINALS

**U10s GROUP QUALIFYING ROUNDS: [ ] TEAMS**

TOP 2 INTO CUP A, 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> (IF THERE IS ONE) INTO CUP B – ALL GAMES INCLUDING QUALIFYING GAMES PLAYED TO A FINISH: QUALIFYING ROUNDS PLAYED: JAN, FEB, MAR

CUP GROUP A & B - KNOCKOUT ROUNDS INCLUDE FIRST ROUND, QUARTER FINALS, SEMI FINALS, FINALS

**U11s GROUP QUALIFYING ROUNDS: [ ] TEAMS**

TOP 2 INTO CUP A, 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> (IF THERE IS ONE) INTO CUP B – ALL GAMES INCLUDING QUALIFYING GAMES PLAYED TO A FINISH: QUALIFYING ROUNDS PLAYED: JAN, FEB, MAR

CUP GROUP A & B - KNOCKOUT ROUNDS INCLUDE FIRST ROUND, QUARTER FINALS, SEMI FINALS, FINALS

### **U7s TO U11s : SUPPLEMENTARY CUP FORMAT**

**Supplementary Cup Group games :** Teams to be placed into groups of four or five teams, games to be played over 3/4 consecutive weekends, at the end of the 3/4 weeks the teams finishing, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the groups will be moved to the Knockout Cup A competition and the teams that finish in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> (if there is one) of their group will be moved to the Knockout Cup B competition. All teams in the relevant A or B cups will be put together and a draw will be done to determine who plays who in the knockout stages to finals.

#### **U7s GROUP QUALIFYING ROUNDS: [ ] TEAMS**

TOP 2 INTO CUP A, 3RD, AND 4TH (IF THERE IS ONE) INTO CUP B – ALL GAMES INCLUDING QUALIFYING GAMES PLAYED TO A FINISH: QUALIFYING ROUNDS PLAYED: **TBC**

CUP GROUP A & B – KNOCKOUT ROUNDS INCLUDE FIRST ROUND, QUARTER FINALS, SEMI FINALS, FINALS

#### **U8s GROUP QUALIFYING ROUNDS: [ ] TEAMS**

TOP 2 INTO CUP A, 3RD, AND 4TH (IF THERE IS ONE) INTO CUP B – ALL GAMES INCLUDING QUALIFYING GAMES PLAYED TO A FINISH: QUALIFYING ROUNDS PLAYED: **TBC**

CUP GROUP A & B – KNOCKOUT ROUNDS INCLUDE FIRST ROUND, QUARTER FINALS, SEMI FINALS, FINALS

#### **U9s GROUP QUALIFYING ROUNDS: [ ] TEAMS**

TOP 2 INTO CUP A, 3RD, AND 4TH (IF THERE IS ONE) INTO CUP B – ALL GAMES INCLUDING QUALIFYING GAMES PLAYED TO A FINISH: QUALIFYING ROUNDS PLAYED: **TBC**

CUP GROUP A & B – KNOCKOUT ROUNDS INCLUDE FIRST ROUND, QUARTER FINALS, SEMI FINALS, FINALS

#### **U10s GROUP QUALIFYING ROUNDS: [ ] TEAMS**

TOP 2 INTO CUP A, 3RD, AND 4TH (IF THERE IS ONE) INTO CUP B – ALL GAMES INCLUDING QUALIFYING GAMES PLAYED TO A FINISH: QUALIFYING ROUNDS PLAYED: **TBC**

CUP GROUP A & B – KNOCKOUT ROUNDS INCLUDE FIRST ROUND, QUARTER FINALS, SEMI FINALS, FINALS

#### **U11s GROUP QUALIFYING ROUNDS: [ ] TEAMS**

TOP 2 INTO CUP A, 3RD, AND 4TH (IF THERE IS ONE) INTO CUP B – ALL GAMES INCLUDING QUALIFYING GAMES PLAYED TO A FINISH: QUALIFYING ROUNDS PLAYED: **TBC**

CUP GROUP A & B – KNOCKOUT ROUNDS INCLUDE FIRST ROUND, QUARTER FINALS, SEMI FINALS, FINALS

#### **U12s TO U16s CUP : KNOCKOUT CUP**

All teams in both age groups are put together into one group and a draw will be done to determine preliminary round and first round games based on a knockout format.

#### **U12s & U16s KNOCKOUT CUP : [ ] TEAMS**

KNOCKOUT ROUNDS INCLUDE:

PRELIMINARY ROUND, FIRST ROUND, QUARTER FINALS, SEMI FINALS, FINAL

ALL GAMES PLAYED TO A FINISH, EXTRA TIME & PENALTIES (if required)

#### **U12s & U16s SUPPLEMENTARY & CHALLENGE CUP QUALIFYING ROUNDS: [ ] TEAMS**

Teams to be placed into groups of four or five teams, games to be played over 3 consecutive weekends, at the end of the three weeks the teams finishing, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the groups will be moved to the Knockout Cup A competition and the teams that finish in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> (if there is one) of their group will be moved to the Knockout Cup B competition. All teams in the relevant A or B cups will be put together and a draw will be done to determine who plays who in the knockout stages to finals.

TOP 2 INTO CUP A, 3RD, AND 4TH (IF THERE IS ONE) INTO CUP B – ALL GAMES INCLUDING QUALIFYING GAMES PLAYED TO A FINISH: QUALIFYING ROUNDS PLAYED: **TBC**

CUP GROUP A & B – KNOCKOUT ROUNDS INCLUDE FIRST ROUND, QUARTER FINALS, SEMI FINALS, FINALS

### **U8s TO U11s : JUNIOR CUP FORMAT**

**Junior Cup Group games :** Teams to be placed into groups of up to six teams. Group games to be played over 5 consecutive weekends, at the end of the five weeks the teams finishing in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the groups will be moved to the Knockout Cup Section A competition and the teams that finish in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>

and 6<sup>th</sup> (if there is one) of their group will be moved to the Knockout Cup Section B competition. All teams in the relevant A or B cups will be put together and a draw will be done to determine who plays who in the knockout stages to finals.

## **HEADING IN U7-U11 YOUTH GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL MATCHES TO BE PHASED OUT OVER THE NEXT THREE SEASONS FOLLOWING IFAB TRIAL**

In 2022, we became the first national association to successfully adopt the International Football Association Board [IFAB] trial to remove deliberate heading in grassroots football matches at U12 level and below.

We first introduced the IFAB trial in England following our steps to bring in heading guidance in youth football in 2020, and then the implementation of heading guidance in training across every level of the professional and amateur game in 2021.

After two seasons of the IFAB trial in English football, **we will now introduce a new rule to phase out deliberate heading in matches in all affiliated grassroots youth football between U7-U11 level over the next three seasons.** This includes all leagues, clubs, and any affiliated school football matches – **starting with U7-U9 level from the 2024-25 season, then increasing to include U10 level from 2025-26, and U11 level from 2026-27.**

The introduction of the new rule follows a consultation and discussion process with representatives across the grassroots game, including the National Game Board, the FA Development Committee, and the wider County FA network. It has also been approved by the FA Board and the FA shareholders, who comprise a wide range of key stakeholders from across English football, with representation from the professional and grassroots game.

## **WHY THE NEW RULE IS BEING INTRODUCED IN GRASSROOTS YOUTH FOOTBALL NEXT SEASON**

We first introduced the IFAB trial with the aim to help positively shape grassroots youth football – and to ensure that matches at this level are aligned to our current heading guidance for training. This was established in 2020 following consultation with the grassroots game, coaches, and other experts across football, and recommends that heading is removed or restricted at this level.

We also adopted the IFAB trial to help reduce any potential risk factors that may be linked to heading the ball, including injuries from head-to-head, elbow to head, or head to ground contact.

We continue to play a leading role in reviewing and improving the safety of our game. This includes investing in and supporting multiple research projects in adult football to gain a greater insight and understanding of this complex area. During this time, we have worked with stakeholders across English football to review and proactively address potential risk factors which may be associated with football whilst research continues in this area, including ongoing dialogue with the international governing bodies.

The gradual introduction of the new rule over the next three seasons will support the players' journey as they adapt from deliberately heading the ball in grassroots youth football matches. It has been decided that as grassroots players move from primary to secondary school, heading the ball will be introduced at this natural transition point in their U12 season.

Throughout this period, we will research, review, and analyse the way that it is being implemented to help identify ways of improving the experience for players and referees.

We will also continue to review and evolve the current heading guidance for training to ensure it meets the requirements of the game. This includes providing coaches and players with innovative technical support and guidance so that they can prepare for the transition into heading the ball in youth matches.

## **APPROACH TO THE IFAB HEADING TRIAL**

Before the start of the 2022-23 season, we invited all County FAs, leagues, clubs, and schools across the country to take part in the new IFAB trial to remove deliberate heading in grassroots football matches at U12 level and below. Over the last two seasons, around 16,000 teams and 107,000 players have participated in the trial, and we have remained in consultation with all our key stakeholders across the grassroots game to provide guidance and support to implement the trial successfully.

Throughout this two-year period, we have carried out robust and thorough research into the application of the trial, working closely with the County FAs to understand how the game has adapted to the new format. This included observing and monitoring matches involved in the trial, conducting surveys with coaches, parents, guardians, referees, and club officials, as well as gathering feedback from youth players.

## **ADAPTING THE HEADING TRIAL FOR THE 2024-25 SEASON**

We have researched and collected feedback from leagues and clubs taking part in the IFAB trial to remove deliberate heading in grassroots football matches at U12 level and below to see how the experience of the players taking part could be further improved. Our aim is to also create more technical opportunities for players with the ball at their feet, allow for more effective playing time, and to reduce the amount of time the ball is in the air during a match.

As a result, from the start of the 2024-25 season for U7-U9 teams, we will also be rolling out the following:

Deliberate Header Restart:

- Deliberately heading the ball is an offence punishable by an indirect free kick
- The indirect free kick is taken at the point where the ball was deliberately headed, except: Where a player deliberately heads the ball within their own penalty area, the referee will stop the game and restart with an indirect free kick to the opposition from the nearest side line of the penalty area where the offence took place.

Touchline Restart:

- When the whole of the ball passes over the whole of the touchline, on the ground or in the air, instead of a throw-in, a pass-in/dribble-in is awarded
- The kicker that takes the pass-in/dribble-in may touch the ball again before it is touched by another player
- At the moment of delivering the ball:
  - o The ball must be stationary on the touchline at the point where it left the pitch; only the kicker may be off the pitch
  - o All opponents must stand at least five yards from the point on the touchline where the pass-in or /dribble-in is to be taken from
- A goal cannot be scored directly from a pass-in
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves

Sanctions in the event of a deliberate header in a match:

- From the start of the 2024-25 season, there will be no disciplinary sanctions applied for a deliberate header in a match, unless the action is considered a persistent deliberate offence, which could then result in a caution.

## **WORKING WITH THE GRASSROOTS GAME TO HELP IMPLEMENT THE NEW RULE**

The County FA network, leagues, clubs, coaches, referees, and schools across the country will play a key part in helping to implement the new rule. In conjunction with this announcement, we will be providing the relevant guidance and will work closely with them over the coming weeks to ensure that they have the support they need to successfully implement the new rule from the start of next season.

We will also support any league, club and school who is taking part in the current IFAB trial across the U10-U12 ages groups if they wish to continue with the trial on a voluntary basis next season, ahead of the transitional phasing of the new rule from the start of the 2025-26 season.