



Grantham Youth Football Development League

Competition Rules

Supplements to the Rules & Appendices

2020/2021 Season



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GYFDL Rules 2020/2021 – Appendices

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STANDARD CODE OF RULES FOR MINI SOCCER AND YOUTH FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS

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 sanction 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.

1. DEFINITIONS

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.

“Competition” means the **Grantham Youth Football Development 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 **in the Appendices**.

“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 **in the Appendices**.

“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 Soccer” 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 into 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.

“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 Lincolnshire County Football Association Limited**.

“Scholarship” means a Scholarship as set out in Rule C 3 (a) (i) of the rules of The FA.

“Season” means the period of time 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.

“WGS” means the Whole Game System and the procedures for the operation thereof as determined by The FA from time to time.

“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.

(B) Unless stated otherwise, terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

GOVERNANCE RULES

2. COMPETITION NAME AND CONSTITUTION

2.

(A) The Competition will be known as **“The Grantham Youth Football Development 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 thereupon automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.

(B) This Competition shall consist of not more than **50** Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

(C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be **a 20 mile radius of St Peters Hill Grantham**.

(D) The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Competition acting (save where otherwise specifically mentioned herein) through the Management Committee in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of The FA.

(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 thereto, subject to the provisions of Rule 7.

(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.

(G) All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority and must have a constitution approved by the Sanctioning Authority. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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 **12** in number. *Supp*

(H) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

(i) 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 (to include those contained in the Equality Act 2010).

(ii) This Competition and each Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that 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.

(iii) Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.

- (I) Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including, but not limited to, Charter Standard and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. *Supp*
- (J) All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The FA from time to time.
- (K) Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing at a particular age group 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 in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (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.

3. CLUB NAME

- 3. Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority and from the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

4. ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

- 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 and must be accompanied by an entry fee per Team as set out in the Fees Tariff, which shall be returned in the event of non-election. *Supp*
At the discretion of the voting members present applications, of which due notice has been given, may be received at the AGM or an SGM or on a date agreed by the Management Committee.
- (B) The annual subscription shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Club/Team (where a Club has more than one Team in membership of the Competition) and shall be payable on or before **1st May** in each year. *Supp*
- (C) A Deposit of **£5** shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Club/Team (where a Club provides more than one Team in membership of the Competition) and shall be payable on or before **1st May** in each year. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the entry fee, annual subscription and Deposit (if required) have been paid.
- (E) If requested by the Competition, Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by **1st July** of its Sanctioning Authority affiliation number for the forthcoming Playing Season. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, 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 in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

5. MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

- 5. (A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and **up to 12** members who shall all be elected at the AGM. Member clubs are required to nominate 1 person per club who will attend committee meetings as called by the League Committee. The person nominated shall be a member of the club they represent and be associated with a team that plays in GYFDL. Committee members may be co-opted as necessary.
- (B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination provided that the Officer notifies the Secretary in writing not later than **1st May** 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 **1st May** in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the AGM.
- (C) The Management Committee shall meet as and when required, save that no more than three calendar months shall pass between each meeting. *Supp*
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.
- (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. *Supp*.
- (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 in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

6. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

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 only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of The FA or Affiliated Association.
- (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.
- (C) Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee meetings and have one vote thereat, but no member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such 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).
In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman of the Management Committee shall have a second or casting vote.
- (D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules and shall also have jurisdiction 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:-
- (i) Accept the charge and submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
 - (ii) Accept the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or
 - (iii) Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
 - (iv) Deny the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at 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.

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.

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).

The maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £100 and, when setting any fine, the Management Committee must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined. *Supp*

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 Association.

- (E) 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.
- (F) **40%** of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any sub-committee thereof.
- (G) 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.
- (H) 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 in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (I) Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision.
Any Club failing to do so will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.

- (J) 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.
- (K) 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.
- (L) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

7. PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

- 7. (A) (i) 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.
- (ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the Competition Match.
- (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** days (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 his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined. *Supp*
- (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 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.
- (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 prior to the protest or complaint being heard.
 - (i) All parties must have received **7** days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.
 - (ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should forward a deposit of **£25** and indicate such when forwarding the written response.
- (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.
- (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 (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, in such respect the Sanctioning Authority may (but is not obliged to):
 - (i) invite submissions by the parties involved; or
 - (ii) convene a hearing to hear the appeal; or
 - (iii) permit new evidence; or
 - (iv) impose deadlines as are appropriate.Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee.
- (G) No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8. (A) The AGM shall be held not later than **1st August** in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least **10** members are present and entitled to vote:-
- (i) To receive and confirm the minutes of the preceding AGM.
 - (ii) To receive and adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts.
 - (iii) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
 - (iv) Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Season.
 - (v) Election of Officers of the Competition and the Management Committee members.
 - (vi) Appointment of auditors.
 - (vii) Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14).
 - (viii) Fix the date for the commencement of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.
Supp
 - (ix) Fix the date for the end of the Playing Season.
 - (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an AGM.
- (B) A copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet, statement of accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 14 days prior to the meeting together with any proposed Rule changes.
- (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.
- (D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. 14 days' notice shall be given of any AGM.
- (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.
- (F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.
- (G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Club.
- (H) Any continuing Club must be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (I) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM.
- (J) Where a Competition is an incorporated entity, the Officers of the Competition shall ensure that the Articles of Association of the Competition are consistent with the requirements of these Rules.

9. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

9. Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call an SGM. The Management Committee may call an SGM at any time.

At least seven (7) days' notice shall be given of a meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.

Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.

Any Club failing to be represented at an SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs.

10. AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

10. 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, or upon indicating that the Club intends to compete. "We, (A), (name) [] of (address) [] (Chairman)/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 by:

- (i) Where a Club is an unincorporated association, the Club chairman and secretary; or
- (ii) Where a Club is an incorporated entity, two directors of the Club.

Any alteration of the chairman and /or secretary of the Club on the above agreement must be notified to the Lincolnshire County Football Association to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

11. CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

11. (A) Any Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a Team from the Competition must do so at least **28** days before the AGM. 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 in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (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 in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (C) Notwithstanding the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 6(I), in the event of a Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50, the Management Committee shall be empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.

12. EXCLUSION OF CLUBS OR TEAM. MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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: (i) remove a member of the Management Committee from office, (ii) exclude any Club or Team from membership, both of which must be supported by more than two-thirds (2/3) 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.
- (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 or Team whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by more than two-thirds (2/3) 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.
- (C) Any Officer or member of a Club proved 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 (A) and/or (B) of this Rule.

13. TROPHY

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 Chairman and Secretary of [club] FC (Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of [] cup or trophy, and it 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 []. 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.” *Supp x 2*
- Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (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.

14. ALTERATION TO RULES

14. 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 made during the Playing Season to these Rules shall not take effect until the following Playing Season.
- Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by **1st May** in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by **21 days prior to the AGM** and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by **14 days prior to the AGM**. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if **a majority** of those present, entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

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 **21** days prior to the date of the meeting.

15. FINANCE

15. (A) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.
- (B) All expenditure in excess of **£50** shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.
- (C) The financial year of the Competition will end on **31st May**.
- (D) The books, 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.

16. INSURANCE

16. (A) All Clubs must have valid public liability insurance cover of at least ten million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.
- (B) All Clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Players' 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.

Failure to comply with Rule 16(A) or 16(B) will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

17. DISSOLUTION

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.
- (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.
- (C) The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:
- (i) 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.
 - (ii) 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 may decide.

MATCH RELATED RULES

18. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

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

(a) registered through WGS.

Any registration form which is sent by either of the means set out at Rules 18(A) (i)(a) or (b) above that is not fully and correctly completed will be returned to the Club unprocessed. If a Club attempts to register a player via WGS but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via WGS, the registration will not be processed. *Supp*

For Clubs registering Players under Rules 18 (A) (i) (a) or (b) registration forms will be provided in a format to be determined by the Competition. For Clubs registering Players via WGS (under Rule 18 (A) (i) (c)) Clubs must access WGS in order to complete the registration process.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) (i) 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. 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.

(ii) A Player registered with a Premier League or English Football League Academy under the Elite Player Performance Plan contained within Youth Development Rules will not be permitted to play in this Competition. Details of the Youth Development Rules are published on The FA website. A Player registered with a FA Girls' Regional Talent Club may play in this Competition subject to the FA Programme for Excellence (Female) Regulations.

(iii) Each Team must have the following number of Players registered **28** days before the start of each Playing Season:

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

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(C) 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.

The age groups that children are eligible to play in are set out in the table below, along with the permitted football formats for each of those age groups. 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	
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	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	

- (D) A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered, if applicable.
- (E) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes taking into account the following.
- (i) A Player shall not be permitted to register for more than one Club subject to the exceptions set out in Rule 18 (E)(iii) below.
 - (ii) In the event of a Player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club priority of registration shall decide for which Club the Player shall be registered. The Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the Player of the fact of the previous registration subject to the exceptions set out in Rule 18 (E)(iii) below.
 - (iii) A Player is only permitted to register for more than one Club provided that:
 - a. The Team(s) in which the Player plays in are not in the same age group; or
 - b. Except for the purpose of a transfer.And the Player meets the requirements in Rule 18(C).

(F) It shall be a breach of these Rules for a Player to:-

- (i) Play for more than one Team in the same age group in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.
- (ii) Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season, except if the provisions set out in Rule 18 (E)(iii) apply.
- (iii) Submit a signed registration form or submit a registration through WGS for registration that the Player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (G) (i) The Management Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rule 18(G)(ii) and (iii) below.
- (ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player, the exercise of such power being without prejudice to the Management Committee's ability to fine a Club at its discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) that has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 7).
- (iii) The Management Committee shall have the power 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 or The FA. Where the Management Committee does not have enough information to enable it to make a decision pursuant to the above power, it may apply, in its absolute discretion, to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA for further information.
- Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition.
- (iv) For a Player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18(G)(iii) 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 would be empowered to consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

Note: Action under Rule 18(G)(iii) shall only be taken against a Player 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 the 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.)

- (H) Subject to compliance with FA Rule C2(a) when a Club wishes to register a player who is already registered with another club it shall submit a *transfer request via WGS* to the Competition. 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 **7** days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within **7** 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 **7** days after receipt of such transfer. *Supp*
- In the event of an objection to a transfer the matter shall be referred to the Management Committee for a decision.
- (I) A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 31st March except by special permission of the Management Committee. *Supp*

- (J) A Club shall keep a list of the Players it registers and a record of all matches in which those Players have played for the Club and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee.
- In the event a Club has more than one Team in an age group, each Team must be clearly identifiable but not designated 'A' or 'B' or 1st or 2nd. In such cases, Players will be registered for one Team only. A Player so registered will be allowed to play for his Club in a younger or older age group within the provisions of Rule 18(C).
- (K) A register containing the names of all Players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the (Registrations) Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of an Officer of the Club at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.
- In the event of a Non Contract Player changing his status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition or with a club in another competition his 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)(i).
- (L) 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 1 Competition Matches for that Team in the current Playing Season.
- (M) Rule not required in GYFDL
- (N) (i) Subject to Rule 18(N)(ii), 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 in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (ii) The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18(N)(i) 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.
- (iii) Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 18(N)(i) above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion: *Supp*
- (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).

(The following clause applies to Competitions involving Players in full-time secondary education):-

- (O) (i) Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (ii) The availability of children must be cleared with their head teacher (except for Sunday league competitions).
- (iii) A child under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31 August in the relevant Playing Season, shall not be permitted to play in a Competition Match during that Playing Season where any other Player is older or younger than that child by two years or more.

19. CLUB COLOURS

19. Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by **1st August** who shall decide as to their suitability.

Any Club wishing to change its colours during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the Management Committee.

Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all other Players and the Match Officials.

No Player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.

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 jersey) at least **7** days before the Competition Match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the 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.

Shirts must be numbered, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

20. PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY, TIMES OF KICK-OFF, POSTPONEMENTS, SUBSTITUTES

20. (A) All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board or, for Mini-Soccer, and 9v9 football, the Rules as set down by The FA. 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 facilities are suitable for Competition Matches and to order the Club concerned to play its Competition Matches on another ground.

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. 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).

All Competition Matches shall have a duration as set out below unless a shorter time is mutually arranged by the two Clubs in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the Competition Match, and in any event shall be of equal halves.

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 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	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	20	25	60	90	Development focused with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 4-week periods (12 weeks)
Under 11	20	30	80	120	Development focused with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 6-week periods (18 weeks)
Under 12	20	30	80 (if applicable)	120	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 13 and Under 14	25	35	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 15 and Under 16	25	40	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 17 and Under 18	25	45	120	180	Any varieties including one season long league table

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 3 days prior. *Supp*

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 in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (B) Except by permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches must be played on the dates originally fixed 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 (Fixtures) Secretary & **Age Group Lead**. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. *Supp*

In the case of a revised fixture date, the Clubs must be given by the Competition 5 clear days' notice of the Competition Match (unless otherwise mutually agreed).

- (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 to the Match Officials and an Officer of the opposing Club at least **5** clear days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. If not so provided, the away Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (D) The minimum number of Players that will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is as follows:

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

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (E) (i) In competitions where points are awarded, home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have the power to impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff), deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the Competition Match in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals. Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a Competition Match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent's Ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.
- (ii) Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a Competition Match has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the (Fixtures) Secretary, **the Age Group Lead**, the Competition Referees Appointments Secretary, the secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials. *Supp*
- (iii) 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 Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the (Fixtures) Secretary **and Age Group Lead** within **3** days the Management Committee shall have the power to order the Competition Match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and the Clubs involved agree, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (iv) 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 be empowered to award the points for the Competition Match to the opponent. In cases where a Competition 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 Competition Match and it shall not be replayed. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned Competition Match.
- (v) The Management Committee shall review any Competition 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(N)(i) above. Where both Teams were under suspension the Competition Match must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.

- (F) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use substitute Players in any Competition Match.

Where a Competition does allow return substitutes:

For Under 11s - Under 18s – a Club may use up to 5 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 – any number of 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. A Team must not have a match day squad greater than double the size of its team in an age group.

In Youth Football only, **and only if deemed necessary by the Management Committee for any match** the referee shall be informed of the names of the substitute Players not later than **5** 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 named as a substitute before the start of that 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.

- (G) The half time interval shall be **of no less than 5** minutes' duration, but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.
- (H) The Teams taking part in Under 7s to Under 11 or Youth Football shall identify a Team captain who **may** 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 in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

21. REPORTING RESULTS

21. (A) The (Registration/Fixtures) Secretary & **Age Group Lead** must receive within 1 day 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 referee markings required by Rule 23, or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. *Supp*
- (B) The Home Club/both Clubs shall telephone/SMS/email/notify the result of each Competition Match to **the GYFDL Full Time website by 6pm on the day of the match or 9pm in the event of an evening match**. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. *Supp*
- (C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by an Officer of the Club, or as prescribed by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (D) The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect but NOT publish results or any grading tables for 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 in accordance with the Fines Tariff. The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect and publish results for trophy events. *Supp*

22. DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

22. (A) In Competitions where points are awarded, 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 a deciding match or matches played under conditions determined by the Management Committee, or the position shared. *Supp*
- (B) No entry.
- (C) No entry.
- (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.

23. MATCH OFFICIALS

23. (A) Registered referees (and assistant referees where 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. *Supp & see Appendix 4*
- (B) 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 open age competition and individuals under the age of 14 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any Competition Match. Referees between the ages of 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.
- (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 (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) being imposed on the defaulting Club.
- (D) 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.
- (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 **0p** per mile / or inclusive of travel expenses. *Supp*
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 in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (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 half fee 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 in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (G) A referee not keeping his or her 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.
- (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 (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.
- (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 The FA/County FA.
- (J) **If deemed necessary by the Management Committee** 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.
- (K) Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge. *Supp.*
- (L) Match Officials shall have undertaken a RESPECT briefing offered by The FA/County FA or the Competition.



Grantham Youth Football Development League

SUPPLEMENTS TO THE RULES
2020/2021 SEASON



These supplements to the rules must be read in-conjunction with the GYFDL Rules.

FA Rule	GYFDL Regulation applicable
Rule 2 G	At the discretion of the Management Committee, a league with less than 5 team entries at the start of the playing season may be amalgamated into another higher or lower age group taking into account FA rules relating to age bandings of players and football sizes. In the event that two age groups are amalgamated into one league or competition all league rules will apply and points awarded will count towards final team placings. Competition trophies will be awarded to the highest ranking teams in each age group. There will be separate Cup & Shield competitions for both age groups.
Rule 2i	Clubs must achieve & retain Charter Standard accreditation. Failing to do so will result in not being eligible to play in any competition in the Grantham Youth Football Development League.
Rule 4a	Club & Team entries must be made by 1 st May each year.
Rule 4b	The annual subscriptions shall be determined by the Management Committee.
Rule 4b	Additional team entries will be considered in the U7, U8, U9, U10 & U11 age groups made by clubs/teams between 1 st December to 14 th December each year. The Management Committee will endeavour to provide competition matches for all such teams.
Rule 5c	Representatives from member Clubs/Teams may attend committee meetings or will be mandated to attend as deemed necessary by the Management Committee.
Rule 5d	<i>To facilitate improved communications between the league and clubs the communications protocol shall be: All Governance issues will be Club Secretary to League Secretary and vice versa. For all Football issues the Team Manager may contact the relevant League Official and vice versa with Club & League Secs copied if necessary.</i>
Rule 6d	Where a rule states that a player shall be fined and the player is under 18 it will be the responsibility of the club to pay the fine. Recovery of the monies paid will be at the discretion of the club.
Rule 7b	See Appendix 9 for minor dispute resolution to be implemented as desired
Rule 8 A 8	<i>Matches will normally be played Sunday mornings or afternoons with kick off between 09.30 and 14.30 depending on pitch availability and travel time of the teams involved. However, if the Team Managers mutually agree before the match, the match can be played anytime over the weekend it is programmed to be played. If a KO time/day cannot be agreed, then the KO will default to 10.30am Sunday or as close as possible to that time considering pitch availability. Note that matches cannot be moved to be played on different weekends to those programmed unless approved by the League Committee.</i>
Rule 13	Clubs shall be responsible for having the trophy engraved as specified by the Management Committee before returning the trophy. Clubs shall be liable for the cost to repair or replace lost or damaged trophies.
Rule 13	Trophies shall be returned to the Secretary by no later than 15 th March each year or when called to do so by the Secretary.
Rule 18 A (1) (a)	Players may play in development matches upon confirmation that the player has been successfully registered as a GYFDL player. However, players must be registered 7 days prior to playing in a trophy event or club festival.
Rule 18 H	The maximum number players from the same team who would be permitted to transfer to another team (the same team) is a maximum of 2 per season and only 1 transfer each month. Clubs who receive more than this limit of transfer requests must advise the league.
Rule 18 I	New registrations or player transfers after 31 st March must be justified to the Management Committee otherwise the registration or transfer will not be processed.
Rule 18 O (1)	It is the responsibility of each club/team to ensure that school holidays, trips or other educational priorities do not clash with any fixture. If a clash does occur, then both teams must rearrange the fixture in accordance with league rules.
Rule 20 & Rule 8a8	The GYFDL programme of matches/events will commence on or after the 1 st Sunday in September and all matches must be completed by 6pm on the 2 nd Sunday in May unless the Management Committee impose revised start/end date(s).
Rule 20	Matches shall be played on Sundays and teams should expect to have a fixture/event most weekend during the season except on selected dates as shown in the league programme.
Rule 20 & Rule 4E	It is mandatory for team officials to inspect the opposing teams Player Registration form/card prior to every league game regardless of format. At festival or trophy events the registration form/card must be checked prior to the event commencing. Player registration forms/cards may be inspected by any member of the Management Committee.

Rule 20 & Appendix 8.8	For all GYFDL matches/events of any format (where space permits), designated spectator barriers/area must be used with team officials on one side of the pitch and spectators on the other side of the pitch behind the designated barrier/area. No person should stand behind the goal area.
Rule 20 E (2)	<p>A club shall not postpone any match except:</p> <p>A – on account of the state of the ground or weather and then by decision by the Referee, Groundsman or Club Official where neither a Referee or Groundsman are appointed. B – In the event of a league match clashing with a FA Cup or County Cup tie or any Challenge Cup match or any cup competition run in conjunction with this league. C- With consent of the Management Committee after first giving 14 days written (email) notice.</p> <p>Match postponements may need to be considered depending on several factors some of which are shown here (list is not exhaustive):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the pitch conditions and whether changing the KO time to a later time might ensure the match goes ahead (e.g. frost thaws or snow melts later in the day) • Whether the players (and parents) can travel safely to the match and spectator safety whilst at the match. • Location of the match – inside or outdoor. <p>In the event of a match postponement the team postponing the fixture must contact the opposition in a timely manner considering travelling time/distance. The match must be rearranged to be played as soon as possible and the following people must be informed of why the match was postponed and the rescheduled match date. Club Secretary, League Secretary, relevant Age Group Lead, League Fixtures Secretary all within 7 days of the match cancellation.</p> <p>All games must be completed by the end of the season.</p> <p>The league may cancel games at their discretion considering weather conditions, safety of all attendees etc.</p>
Rule 21	GYFDL require that Respect scores and match results are recorded in Full Time no later than 6pm Tuesday following a Sunday match or within 24hrs of an evening match. Match result and Respect scores will not be publicised in/on any form of media. Failure to record Respect and/or match results will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
Rule 22 (a)	Goal difference is not applicable to any match or competition format. Under no circumstance with any competition of any format be decided on goal difference.
Rule 23 (a)	Referees must be appointed in accordance with the GYFDL Referee appointment process flowchart in appendix 4.
Rule 23 (e)	Club appointed match officials may be paid at the discretion of the club appointing the officials.
Rule 23 (k)	League rules may be downloaded from the league website or a hard copy obtained if requested from the League Secretary.



Grantham Youth Football Development League

APPENDICES TO THE LEAGUE RULES
2020/2021 SEASON



GYFDL Rules 2020/2021 Season - Appendices

1	Fees Tariff
2	Fines Tariff
3	GYFDL match formats & arrangements
4	Referee Appointment Instructions
5	Marking Referee Performance
6	GYFDL Trophy Events, League Cup & Shield Competition Rules
7	Guidance on Writing Match Reports & posting on Social Media sites
8	GYFDL “This is how we do things round here” League Business requirements
9	Minor Disputes Resolution Process
10	Key League season dates & deadlines
11	Team Managers – Rules to know and adhere to (at all costs!)
12	Power Play
13	Futsal Laws of the Game

GYFDL Rules Appendix 1 - Fees Tariff

Rule Ref	Rule description	Fee amount £
4 (A)	Club entry fee per team	£75 per team £50 for each additional team in same age group
4 (B)	Club/team annual subscription	£0 nil charge (Inc. in team entry fee)
4 (C)	Team deposit per team	£5.00
7 (C) (E)	Protest/Appeals	£25.00
18 (D)	Playing registration fee per player	£7.00
18 (H)	Player transfer fee per player	£0.00
23 (E)	Referee fees	£16 per game £16 per day for Trophy Events or similar all-day events
23 (E)	Assistant Referee fees	£16 per game £16 per day for Trophy Event

GYFDL Rules Appendix 2 - Fines Tariff

FINES TARIFF		
RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
2 (G)	FAILURE TO AFFILIATE	£100.00
2 (I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£100.00
2 (K)	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	£100.00
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	£30.00
4 (C)	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£100.00
4(E)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE AFFILIATION NUMBER/DETAILS FORM	£100.00
5 (E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£25.00
6 (H)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£100.00
6 (I)	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	DOUBLE THE ORIGINAL FINE UP TO £100.00
8 (H)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£100.00
9	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM	£100.00
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	£100.00
11 (B)	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£100.00
13 (A)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£25.00
16(A)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£100.00
16(B)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£100.00
18 (A)	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£40.00
18 (B)(iii)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE PLAYING SEASON COMMENCING	£25.00
18 (F)	REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM	£25.00
18 (G)(ii)	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£100.00
18(M)	FIELDING MORE THAN THE PERMITTED NUMBER OF PLAYERS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SENIOR COMPETITIONS MATCHES - Not Required in GYFDL	£100
18 (N)(i)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£100.00
18 (O)(i)	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£50.00
19	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS	£10.00 (per shirt, up to an aggregate maximum of £30)
19	DELAYING KICK OFF TO DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS	£30
20(A)	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT	£30.00
20 (B)	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	£100.00
20 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£50.00
20 (D)	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS	£100.00
20 (E) (i) & (iii)	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	£100.00
20 (H)	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£10.00
21 (A) & 21 (C)	LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION FORM	£20.00
21 (B)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT	£20.00
21(D)	PUBLISHING RESULTS/GRADING TABLES FOR FIXTURES INVOLVING U7S, U8S, U9S, U10S OR U11S	£50.00
23 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£25.00
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	£25.00

GYFDL Rules Appendix 3 – GYFDL match formats and arrangements

Age group	Match format 2016/17 season	Match duration (minutes)	Match time format (development matches) (No x minutes)	Ball size	Team squad – Minimum number of players to be registered	Min No of players required to play match	Match day squad Max No of players permitted to play in any match	Trophy events/Cup game arrangements if drawn at full time. Note 5
U7	5 v 5	40	4 x 10	3	5	4	10	Penalties best of 3 per team
U8	5 v 5	40	4 x 10	3	5	4	10	Penalties best of 3 per team
U9	7 v 7	50	4 x 12.5	3	7	5	14	Penalties best of 5 per team
U10	7 v 7	50	4 x 12.5	3	7	5	14	Penalties best of 5 per team
U11	9 v 9	60	2 x 30	4	9	6	16	5 min each way then penalties
U12	9 v 9	60	2 x 30	4	9	6	16	5 min each way then penalties
U13	11 v 11	70	2 x 35	4	11	7	16	10 min each way then penalties
U14	11 v 11	70	2 x 35	4	11	7	16	10 min each way then penalties
U15	11 v 11	80	2 x 40	5	11	7	16	10 min each way then penalties
U16	11 v 11	80	2 x 40	5	11	7	16	10 min each way then penalties

Note 1 – There is no limit to the number of players permitted to be registered to a team. However, where sufficient players are available in an age group consideration should be given to the number of team(s) entered. Consideration of the maximum number of match day squad players should be taken. **Managers must be aware, that whilst the league does not restrict the number of players able to be registered to a team, in the event that more than the maximum match day squad size are registered to play, the Manager will need to decide which players will be included in the match day squad**

Note 2 - In U7 and U8 matches each registered player in attendance to play at least one 10-minute period, (unless injury prevents this).

Note 3 - It is essential that playing times are not exceeded to reduce the risk of overplay to each player. Clubs are responsible for the development and welfare of their players.

Note 4 – Cup games or trophy events may necessitate extra time and/or penalties to be played. In such instances the additional playing time is permissible.

Note 5 – The number of penalties to be taken by each team shall be U7 & U8 3 best of 3 per team, all other age groups best of 5 per team. If equal after all the set number of penalties have been taken both teams shall continue to take penalties until one team fails to score.

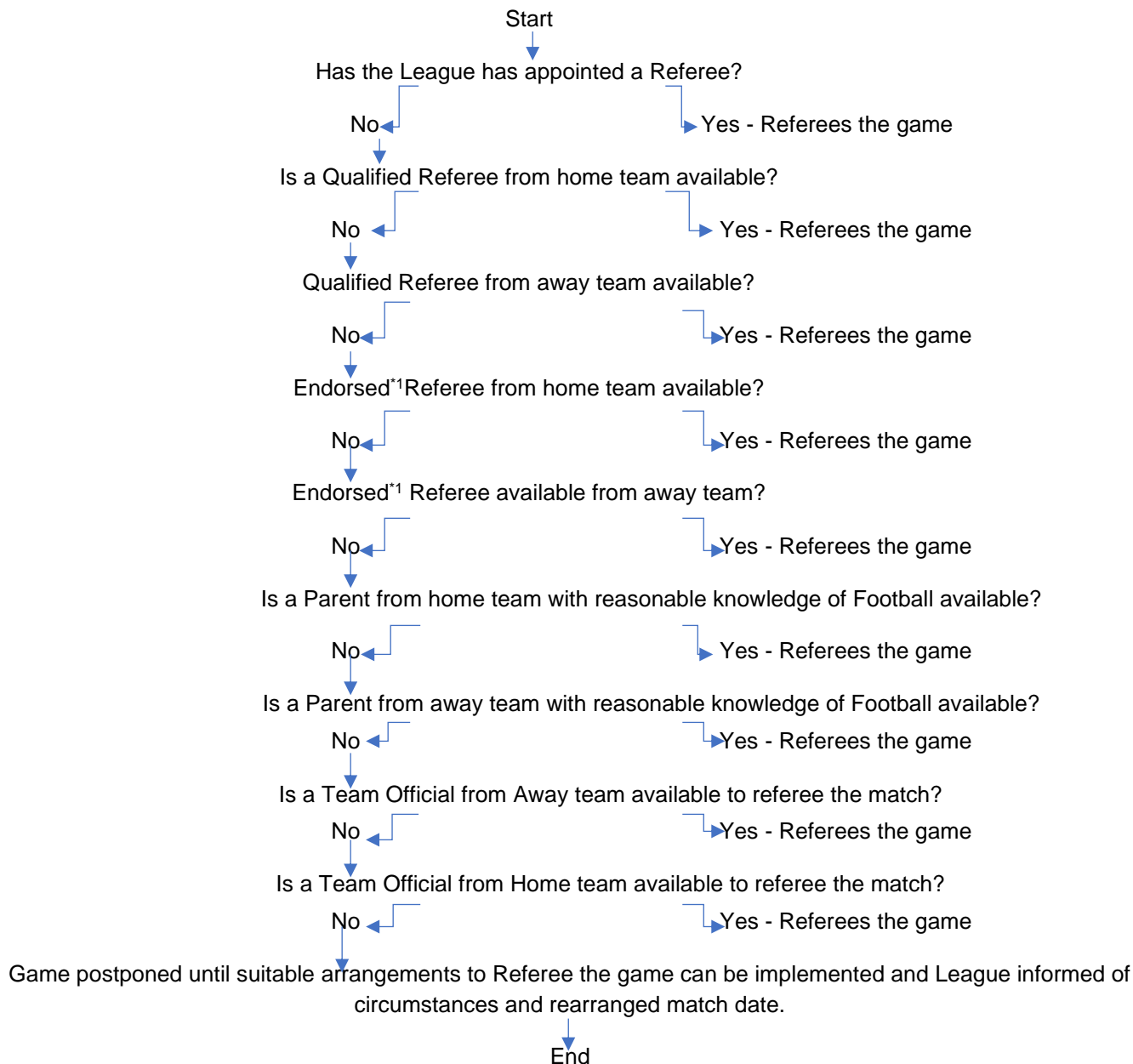
Note 6 – playing times shown are for development matches. Festivals and similar events may be 10 min (or more) matches.

Team squad – this is the minimum number of players that must be registered with GYFDL to form a team.

Match day squad - this is the maximum number of players permitted to play in any GYFDL sanctioned match.

GYFDL Rules Appendix 4 - Referee Appointment Instructions

This simple flowchart provides information about how to appoint a Referee for Development Games.



Each Club may be fined for failing to meet these requirements.

Note *1 - An endorsed Referee is a person who has not completed the full FA approved Referee course but has undertaken a League endorsed Referee briefing to give an overview of the Laws of the Game and duties of a Referee.

Note 2 – Where a team official referees a match they must do so in a fair and unbiased manner. They must not coach their team and ideally team officials must not wear 'club colour's e.g. cover or remove garments showing club colours.

Note 3 – Team Officials must not referee their own team in trophy events or cup/shield games.

Note 4 – The Management Committee will endeavour to appoint a Referee where possible or necessary.

GYFDL Rules Appendix 5 – Marking Referee Performance

A score out of 100 is recorded on the FULL-TIME website for all Development Matches, League matches and KO Cup and Challenge Shield matches.

A mark awarded by a club must be based on the referee's overall performance. It is most important that the mark is awarded fairly and not based upon isolated incidents or previous games. The referee's performance should be determined by the table below which should act as a guide for the overall mark which should fall within the mark range for each standard of performance.

Mark Range	Comment
91-100	The referee was extremely accurate in decision making and very successfully controlled the game using management and communication skills to create an environment of fair play, adding real value to the game.
81-90	The referee was very accurate in decision making and very successfully controlled the game using management and communication skills to create an environment of fair play.
71-80	The referee was accurate in decision making and controlled the game well, communicating with the players, making a positive contribution towards fair play.
61-70	The referee was reasonably accurate in decision making, controlled the game quite well and communicated with the players, establishing a reasonable degree of fair play.
51-60	The referee had some shortcomings in the level of accuracy of decision making and control, with only limited success in communications with the players resulting in only variable fair play.
50 & below	The referee had significant shortcomings in the level of accuracy of decision making and control with poor communication with the players which resulted in low levels of fair play

Notes

- Using a scale of up to 100 allows for greater flexibility for clubs to distinguish between different refereeing performances more accurately.
- A mark within each mark range can be given to reflect the referee's performance e.g. a mark of 79 indicates a somewhat better performance than a mark of 71.
- A mark between 71 and 80 represents the standard of refereeing expected.
- When a mark of 50 or less is awarded an explanation must be provided to the League Secretary within 3 days of the match. Even where a referee has significant shortcomings there will have been some positive aspects, which should be given credit.
- Extremely low marks (below 20) should be very rare

Reminder

The Team Managers and/or Coaches of the teams playing in the match must not Referee their own games.

GYFDL Rules Appendix 6 – Trophy Events, League Cup & Shield Competition Rules

GRANTHAM YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE TROPHY EVENTS, LEAGUE CUP & SHIELD COMPETITION

RULES

All trophy events and traditional cup/shield matches shall be subject to the Rules and Regulations of the Football Association and the Grantham Youth Football Development League Rules. The Football Association Rules and the League Rules shall cover any issues not covered by the following rules:

1. Each age group shall enter the trophy event / cup competitions for their age as shown below:

Under 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 – Trophy Events

Under 12 & Under 13 Traditional League Knock Out Cup & Challenge Shield

ENTRY LIMITED TO LEAGUE CLUBS

2. Entry into the trophy events / traditional cup competitions shall be restricted to member Clubs.

CONTROL OF COMPETITIONS

3. The entire control of all the competitions shall be in the hands of the Management Committee of the Grantham Youth Football Development League. The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition, and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition, including any not provided for in these rules.

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

4. (A) Players must be registered 7 days prior to any Trophy event or Cup/Shield match.

League Note: A player having played in the Knock Out Cup cannot transfer to another team and play in the Challenge Shield.

(B) Players must have played at least one League match for their team prior to playing in a Cup tie for that team.

(C) Each team entering a Trophy Event must submit a playing squad for that team in the Trophy Event. These squads cannot be changed, added to or altered in anyway during that given Trophy Event.

(D) In the case of postponed or replayed Cup/Shield matches, only those players shall be allowed to play who were eligible for the first match. A player who has been suspended may if otherwise qualified, play in the postponed, drawn or replayed match after the term of his suspension has expired. Only players who were eligible for the Semi-Final are eligible to play in the Final of a Cup/Shield match. This does not apply to Trophy events.

(E) Team registration forms must be inspected prior to the kick-off in accordance with League Rules failure to do so will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff

REFEREES

5. (A) Referees and Assistant Referees for all Cup/Shield rounds shall be appointed in the manner approved by the Management Committee and in accordance with League Rule 13 and the Referee Appointment Instructions.

(B) Referees for semi-finals and finals will be appointed by the League Referee Officer and shall be entitled to a fee in accordance with League Rules- see fees tariff.

DRAWN GAMES (Traditional Cup and Shield knockout rounds only & Trophy Events)

- 6 (A) In the event of a drawn game in all rounds up to and including the final for such competitions the game shall be decided as stated in appendix 3.

REPORTING RESULTS

7. (A) Both Clubs are required to submit results and statistics including Referee and Respect marks of the match played or abandoned in the prescribed manner on the GYFDL/FA Full-time League website within 1 working day of the date of the match, in accordance with League Rule 11. Failure to do so will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff.

TRADITIONAL CUP/SHIELD FINAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 8 (A) The arrangements for the Traditional Cup/Shield Finals shall be left entirely in the hands of the Management Committee who shall appoint officials, date and ground, take all receipts and pay any expenses. All clubs shall be liable to make their ground available to the League for the purposes of the playing of the Final ties. Referees and Assistant Referees will receive trophies in lieu of their fee for the finals.

All teams shall be entered in the first round of the league cup competition. It may be necessary to hold preliminary rounds to determine which teams enter first round of the competition. Teams knocked out of the league cup competition in the first round or preliminary round of the cup shall be entered in the first round of the league shield competition.

(B) The net proceeds of the competitions each year shall be devoted to the funds of the competitions.

(C) Any club reaching the semi-final or final stage of the competitions shall not be allowed to withdraw from or postpone such match but must play its best available team. In the earlier stages of the competitions any team desiring to scratch must give at least seven clear days' notice thereof, prior to the date of playing the match to the competition committee and opposing team. In the event of any team failing to keep its engagements without making application for postponement or giving satisfactory explanation to the Management Committee, the match shall go against it by default, and a fine shall be imposed in accordance with the fines tariff. Any club not complying with this rule shall be considered to be guilty of gross misconduct and in addition to being dealt with by the Management Committee may be compelled to pay the expenses of their opponents.

NB Any team failing for any reason to play on the date fixed for the semi-final or final shall be struck out of the competition.

(D) Where team colours are similar the HOME team shall change. In the final, should there be a clash of team colours then it will be decided on the toss of a coin.

(E) The players participating in the Final match of each competition may, if funds permit, be presented with medals, miniature cups, statuettes or plaques. The presentation of any other memento or souvenir is not allowed unless the Management Committee has previously given permission.

TROPHY EVENTS

(A) Exact rules and formats of fixtures will be provided for all the teams entering Trophy Events prior to the first match being played.

(B) It is to be expected the location of matches for Trophy Events could be at the ground of any league member club.

(C) The League Management Committee shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Trophy Events, including any not provided for in these rules.

(D) At the discretion of the League Management Committee the players participating in the Finals matches of each competition may, if funds permit, be presented with mementos. It is possible there may be more than one "Final" match or "winning team" depending on the format of the Trophy Event.

(E) Trophy Events or other competitive competitions shall not be decided on goal difference. In the event that any match where a winner is not decided then a further 10 mins shall be played for U7, U8, U9, U10 competitions and a further 2x 10 minutes extra time sessions shall be played. If the winner is not decided in any age group, then penalties shall be played as stated in appendix 3.

GYFDL Rules Appendix 7 - Guidance on writing Match Reports and posting on Social Networking sites

The purpose of this League is:

To provide child centred football in a player centred environment.

The FA Youth Review (which has now been implemented) has changed youth football. The aims of the youth review were to help develop players and ensure they continue playing football because they enjoy it. The review also aimed to create appropriate competition and in doing so remove pressure from **adults** to win games.

The FA 'Their Game' Youth Football Development guides specifically states that:

Mini Soccer allows children to have fun, enjoyable introduction to football in an environment that allows them lots of touches, shots, dribbles and ultimately more involvement and enjoyment of the game. Adults involved in developing the playing environment for children need to recognize their role is to facilitate this, to enable young people to have fun, make new friends and learn the game. Our Challenge as adults is simple - to help young people fall in love with the game. If they start this journey captivated by the experience this vastly improves their chances of getting better. Our job is to create that experience.

Mini Soccer aims to set realistic expectations. It focuses on the development of children rather than the result of the match.

Recently there have been some comments made on Facebook about a team's performance and the match score was published. The Grantham Youth Football Development League prohibits the recording and publication of match results for U7, U8, U9 U10 and U11 games in line with the league's values and vision statement.

GYFDL Guidance for Match Reports

(published anywhere)

U7, U8, U9 U10 & U11 Development Matches: Match reports may be produced and published however, under no circumstance should match scores or details of goal scorers be published. There should be no indication of who scored goal(s) or which team won. The scores are not important - the child's development is far more important; this is the purpose of "development matches".

U7, U8, U9 U10 & U11 Trophy Events: Match reports may be produced and may include match result. Details of goal scorers should not be published.

All other age group matches: Match reports may be produced and may include the match result and details of goal scorers may also be published.

All Match Reports regardless of age group should be balanced and not derogatory or patronising to either team or any player. A joint report from both teams would be preferable. When writing a match report, it should be remembered that junior football is different to the adult game. Authors should not try to replicate the style or format of adult match reports in junior reports.

GYFDL Guidance for Facebook (or similar) and other social networking site entries.

The same guidance/instructions as shown above are applicable however, it is acknowledged that a parent may wish to make an entry to celebrate their child's success. Entries should however be fair and balanced and not derogatory to any other player.

It is recommended that everyone involved in children's football (including parents) complete the online respect guide. This can be found at www.thefa.com/respectguide

Managers & Coaches who have attended league meetings and coaching events will be aware of the FA Youth Review and The FA Future Game Philosophy and appreciate why this guidance/instruction note is being issued.

More information on the Youth Review can be found at www.thefa.com/kidsfootball

GYFDL Rules Appendix 8 League Business Guidance Notes –

‘This is how we do things round here’

These notes set out important information on how the GYFDL conducts business and how it operates also known as ‘This is how we do things round here’.

1. All League Committee Member are willing to help any Club/Team Official, however it is unreasonable to telephone any League Committee Member before 18-30 hours and after 21-00 hours during the working week. Anyone in breach of this rule may be reported to the Club/Team they are connected with and may receive a fine in accordance with the fines tariff.
2. Committee members will not accept any house calls without prior appointment. It is expected that the need for a house call will be minimised by the use of WGS to register players.
3. Offensive, foul or abusive language or inappropriate communication of any kind, towards League Officials from a Club/Team Official, will not be tolerated; offenders will find in accordance with the fines tariff. In addition, Clubs, teams, managers/coaches, players, parents/guardians or supporters may face expulsion from the League.
4. All player registrations are via FA WGS and player transfer forms can be downloaded from the GYFDL website. Photographs must be submitted in via the WGS website.
5. The Competition shall require all players and club officials to have signed the FA’s Respect Codes of Conduct and produce these if so requested by the League management committee.
6. Prior to each match the participating teams and officials shall conduct the “Respect” handshake and participating teams to offer “three cheers” and/or handshakes to the opposing team after the match.
7. The participating clubs taking part in the fixture shall identify a team captain designated with a captain’s armband who has a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his/her teammates. If the participating players are considered to be too young to take on this role a member of the team coaching staff should provide this support.
8. Each home club shall make arrangements for the provision of designated areas for spectators. This area can be marked by an additional painted line, the use of cones, a roped off area or use of a temporary spectator barrier. The area for spectators should start two metres from the touchline on both sides of the pitch. Each area should run the full length of the pitch. It is recognised, however, that the alignment of some public pitches does not allow for this arrangement in which case other appropriate arrangements should be made. See rule 2d & *Supp*
9. In U7 and U8 matches each registered player in attendance to play at least one 10-minute period if at all possible. This is to ensure everyone in attendance has chance to participate in the match.
10. It is essential that playing times are not exceeded to reduce the risk of overplay to each player. Clubs are responsible for the development and welfare of their players.

11. All Charter Standard accredited club will have in place a club policy regarding photography. The league recommends that as part of the policy each club should ask whether parents have any objections to their child being photographed or videoed as part of football training or matches when the child is signed on. The parents should also be reminded that they need to inform the club if that their original decision changes over the course of the season. A record of the parent's approval or rejection should be kept, and details informed to team managers/coaches. It is important that everyone involved in the club/team should be informed that before taking any pictures or video of their own team and/or other teams during matches or training they must ask permission from both team managers (in a match) or the team manager for training before doing so. This then enables Managers to manage such situations correctly. For matches and training in public areas it is unlikely that we can prevent taking pictures in public places, but we must manage the safety and welfare of our players and we can do this by ensuring this happens.
12. The league programme is published prior to the start of each season after consultation each age group members on their wishes for the season. Clubs/teams should review the draft programme and advise the league of any issues as they see fit. Once the programme is issued the league expects/requires that all fixtures as programmed are completed. Fixtures may be amended in accordance with league rules. Each Team Manager is recommended to review all their fixtures for the season and identify issues that may prevent the planned match from taking place and deal with such matters well in advance of the planned match day.
13. The league requires that match results and other required information e.g. RESPECT, referee ratings etc are recorded in Full Time (all information can be recorded at the same time in Full Time) adhering to the rules regarding deadlines. Match results will not be published in any forum. The information is required for league monitoring purposes
- 14 Team composition - Number of players

On occasions team's, may have problems fielding the normal number of players which constitutes a full team. This can cause problems when playing games when one team cannot muster a full team whereas the opposition has a full team.

The league recognises that Managers with a full team is permitted to field a full team against an opposition that has less players than constitutes a full team. However, the league wishes that a cooperative and sporting approach is taken by both Managers for development games so that the children involved can still play the game in the spirit in which football is meant to be played and enjoyed.

Development Games: For development games there are several options that both Team Managers can discuss and agree on how to manage the forthcoming fixture before the game is played. For instance;

it would be permissible to field the same number of players for each team. This would require that one team reduces the number of players on the pitch so that both teams are equal.

Alternatively, Managers may agree to provide a number of players to the other team with the shortage of players to equalise the number of players.

The number of players on each team must not exceed the permitted number of players for each team for any game within the relevant age group. 5v5, 7v7, 9v9 etc must be played as such with the exception of 'PowerPlay' where permitted.

The league would wish that all options are considered by Team Managers taking cognisance of the league rules.

When this situation arises, it requires very good and timely communication between Team Managers before the match date so as to ensure that both Managers know that the opposition team may not be able field a full team and options can be explored jointly to deal with the issue. There is nothing worse than taking a full squad to a match only to find that some players may not be able to play.

For games that are festivals or trophy events a similar approach may be taken if so agreed by the Team Managers of each team in the league group.

League Games or Cup/Shield matches: these games must be played in accordance with the league rules. Note players are only permitted for play for the team that holds their league registration.

In all cases it is important that Team Managers and Coaches are aware that the League requires that the match is played as long as the minimum number of players is available to play the game.

15. High scoring games:

As everyone involved with children's football will know on occasions some teams score a lot of goals. Whilst this may appeal to some adults/children on the winning team, the detrimental impact on the opposition can be significant with most players feeling thoroughly dejected and team spirit being can be at rock bottom. This does nothing to develop players and can have the opposite effect.

The options to prevent this situation arising are not specified by the league however, the league urges Team Managers to take action during games to prevent this situation arising regardless of type or format of the game being played.

Everyone should remember that this league does not record or recognise goal difference and/or goals scored as a means to decide winners.

16. In some clubs the number of players for each age group may be substantial with additional teams created. As a rule of thumb, it is recommended that the maximum number of players signed to each team should ensure that every signed player should be able to play at least 50% of total match time over a season. Where this is not possible it may be a better option to suggest that the player(s) considers another club where sufficient match time can be obtained.

GYFDL Rules Appendix 9 - Minor Disputes Resolution Process

There will be occasions where minor disputes arise between clubs/teams/people which need to be dealt with in an appropriate and timely manner.

Whilst there is a formal dispute process that can be used if desired, for minor disputes the League Management Committee suggest that the following process is adopted. The League Management Committee welcomes your views on this process.

1. The Team Manager or club official discusses the concern/problem with opposition Team Manager or club official from the other team/club. As much detail as possible needs to be provided but the manner in which this discussion takes place needs to be done in a constructive non-confrontational way. The League Secretary can be informed if so desired.
2. The person receiving the concern/problem investigates the matter and feeds back to the person who raised the concern within 5 days.
3. If the concern/problem has not been resolved satisfactorily, then the Team Manager/Club Official raising the matter should report the issue and resolution detail to the League Secretary in writing/email
4. The League Management Committee shall then deal with the concern/detail in the formal manner.

The whole aim of this simple process is to deal with issues in a timely manner and requires everyone involved to support this initiative please.

GYFDL Rules Appendix 10 - Key season dates & deadlines

	Key Dates	
By date	Requirement	Rule
01-May	Nominations to League Secretary for League Committee Officer and Member committee positions	5b
01-May	Proposed Rule alterations to be submitted to League Secretary by this date	14
2 nd Sunday in May	All matches shall be completed by 6pm on this day.	Supp 20
31-May	Club and team league entries to League Secretary	4b
31-May	£5 deposit per team entered to be paid by this date	4c
31-May	Clubs to advise League Secretary required information for forthcoming season	4e
31-May	Club Chairman and Club Secretary complete and submit League Membership Agreement & Team Applications to League Secretary	4a & 10
31-May	End of competition financial year for previous season	15c
1 Jun–30Jun	The official close season runs from 1st June to 30th June inclusive and is a time when non-contract players may be approached by other clubs without the need of a transfer form. The only football allowed within this period is small sided, mini-soccer, 9v9 matches or those organised in connection with works club's sports days on private grounds and at fetes and similar sports functions. All festivals and tournaments need to be sanctioned by the relevant County FA or FA.	
01-Jun	Commencement of competition financial year for forthcoming season	15
01-Aug	Hold AGM by this date	8a
01-Aug	Club colours (home and away shirts & shorts) to be registered with League Secretary by this date	19
31-Aug	Date by which the relevant age of each player is determined	18c
1 st Sunday in September	Start of season/league programme – the exact start date may vary for each age group.	20
October half term	Half Term - varies on area but generally October and February where there will be no scheduled fixtures	
2 nd Sunday November	Remembrance Sunday (Sunday closest to November 11th normally second Sunday in November - no scheduled fixtures)	
1 /12 to 14/12	Additional team entries for U7 - U11 teams to join competition to League Secretary	4
Variable	Christmas/Winter Break - no scheduled fixtures	

January or September	Managers/Coach CPD event - All Managers to attend. No fixtures planned for CPD date.	
01-Feb	Last date for player registrations to be submitted. League Committee may give permission for registrations to take place in exceptional circumstances after that date.	8i
February half term	Half Term - varies on area but generally October and February where there will be no scheduled fixtures	
15-Mar	Cups/Shields to be returned to League Secretary by this date.	18a
31 March	Last date for player transfers to be submitted. League Committee may give permission for transfers to take place in exceptional circumstances after that date. New registrations and transfers after this date need to be justified to the league committee.	Supp 18l
Variable	Easter Break - no scheduled fixtures	
Early May	May Day Weekend - no scheduled fixtures	
1/5 to 31/5	Cup/Shield Finals day	
	Key Deadlines	
Deadlines	Requirement	Rule
6pm/9pm on match day	Match result text to be sent FA Full Time by home & away teams by 6pm or 9pm on match day	21b
1-day max	After match to report results & statistics/marks to FA Full Time	21a & Cup 7
3 days max	For clubs who cancel matches within 1 day of fixture date due to reasons other than pitch or weather to inform League Secretary & AGL of reason for cancellation & revised fixture date	20 e2
5 days min	For League to advise clubs of revised fixture date set by League	20b
5 days min	For Club Official to provide details of forthcoming fixture to opposition Manager	20c
7 days max	To respond to charges	6d
7 days min	Minimum period for a player to be registered before being eligible to play in a trophy event or club festival	18a1
7 days max	From receipt of transfer request to lodge objection for proposed transfer to League Registration Secretary	18h

7 days min	After transfer approved player eligible to play for new team	18h
7 days min	To notify opponents of strip colours if not able to play in registered colours	19a
7 days max	From original match date for both teams to advise League Secretary and Fixtures Secretary of revised match date for games cancelled due to pitch or weather.	20c
7 days max	To lodge protests and complaints after match unless period extended by approval of League Committee	7b
7 days min	Prior to a hearing for parties to a protest or complaint to receive a copy of submission and be afforded opportunity to make a statement	7e
7 days min	Notice to be given of a Special General Meeting	9
7 days min	Notice period of requirement to attend a hearing	7d1
10 days max	To notify clubs of committee decisions	6e
14 days max	To pay fines and charges	6i
14 days min	Prior to AGM send Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts & Agenda to member clubs	8b
14 days max	After AGM send Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts to Lincs FA	8c
14 days min	14 days' notice of AGM date	8d
14 days min	Prior to match date to request the League committee to cancel a league match and gain committee approval	20c
14 days max	To lodge appeal against League Committee decision with Lincs FA	7
14 days min	Rule change amendments to be submitted by clubs to League Secretary after receiving proposed rules in advance of AGM	8
21 days min	Rule change proposals to be issued to clubs and sanctioning body a minimum of 21 days before AGM	14
28 days max	Any action taken by the competition committee must be taken within 28 days of being notified	6d
28 days min	Each Team must have the required minimum number of players registered 28 days before the start of each Playing Season	18b3
112 days min	112 days suspension or 10 match bans constitutes bring the game into disrepute for offences that have occurred in 2 years or less from the date of the first offence	18h3 note
12 months	Probationary period for any player who had league registration refused or cancelled to subsequently re-registers to league	18h4

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GYFDL Rules Appendix 11 - Team Managers – Rules to know and adhere to (at all costs!)

This table gives details of the main rules that every Team Manager/Coach must be aware and comply with. This list is not exhaustive, and reference must be made to the full set of rules for details of each rule. This appendix simply aimed at ensuring that the league rules are known and followed by everyone involved.

Rule	Text/Description
5e	All communications from clubs to be made by club officers to League Secretary. Managers must go via their club secretary to contact the League.
18a	Failure to correctly register a player – self explanatory
18b3	Failure to have the required number of registered 28 days before the start of the playing season. This is aimed at preventing fixtures in the early part of the season having to be postponed because some teams do not have sufficient players registered to play the game with the minimum number of players.
18n3	Playing an ineligible player – self-explanatory.
4E & Supp rule	<p>Failure to inspect registration forms/cards prior to the match starting.</p> <p>Failure to produce registration forms/cards prior to match starting</p> <p>This is aimed at ensuring that every player that takes part in any match/event is eligible to do so. There have been a small number of cases of playing a 'ringer' which is unfair. Checking registration forms/cards is a straightforward task to do and both Managers will be expecting to do so.</p>
20	Failure to commence or complete fixtures. Failing to commence the first match is generally by not having sufficient players registered to form a minimum team. Failure to complete fixtures is mainly due to having a backlog of fixtures because of poor weather in the winter months and the fixtures not being rearranged.
20b	<p>Failure to play matches on the date fixed. Matches can be rearranged with sufficient notice to the opposition and league however in many cases teams do not do this and matches are cancelled needlessly. In a small number of cases matches are not played because some players are not available despite having enough players registered to meet the minimum number required to play the fixture. This is not acceptable to the league or in many cases the opposition team.</p> <p>In the event of bad weather, the league has procedures to deal with this.</p>
20c	Failure to provide details of a fixture. Managers must contact each other to inform of the arrangements for forthcoming fixtures. It is essential to let the opposition know about the match arrangements and is simply good practice and manners.
20e1 & 20e3	Failure to play a fixture. This is similar to 20b.
21	<p>Late or non-submission/insufficient information provided to Full Time. This is an ongoing problem which causes much concern amongst the league Management Committee. The league is required to monitor Respect and Referee scores and yet this information is not being provided. Respect scores for each team allows the league Management Committee to monitor behaviours and deal with issues as they see fit. In addition, the league wishes to award 'Respect teams' for each age group and needs this information to do so. Match results are needed to check compliance with Appendix 8.15.</p> <p>Providing this information is straight forward and a simple thing to do and will prevent fines being issued if it is done properly for the whole of the season.</p>
21	Failure to provide result. As 11a/c. The league needs match scores to monitor that the competition is being managed fairly. Scores will be recorded in Full Time but must not be published anywhere including social media and networking sites. Match results are needed to check compliance with Appendix 8.15.

23h

Failure to provide a Referee mark. This is required by the FA to monitor Referee performance. The leagues use this information to award a 'GYFDL Referee of the Year' however has not been able to do so as Managers have not been providing this information,

GYFDL Rules Appendix 12 – Power Play

Mini Soccer 'Power Play'. Information for Clubs and Mini Soccer Team Officials

Many member clubs will be aware that in 2018 The FA launched the Mini-Soccer and Youth Futsal handbook highlighting the current/new laws and principles applicable to mini soccer and youth futsal. An optional law called 'Power Play' may now be included by leagues for their 5v5 and 7v7 mini soccer games.

The Grantham Youth League offers the option for Managers to implement the 'Power Play' rule for mini soccer 5v5 and 7v7 match formats that take place. All member clubs are requested to implement and utilise this rule with the agreement of both Team Officials agreed before the match commences.

'Power Play'

Development football is designed to create the best learning and fun experience for young players.

To ensure an imbalance in ability does not spoil this, the FA has approved 'Power Play' as an option that mini-soccer and youth leagues can adopt.

Power Play means that if a team is losing by a four goal difference, they can put an additional player on – so 5v5 becomes 6v5.

If the score returns to less than a four goal difference the team takes off a player. It does not have to be the last player to come on.

If a team goes on to be losing by a six goal difference a further additional player can be added – so 6v5 becomes 7v5.

The main aim of 'Power Play' is that all players are being challenged and enjoying the game.

Power Play is available through all mini soccer formats 5v5 and 7v7.

GYFDL Rules Appendix 13 – Futsal Laws of the Game

Futsal is very different from the traditional five-a-side football played in the UK even though there is the same number of players on court. The laws are shown here help to keep the game challenging, tactical and very exciting.

With the youngest players the different elements should be introduced in a phased, age appropriate way until they are able to play the game using all the laws that make it so unique and engaging.

When selecting which law to introduce to young players(there is no right or wrong answer) Try:-

- The four second rule for restarting the game
- The goal clearance rule that forbids the repeated use of the GK once the ball is rolled out.

These two aspects will be a great introduction as they get the young players playing and thinking under pressure right away.

LAWS OF THE GAME

- **Sides** There are 5 players on court for each team, one of whom is the goalkeeper(GK). However, there can be 12-14 players in each squad(including another goalkeeper) to allow for rolling substitutions.
- **Substitutions** A team can make as many substitutions as they want so long as only players in the squad are used and there are only five players on court at any one time. To make a substitution, players must enter and leave the court between designated markings in front of their bench.
- **Duration** Each game consists of two equal halves measured with a stopped clock(every time the ball goes out of play or there is a foul, the clock is stopped). The duration of each half is dependent on the age group playing.
- **Timeouts** Each team can request a one minute timeout in each half
- **Kick-in** If the ball goes out of play it is restarted with a kick in either from the touchline or from the corner.
- **The four-second rule** For kick ins, free kicks, goal clearances and corners the player in possession has four seconds to restart the game. The referee counts these on fingers shown in the air.
- **Goalkeepers** Futsal GKs can come out of the penalty area(called the D) and players can go into the area. The goalkeeper is also bound by the four second rule and they are not allowed to control the ball with either hands or feet for longer than this time, in their own or oppositions half
- **Goal Clearances** A goal clearance must be thrown out and the GK is not allowed to touch the ball again unless a member of the opposition has touched the ball or the goalkeeper receives the ball in the opponent's half.
- **Red Cards** If a player is sent off then the team to which the player belongs must remain with four players until two minutes have passed or until a goal has been scored
- **Accumulated fouls** A team may concede five fouls in each half of the game. However, on the sixth, and on any subsequent foul, the team commits, a direct free kick will be awarded to the opposition from the 10m(32 ft) penalty mark. The defending team may not use any player other than the GK to stop the shot.



*We only
do
positive.*

FOR ALL

RESPECT