



## LEAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT



It is absolutely essential for the well running of this league that all players, parents, guardians, spectators and coaches are aware of and abide by our code of conduct. This is a friendly league and we would like the children to be able to play, develop and express themselves in a positive atmosphere free from foul and abusive language, undue pressure, embarrassment or prejudice.

- Treat each person equally within the context of the particular sport. Praise positive aspects of play and avoid becoming frustrated or ridiculing children by focussing on their failings.
- Club Officials and Spectators must place the well-being and safety of the players above all other considerations, including the development of performance. In addition no undue influence must be exerted on the players in order to gain personal benefit or reward.
- Club Officials and Spectators must appreciate that each player's involvement in playing football should primarily be for their own personal enjoyment. The Club Officials' and Spectators enjoyment is only secondary to this.
- Club Officials and Spectators must let the players play without being embarrassed by screaming from the touchline. Players often become distracted and confused by different instructions shouted by spectators along the line and as a result their performance suffers. Spectators should trust the Club Officials to do their jobs and guide the players. Encourage players and praise as an alternative.
- Players, Club Officials and Spectators must consistently display high standards of behaviour adhering to the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play). Foul and abusive language will not be tolerated.
- Players, Club Officials and Spectators must appreciate the importance of striving to win, not winning itself. Club Officials and Spectators must ensure that their behaviour in front of players does not contradict this ethic.
- Spectators, Club Officials and substitute Players should stand along either touchline at least 5 yards back. Spectators should make every effort not to encroach past this 5-yard radius. Nobody whatsoever should stand behind the goal or either end of the pitch. Remember the pitch is for players – nobody else.

Please show respect for the home team by leaving the pitch side and changing rooms litter free.

- Players and spectators are requested to respect the referee and any decisions made (without referees, there are no matches).
- Players, Club Officials and Spectators must respect the rights, dignity and worth of each and everyone.

## RULES OF THE LEAGUE

### FA1: Nomenclature and Constitution

(A) This competition shall be designated the *Mid Lancashire Colts Junior Football League* and shall consist of not more than *fifty* Clubs who shall be Full Member Clubs.

All such Member Clubs must be affiliated to an affiliated County Football Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on the Form 'D' to the *Lancashire County Football Association*. The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be *within a 20-mile radius of Preston town Centre*.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Lancashire Football Association and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions.

*Member Clubs shall not enter any of their teams playing in the Competition in any other Competitions during the playing months of the season (with the exception of F.A. and County F.A. Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee of the Competition.*

The Competition will provide 11-a-side football for players who have attained the age of 10 as at midnight 31<sup>st</sup> August in a playing season and Mini-Soccer for players who have attained the age of 6 years but not the age of 10 years as at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in a playing season.

*FA Standard Code of Rules FA1: (B) which is optional, has not been adopted by this League.*

#### **FA2: Entry Fee, Subscription, Deposit**

(A) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition *or the entry of an additional team(s)* must be made in writing to the Secretary and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee of *nil pounds* per team which shall be returned in the event of non-election. *All applications by new Clubs for membership of the Competition must be received by the Secretary 28 days before the Annual General Meeting. All clubs must complete the official League 'Team' Registration form and return to the Secretary 28 days before the Annual General Meeting informing the League about the particulars of the teams that the Club wishes to enter for the forthcoming season.*

At the discretion of a majority of the accredited voting members applications, of which due notice has been given, may be received at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting. The Entry Fee shall apply.

When Rule 12(B) is applied and a team seeks a transfer or is compulsorily transferred to another division no Entry Fee shall be payable.

(B) The Annual Subscription shall be *£45.00* per *Team* playing 11-a-side football and *£45.00* per *Team* playing Mini-Soccer and a 100club annual subscription of £10 per team payable on or before the *1<sup>st</sup> August* in each year.

(C) Each Club shall, upon election, pay a Deposit of *£10.00*, per-team which shall be returnable to Clubs on leaving the Competition provided they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all orders of the Management Committee. *Deposits for new Member Clubs are payable on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> August of the year accepted to the League.*

(D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the Entry Fee Annual Subscription and Deposit have been paid.

(D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the Entry Fee Annual Subscription and Deposit have been paid.

(E) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by *1<sup>st</sup> August* of its *Lancashire County Football Association* affiliation number for the forthcoming Season, *failing which they will be fined £10.00*. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its Headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition.

#### **FA3: Officers**

The officers of the Competition shall be the Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, *Registration Secretary, Referees Secretary, Results Secretary, Fixtures Secretary, Minutes Secretary and Child Protection Officer* to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting (N.B. Auditors are not officers).

#### **FA4: Management, Nomination, Election**

(A) The Competition shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Football Association by a Management Committee comprised of the Officers and *no other* members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

(B) Retiring officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination. All other candidates for election as Officers or Members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two Member Clubs, not later than *30<sup>th</sup> April* in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the forgoing of any office, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting.

(C) The Management Committee shall meet *as often as is necessary* to deal with business as it arises. *The general meeting of Clubs shall be convened at least once monthly during the playing season, the Secretary of the League to notify all member Clubs of the date, time and venue. Any Club failing to send a delegate to a general meeting will be fined £10.00.*

(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.

(E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their nominated Officers *and signed or countersigned by the relevant club Secretary.* Failing to adhere will result in a fine not exceeding £10.00

#### **FA5: Powers of Management**

(A) The Management Committee may appoint such other sub-committees as they may consider necessary and may delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary to such committees. *The decisions of all such committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification.*

(B) Subject to the permission of the *Lancashire* County Football Association 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 that 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. (See Rule 6(A)).

(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. (This shall apply to the procedure of any sub-committee). In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

(D) The Management Committee shall have the 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 the Rules. Except where the Rules provide for the imposition of a set penalty any Club, Official or Player alleged to be in breach of a Competition Rule must be formally charged in writing and given the opportunity to present their case before the Management Committee. All breaches of the Laws of the Game, Rules and Regulations of The Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance with F.A. Rules.

(E) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal to the Board of Appeal in accordance with Rule 16.

Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within *14* days.

(F) *5* Members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee and *5* Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by any sub-committee of the Competition.

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

(H) A Club having failed to comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee, or failing to satisfactorily attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition, shall be liable to be fined or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the Management Committee.

**(I) All fines and charges shall be paid within 14 days of the date of posting of the written notification. After 14 days the current fine will be increased by 50% per week, after 28 days the current fine will be passed onto the LFA.**

**(J) A Member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend meetings, matches or other League events may have expenses 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 Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Competition season.**

#### **DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE:**

**(A) The disciplinary committee shall be appointed by the management committee and shall consist of 5 persons. One chair person and 4 appointed personnel.**

**(B) The chair person shall be a member of the Management Committee.**

**(C)** The management Committee shall, at random, select the disciplinary committee from the member clubs to sit on the disciplinary committee as of when disciplinary issues arise and shall duly notify the selected committee 14 days prior to the hearing.

**(D)** Selected personnel shall provide confirmation of attendance to the Secretary no later than 7 days prior to the hearing. In the event of selected personnel unable to attend, then the Management Committee shall have the power to appoint a replacement by way of telephone 7 days prior to the hearing.

**(E)** The Secretary shall provide the selected disciplinary committee with all particulars of the disciplinary hearing, in writing, 3 days prior to the disciplinary hearing.

#### **FA6: Annual General Meeting**

**(A)** The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than *30<sup>th</sup> June* in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least *51% of the Members* are present and entitled to vote:-

- (i) To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
- (ii) To consider any business arising there from.
- (iii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
- (iv) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies (as recommended by the Management Committee).
- (v) Constitution of the Competition for ensuing season.
- (vi) Election of Officers and Management Committee.
- (vii) Appointment of Auditors.
- (viii) Alteration of Rules, if any (of which notice has been given).
- (ix) Fix the date for the commencement and conclusion of playing season.
- (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.

**(B)** A copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least fourteen days prior to the meeting, and to the *Lancashire* County Football Association.

**(C)** A signed copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the *Lancashire* County Football Association within fourteen days of its adoption by the Annual General Meeting.

**(D)** Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Not less than *14 days'* notice shall be given of any Meeting.

**(E)** Clubs who have withdrawn their Membership of the Competition during the 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.

**(F)** All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least *two thirds* of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairperson so decides.

**(G)** No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Full Member Club unless the individual is also appointed to vote as a representative of a group of Associate Member Clubs.

**(H)** Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given *shall* be fined £20.00.

**(I)** *Officers and Management Committee Members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an Annual General Meeting.*

**FA7: Agreement to be Signed**

The Chairman and the Secretary of 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) ..... of ..... (Chairman) and (B) ..... of ..... (Secretary) of the ..... Football Club have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the *Mid Lancashire Colts Junior Football League* 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 16.

Any alteration of the Chairman and/or Secretary on the above Agreement must be notified to the *Lancashire* County Football Association to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary of the Competition.

**FA8: Qualification of Players**

**(A)** Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules, *are* permitted in this Competition.

No player registered with the F.A. Premier League or Football League Academy will be permitted to play in this competition. A Player registered with a Centre of Excellence may only play in this Competition subject to the Regulations of the Programme for Excellence *and by registering the alternative coloured registration form for CofE players.*

**(B)** A registered youth playing member of a Club is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:-

- (1) Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by his/her parent or guardian and by an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the *Registrations* Secretary 3 days prior to playing and whose completed registration counterfoil has been received by the Club prior to playing. The registration document must incorporate any known serious medical conditions of the player and emergency contact details of the player's parents or guardians. These details must be available at matches and training events the player attends within the management of the Club or Competition.
- (2) The qualification dates for the Competition shall be as follows: Mini-Soccer  
**Under 7's**- the player must be the age of 6 from 1<sup>st</sup> September and under the age of 7 as at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in the playing season  
**Under 8** – the player must be under the age of 8 as at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in the playing season.

**Under 9's** – the player must be under the age of 9 as at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in the playing season.

**Under 10's** – the player must be under the age of 10 as at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in the playing season.

In accordance with the foregoing qualifications a player under the age of 14 as at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in the playing season must not play in a match where any other player is older or younger by 2 years or more.

(The above qualification dates are subject to the provisions contained in FA Rules C.4(a)(vi)).

*FA Standard Code of Rules FA8: (C) & (D), which are optional, have not been adopted by this League.*

**(E)** A player having taken part in matches for any Club affiliated to any County Football Association shall not be allowed to join, be transferred to, or sign for a Club in the- Competition without first proving to the officials of the intended Club that the player has discharged all reasonable financial liabilities to the previous Club or Clubs, and a Club official may not accept such a player's signature without first ascertaining whether such claims have been discharged to the satisfaction of the Club, or Clubs, for which the player last played.

**(F)** Registration forms shall be obtained from the *Registrations Secretary free of charge on receipt of a stamped, self-addressed envelope. 18 registration forms per team shall be distributed free of charge before the season commences.*

**(G)** The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes.

In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club priority of registration shall decide for which Club the player shall be registered. The *Registration Secretary* shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

**(H)** It shall be deemed misconduct for a player to:-

- (i) Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same season without first being transferred.
- (ii) Having signed for one Club in the Competition, sign for another Club in the Competition in that season except for the purpose of a transfer.
- (iii) Submit a signed registration form for registration that the player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.
- (iv) *Train with or play friendly matches for any Club other than the Club who holds the player's registration, during the playing season.*

**(J)**

- (i) The Management Committee shall have power to accept the registration of any player. The Management Committee shall have the power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player or may fine any player at their discretion proved guilty of registration irregularities. (Subject to Rule 16).

- (i) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse or cancel the registration of any player found guilty of undesirable conduct and to disqualify the player in question from participating in all games in the Competition. (Subject to Rule 16).

(Note: Action under Clause (2) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct on the field of play until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute).

**(K)** Subject to the Football Association Rules dealing with players without a written contract when a player desires a transfer, the Club the player wishes to transfer to shall request a transfer form to the *Registrations Secretary* accompanied by a fee of *£5.00 and a stamped, self-addressed envelope.* Such transfer shall be referred by the *Registrations Secretary* 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 *Registrations Secretary* and to the player concerned within seven days of receipt of the transfer form. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within seven days, the *Registrations 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 one day after receipt of such transfer.

Any Club official that is found to have induced or attempted to induce a player, who is already registered with another Club, to register for their Club shall be deemed guilty of misconduct and liable to a fine of not less than £25.00 for a single offence.

In the event of an objection to a transfer the matter shall be referred to the Management Committee for a decision.

**(L)** A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after *7:00pm on the last day in February of the playing season* except by special permission of the Management Committee.

**(M)** A Club shall keep a list of the players it registers and a record of the games in which they have played, 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 designated 'A' and 'B' etc. 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 8(B).

**(N)** 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 any duly appointed Member Club representative at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged.

**(O)** A player shall not be eligible to play for a team in any special championship, *play-off, Cup Semi-final, Cup Final*, promotion or relegation deciding match (as specified in Rule 12(A)) unless the player has played 3 games for that team in this Competition in the current season.

FA Standard Code of Rules FA8: **(P)** which is optional, has not been adopted by this League.

**(Q)**

- (i) Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players *shall* have the points gained in the match deducted from its total any may be fined and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- (ii) In addition the team *may* have 3 points deducted from its total at the discretion of the Management Committee and may be dealt with in any further manner which is thought to be fit.
- (iii) The Management Committee in exceptional circumstances may, at its discretion, award any points deducted from a Club under this Rule to the opponents in the match in question, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.

(The following Clause applies to Competitions involving players in full-time secondary education):-

**(R)**

- (i) Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities.
- (ii) The availability of children must be cleared with the Head Teachers (except for Sunday Competitions).
- (iii) Children under 14 shall not play in a team involving players who are more than 2 years older.

(Note: For players under the age of 18 the provisions contained in Football Association Rules will apply).

**(S)** Every Club shall register a minimum of 9 players for each of its teams at least 14 days prior to the commencement of the season, the Secretary of the League to notify all member Clubs of this date no later than at the Annual General Meeting prior to the season. A minimum of 9 players must be maintained within each team for the full duration of the season. No Club may have more than 18 players registered for any of its teams at any one time.

**(T)** All registration documents must be accompanied with a photocopy birth certificate a passport sized photograph and a SAE for the return of the registration slip(s). *If no SAE is sent for the return of the documents a charge of £5 will incur for admin costs.*

**FA9: Club Colours, Club Name**

**(A)** Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 14 days prior to the Annual General Meeting who shall decide as to their suitability.

Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from other players and the referee.

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 the colours in which they will play to its opponents at least 3 days before the match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the *home* team shall make the change. Any team not having a change of colours or delaying the kick-off by not having a change shall be fined £10.00p.

The Secretary of the Competition may request shirts to be submitted if complaints are received as to lack of distinguishing colours, and the Management Committee may refuse to permit any shirts or shorts as they think fit. *Shirt must be numbered.*

**(B)** Any Club wishing to change its name and/or colours must seek permission from its affiliated County Football Association and from the Management Committee.

**FA10: Playing Season, Conditions of Play, Times of Kick-off, Postponements, Substitutes**

**(A)** The Annual General Meeting shall determine the commencing and concluding dates for the ensuing season which shall be in accordance with Football Association Rules. No Club shall be compelled to play after the concluding date. Original fixtures arranged by the *Fixtures* Secretary, or at a meeting specially convened for that purpose, to be held

no later than *15<sup>th</sup> August*, must not be arranged for a date later than seven days preceding the concluding date determined by the Annual General Meeting.

*Any Club failing to be represented at a fixture meeting or otherwise infringing this Rule shall be liable for a fine of 10.00p and the Management Committee or the Fixtures Secretary shall arrange that Club's fixtures.*

**(B)** All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the international Football Association Board or, for Mini-Soccer, the Laws of Mini-Soccer as set down by The Football Association.

Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their grounds in a playable condition. All matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee. If through any fault of the home team a match has to be replayed, the Management Committee shall have the power to order the venue to be changed.

The Management Committee shall have the power to decide whether a pitch and/or facilities are suitable for matches in the Competition and to order the Club to play its fixtures on another ground.

All matches shall have a duration as set out below unless a shorter time (not less than 30 minutes) is mutually agreed by the two managers in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves.

For Mini-Soccer – The duration of play shall be as follows: for under 7 and under 8 age groups, *20 minutes each way* and for under 9 and under 10, *25 minutes each way*.

For Youth football – The duration of play shall be as follows unless it is mutually agree by all parties to reduce time. For under 11 and under 12, 30 minutes each half; for under 13, 14, 35 minutes each half and under 15 and under 16, 40 minutes each half; under 17 and 18, 45 minutes each half.

The minimum time for any game will not be less than 20 minutes each half for players in the under 14 age group and below and 25 minutes each half for all other age groups.

No player under the age of 17 as at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in any season shall be permitted to play more than one game or, in the event the Competition allows the playing of a double-header, i.e.: two separate matches, 100 minutes per day in this Competition

The times of kick-off shall be fixed by the A.G.M. or the Management Committee. Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time *shall* be fined a sum not exceeding *£10.00p* or be otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine. Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition.

The home team must provide at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. The size of football to be used shall be: For Mini-Soccer, size 3 for players in the under 7, 8 and 9 age categories; size 4 for under 10s. For youth football – size 4 for those playing under 11, 12, 13 and 14 age groups; size 5 for all other age groups. *Goal nets must be used.*

**(C)** Except by permissions of the Management Committee all matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The Football Association and all relevant County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of the *Fixtures* Secretary.

**(D)** The Secretary of the home Club must give notice in writing of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the *match officials* and the Secretary of the opposing Club at least 3 clear days prior to the playing of the match. *Alternatively an official Club representative from the home Club may give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the match officials and the named Manager or Secretary of the opposing Club (as stated in the official League handbook) at least 3 clear days prior to the playing of the match.* Teams must also inform opposition if changing facilities re available.

Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine of *£10.00p*.

**(E)** Every Club shall play its best available qualified team or teams in all matches in the Competition.

In the event of a Club playing in any match with less than 6 players they *shall* be fined *£5.00p* for each missing player. A minimum of 5 players will constitute a team for a Competition match.

**(F)** Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have power to inflict a fine, deduct points from the defaulting Club, order the defaulting Club to pay any 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 the power to order a 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. Should the away team's ground be playable in the case that the home team's pitch is not, the fixture must be reversed with the fixtures secretaries' permission?*

Any Club with more than one team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence: - First Team, Reserve Team, A Team. Clubs in breach of this requirement shall be fined a sum not exceeding £10.00p or otherwise dealt with by the Management Committee.

Notice of postponement of any match must be given without delay by the postponing Club (or notice of a Club being unable to fulfil any match must be given 48 hours prior to the match by the Club) to the *Fixtures Secretary*, the Competition *Results Secretary*, the Secretary of the opposing Club (*or named manager of the opposing Club in the official League handbook*) and the match officials.

Any Club failing to comply shall be dealt with by the Management Committee who may inflict any penalty it may deem suitable.

In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall 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* within *one* day the Management Committee shall have the power to order the match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date.

The Management Committee shall review all abandoned matches and in a case where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, 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 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 match to the opponents and* take what other action they may deem necessary. In cases where a match is abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams or their Club members, the Management Committee shall take such action as they consider appropriate. Such action is subject to any disciplinary action taken by the appropriate-county football association.

**(G)** A club may at its discretion and in accordance with the laws of the game use 5 substitutes' players in any match in this competition who maybe selected form 5 players.

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 the play as a substitute for another player.

The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than 5 minutes before the start of a match.

A player who has been selected, appointed or named as a substitute before the start of the match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a player in that game within the meaning of Rules 8 of this Competition.

**(H)** The half time interval shall be of 5 minutes duration, but it shall not exceed fifteen minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

All teams affiliated to the Mid Lancs colts junior football league must provide themselves with a **FIRST AID KIT** with adequate supplies, clean water and be accompanied by an adequate person(s)

#### **SPOT CHECKS:**

Clubs/Teams playing under the Mid Lancs Colts JFL maybe subject to spot checks by any member of the management committee, at any fixture.

All club officials must give their full co-operation when a spot check is being conducted by a member of the Management Committee.

### **FA11: Reporting Results**

**(A)** The *Registration* Secretary must receive within 4 days of the date played, the result of each Competition match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the team players (in block letters), and sportsmanship *also the Referee markings required by Rule 13, or any other information required by the Competition*. Clubs failing to submit a team sheet to the relevant registrations secretary, as per rule, a £10.00 fine will incur per-week or until such time the team sheet has been received by the registration secretary. *If no team sheet nor a copy of the team sheet is not received by the relevant Registration Secretary, within 5 weeks: The club will incur a further fine of £50. Any Club awarding a mark of 5 or less to the referee or sportsmanship mark must send a letter of explanation to the Competition Secretary and the relevant Registration Secretary within three days of the match being played.* Failure to do so will incur a fine of £10.00 and/or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide.

**(B)** *The Home Club shall telephone text or E-mail the result of each match to the Results Secretary between the hours of 4-6pm of the day on which it is played except matches played on a week-days whereby 9pm shall be the deadline. Should the Results Secretary not have received notification of the result of a particular match by 9pm of the day on which it is played, in the prescribed manner, then the Club shall be fined £10.00.*

**(C)** The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of the Club. The Management Committee shall have the power to take such action as they deem suitable against a Club which submits an incomplete form or incorrect information.

### **FA12: Determining Championship**

**(A)** Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with 3 points to be awarded for a win and 1 point for a drawn match. The teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective Divisions at the conclusion shall be adjudged the winners. Matches must not be played for double points. *In the event of two or more teams being equal on points then the position in the League shall be shared. In the event of two or more teams being equal on points at the top of a table at the end of a season then the Championship shall be shared and both teams shall be treated equally with the rights of League Champions.*

*FA Standard Code of Rules FA12: (B), which is optional, has not been adopted by this League.*

**(C)** *In the event of a team not completing all of its fixtures for the season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting team shall be expunged from the Competition table.*

### **FA13: Referees**

**(A)** Registered Referees for all matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the sanctioning Association(s).

**(B)** In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed Referee the *away team shall provide their qualified referee*. In cases where there are no officially appointed Assistant Referees, or where the Competition has been unable to appoint a Referee, *or where there is no qualified referee on the ground*, the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee. A Referee thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee. **(C)** *The Management Committee may, if they consider desirable, or upon application by the two competing Clubs, appoint Assistant Referees, if available, to any match.*

**(D)** The appointed Referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and the decision shall be final *subject to either in the case of a ground of a Local Authority or the owners of a ground, the Representative of that body is the sole arbiter and whose decision must be accepted unless the ground is declared fit for play.*

**(E)** Match Officials appointed under this Rules shall be entitled to charge standard class public transport expenses *not to exceed £2.00p together with the match fee of:*

Referee = £12.00p, Registered Referees appointed by the Management Committee as Assistant Referees = £4.00p, subject to any limits laid down by the sanctioning Association(s).

The Home Club shall pay the Officials their fees and expenses before/immediately after the match.

**(F)** In the event of a 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 match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Officials, if they attend the ground, their full fee and expenses.

**(G)** A Referee not keeping his engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to his non-appearance, may have his name removed from the list of Referees and the fact reported to the County Football Association with which he is registered.

**(H)** Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by the Football Association, award marks to the Referee for each 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 or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine. FA Standard Code of Rules FA13: **(J)**, which is optional, has not been adopted by this League.

**(K)** Referees shall be supplied, each Season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.

#### **FA14: Continuation of Membership or Withdrawal of a Club**

**(A)** After 31<sup>st</sup> December in the current Season a Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the Secretary in writing by 31<sup>st</sup> March each Season or be liable to a fine not exceeding £10.00 except for teams progressing to an age group that the League does not cater for. All Clubs wishing to remain in membership of the Competition for the following Season must confirm their intention to do so, in writing, to the Secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> March. Clubs must also confirm the number of teams they wish to enter into each particular age group via the return of an official 'team application form' no later than 28 days before the AGM.

**(B)** A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its teams from the Competition after arrangement of fixtures for the following Season. Any Club infringing this Rule shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £50.00 per team and shall also be liable for its share of any call which may be made under Rule 5(B).

FA Standard Code of Rules FA14: **(C)**, which is optional, has not been adopted by this League.

**(D) In the event of a Member Club which is an un-incorporated association withdrawing and/or disbanding it shall be immediately liable to discharge all its financial and other obligations to the Competition.**

In the event that any such obligation remains undischarged after a period of twenty-one (21) days then such obligation shall be met by the then current Club Members, excluding those under the statutory school leaving age. Until a Member's pro rata obligation is discharged in full the Member shall not be allowed to participate in the Competition, which may apply to the Club's Parent County Association for a suspension order.

#### **FA15: Protests and Appeals**

**(A)**

**(i)** All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or Interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to 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 match. Any Club lodging such a protest and not proceeding with it shall be deemed guilty of a breach of this Rule and shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.

**(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 in duplicate with the Secretary within 6 days (excluding Sundays) of the 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 a protest or complaint is being determined.

**(C)** Any dispute occurring between Clubs in the Competition shall be referred for determination by the Management Committee whose decision shall be binding upon all- parties subject to Rule 16.

**(D) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum of £20.00p. 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 the power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or completing to play the expenses of the enquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.**

**(E) All parties to a protest or complaint must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement when the protest or complaint is being heard and must have received 7 days notice of the hearing, together with a copy of the submission. When dealing with a protest or complaint the Management Committee shall take into consideration the possession by the protesting or complaining Club of any information which, if properly used, might have avoided the protest or complaint.**

#### **FA16: Board of Appeal**

**Within 14 days of the posting of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee or the Competition a Club, Official or Player against whom action is taken may appeal against such a decision by lodging particulars in duplicate with the**

Secretary of the *Lancashire* Football Association, including a fee of £35.00 for adjudication of a Board of Appeal. The grounds of appeal shall be in accordance with FA Rules. The Board of Appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited and shall decide by whom the costs of the appeal shall be borne. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned.

No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an Annual or Special General Meeting unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

#### **FA17: Exclusion of Clubs, or Teams, Misconduct, Clubs, Officials, Players**

**(A)** At the Annual General Meeting, or Special General Meeting called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rules 19, Notice of Motion having been duly circulated on the Agenda, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude any Club or Team from further membership 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.

**(B)** At the Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, the accredited delegates shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any *team of a Club* whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by (more than) two-thirds (2/3rds) 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 official or member of a Club proved guilty of either misconduct, 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 expulsion or 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 (B) of this Rule.

**(D)** *Any Club or Team failing to complete all of its fixtures in any season shall (unless- the conditions are beyond their control, or the accredited delegates present at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting decide otherwise by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast) be debarred from membership the following season.*

#### **FA18: Trophy:- Legal Owners, Conditions of Taking Over, Agreement to be Signed, Awards**

**(A)** A Competition Cup or Trophy shall be vested in the Association sanctioning the Competition as Trustees. If a Competition be discontinued for any cause the Cup or Trophy shall be returned to the Donor, if the conditions attached to it so provide, or otherwise dealt with as the Association may decide. *At the close of each Competition 15 individual player awards shall be given to the winners and runners-up of each competition if the funds of the Competition permit.*

The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the Cup or Trophy:-

"We (A) ..... and (B) ....., the Chairman and Secretary of ..... FC, 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 *31<sup>st</sup> March*. 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".

#### **FA19: Special General Meetings**

Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting.

The Management Committee may call a Special General Meeting at any time.

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

Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Not less than 7 days' notice shall be given of any Meeting.

Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given *shall* be fined *£20.00*.

#### **FA20: Alteration to Rules**

Alterations shall be made to these Rules only at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 19. Any alteration made during the playing season to the Rule relating to the qualification of players shall not take effect until the following season.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary by *31<sup>st</sup> March* in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by *14<sup>th</sup> April in each year* and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by *30<sup>th</sup> April in each year*. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if *51%* of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to the Rules to be considered at the Annual General- Meeting or Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the sanctioning Football Association 7 days prior to the date of the meeting.

Any alterations or additions decided upon at any meeting shall not become operative until the approval of the Association issuing sanction shall have been obtained.

#### **FA21: Rules Binding on Clubs**

Each Member Club shall be deemed to have given its assent to the foregoing Rules and agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee subject to Rule 16. Each Member Club must abide by any issued Football Association Code of Conduct.

#### **FA22: Finance**

**(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 *£500.00p* 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 *30<sup>th</sup> April*.

**(D)** The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be audited annually by some suitable person(s) who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

## **CUP COMPETITIONS**

(1) The Competitions shall be known as the Mid Lancashire Colts Junior Football League Challenge/Subsidiary Cup Competitions and these rules shall govern said Competitions.

(2) The Management Committee of the Mid Lancashire Colts Junior Football League shall have the entire control and management of both the Challenge & Subsidiary Cup Competitions.

(3) Each competing team shall consist of only bonafide playing members of their Club, but no individual shall play for more than one team in all Challenge and Subsidiary Cup Competitions. Any player who has played for a team in either the Challenge or Subsidiary Cup Competitions shall be termed 'cup-tied' and shall be ineligible to play for any other team.

(4) To be eligible to play in any round of the Challenge or Subsidiary Cup Competitions up to the 'semi-final' stage, a player must be registered for the Club a minimum of fourteen days prior to the date of the fixture. For semi-final and final ties, all players must also have played a minimum of three games in the league or cup competition for the team in the competition.

(5) Where a Club has two teams entered in the same cup competition, two separate squads must be submitted to the appropriate Registration Secretary.

(6) Any player(s) whose name(s) appear on the team sheet for a match shall be deemed as having taken part in the game. If the same name appears against two different numbers on the team sheet, that team will be fined the sum of £10 for the offence. Any team found guilty of playing ineligible players in the Challenge & Subsidiary Cup Competitions shall be disqualified from the competition. In addition the offending team(s) shall be fined the sum of £25 for each ineligible player.

(7) All matches in the Challenge & Subsidiary Cup Competitions shall be played in accordance with the laws of Mini-Soccer, except as otherwise stated in the rules FA 10B, E and G. In all 'Knockout' ties, if the scores are level at the end of normal time, 14 minutes 'extra-time' shall be played which shall be divided into two equal halves. In the event of the scores remaining level after 'extra-time' then the tie will be decided by the taking of penalty kicks in accordance with the laws of the game.

**(8) The Club drawn first in each tie, up to and including the 'Semi-Finals', shall choose the ground on which the tie is to be played and shall also be responsible for all referee's fees, travelling expenses and gate money. If assistant referees are provided by the League, the away team shall be responsible for their fees and travelling expenses. The 'Final' ties shall be played on neutral grounds. The Management Committee shall be responsible for gate money, match official's fees and travelling expenses for all 'Final' ties.**

(9) Any team reaching a Challenge or Subsidiary Cup Final must be available to play on the scheduled date. All competing teams in the Challenge and Subsidiary Cup Finals and their spectators must not arrive at the venue until 45 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time. In the Final tie, both teams shall provide a good quality match ball to the referee 10 minutes prior to the commencement of the game.

(10) The referee in all ties up to the 'Semi-Final' stage shall be a registered referee provided by the home team. If there is no 'home' registered referee available then a registered referee from the away team shall be used. Each Club shall provide an assistant referee for all ties. Referees' fees shall be £12 plus travelling expenses. Travelling expenses shall be standard class public transport or private car expenses of 10p per mile.

(11) When the winners have been ascertained, the trophy shall be handed to a representative of that Club who must undertake to find safe custody. If lost, stolen or damaged, the said Club must replace the trophy as stated in rule FA 18. The trophy shall be presented at the end of the 'Final' tie. Individual winners and runners-up trophies shall be presented at the League Annual Presentation evening.

**(12) The trophy shall be held for one year by the winners and shall not become the permanent property of any Club. Any Club who resigns from the League must return all trophies to the League within seven days of their resignation.**

(13) All questions of eligibility and qualification of players, interpretation of the rules and other matters of dispute shall be referred to the Management Committee whose decision shall be final, subject to appeal as stated in rules FA 5(E) and FA 16.

(14) Any Club or player infringing these rules shall be liable to be dealt with by the Management Committee.

(15) All protests & complaints must be submitted in accordance with rules FA 15(A-E).

## **LAWS OF THE LEAGUE**

### **LAW 1 – Playing area & Equipment**

- (a) All matches shall be played on grass pitches of the following dimensions unless the League give specific permission to a club to do otherwise:

	Minimum	Maximum
Width	30 yards	40 yards
Length	50 yards	60 yards

- (b) The penalty area shall extend 10yds from the Goal Line and shall be 18 yards wide.  
(c) The penalty mark shall be 8yds from the Goal Line directly opposite the Centre of the Goal.  
(d) The field of play shall be divided into two equal halves by a halfway line. The centre mark shall be indicated at the mid-point of the halfway line.  
(e) Pitches must be marked to the set criteria with a minimum of the perimeter of the pitch and penalty area marked. Flexible plastic space markers shall not be permitted to mark the perimeter of the pitch or the penalty area.  
(f) The goals shall be 6ft in height and 12ft in length.  
(g) All teams must use corner flags and must not be less than 5ft in height.

### **LAW 2 – The ball**

- (a) A size 3 ball shall be used for all under 7's, 8's and 9's matches.  
A size 4 ball shall be used for all under 10's matches.

### **LAW 3 – Number of players**

- (a) Each team shall comprise of 7 players plus a maximum of 5 named substitutes. Substitutes may be used at any time with the permission of the referee. Entry into the playing area shall only be permitted during a stoppage in play. A player who has been replaced may return to the playing area as a substitute for another player

### **LAW 4 – Playing equipment**

- (a) Players within a team shall be required to take the field in shirts of the colour stated on their league registration form. In the event of a colour clash it is the home teams responsibility to use a changed strip. Goalkeepers must wear a different colour strip easily distinguishable from any other player. In the event of a neutral match, the League shall determine which team(s) use a changed strip.  
(b) All players must wear shinguards covered entirely by socks.  
(c) All players must wear appropriate footwear for the playing conditions with studs that are safe (be aware of studs and blades in particular that have been worn down to form dangerous edges).

#### **LAW 5 – Referees**

(a) The home team shall appoint a referee for every match who shall have the same authority and responsibilities as stated in the most recent Laws of Association Football publication. This person shall preferably be qualified although teams may appoint other responsible and knowledgeable persons if qualified referees are not available. In the event of a neutral match, the League shall appoint a referee.

(b) The decisions of the referee regarding facts concerned with play are final. No decision shall be changed unless the referee decides that his/her original decision was incorrect and provided that play has not restarted.

#### **LAW 6 – Assistant referee**

An assistant referee may be appointed at the discretion of the League should there be a special need.

#### **LAW 7 – Duration of game**

(a) All league matches for under 7's and 8's shall total 40 minutes in duration and shall comprise of 2 equal halves of 20 minutes. All league matches for under 9's and 10's shall total 50 minutes in duration and shall comprise of 2 equal halves of 25 minutes.

(b) The League recommends that no player should play more than 60 minutes in any one day as per FA guidelines.

#### **LAW 8 – Start and restart of play**

(a) A kick-off shall be taken at the centre of the playing area in order to commence every league match as well as after a goal has been scored and at the start of the second half.

(b) In special circumstances the referee may choose to restart play with a 'drop-ball' after play has been temporarily halted.

#### **LAW 9 – Ball in and out of play**

(a) The ball is out of play when it has wholly crossed one of the perimeter lines (on the ground or in the air) or when play has been stopped by the referee.

(b) The ball is in play at all other times including when it rebounds off goalposts, corner flags or the referee.

#### **LAW 10 – Method of scoring**

A goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar, provided that no infringement of the Laws of the Game have been committed previously by the team scoring the goal.

#### **LAW 11 – Offside**

There shall be no offside.

#### **LAW 12 – Fouls and misconduct**

(a) All free kicks shall be direct.

(b) A free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following offences in a manner considered to be careless, reckless or using excessive force:

- Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent,
- Trips or attempts to trip an opponent,
- Jumps at an opponent,
- Charges an opponent,
- Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent,
- Pushes an opponent.

(c) A free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following offences:

- Tackles an opponent, making contact with the opponent before touching the ball,
- Holds an opponent,
- Spits at an opponent,
- Handles the ball deliberately (except goalkeeper inside their designated area),
- Plays in a dangerous manner,
- Impedes the progress of an opponent,
- Prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his/her hands.

(d) A penalty kick shall be awarded if any of the previous offences are committed by a player inside his/her own penalty area.

(e) A free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team if the goalkeeper:

- Touches the ball again with his/her hands after it has been released from his/her possession and has not touched another player,
- Touches the ball with his/her hands after it has been deliberately kicked to them by another player from their team – Except for Under 8's (i.e. under 8's players can pass back to their goalkeeper),
- Touches the ball with his/her hands directly from a throw in taken by another player from their team.
- (under 8's only) Goalkeepers are permitted to handle the ball from a throw in back pass from a fellow team member
- (under 8's only) Goalkeepers may restart the game by way of kicking ball directly out of his/her hands

(f) A player shall be cautioned or sent off by the referee verbally rather than being shown a yellow or red card. The referee shall use these sanctions in accordance with the most recent Laws of the Game publication.

#### LAW 13 – Free kicks

Opponents shall be at least 5yds away from the ball and all free kicks are direct as stated in Law 12(a).

#### LAW 14 – Penalty kicks

(a) A penalty kick is awarded for offences, as described in Law 12.

All players must be outside the penalty area and at least 5yds from the ball except the penalty taker and defending goalkeeper.

(c) The ball must be kicked forward.

(d) If a player/players commit an offence at the taking of a penalty kick his/her team shall not be allowed to gain an advantage. If players from both teams offend then the kick shall be retaken.

#### LAW 15 – Throw-in

(a) A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in.

(b) A throw-in shall be awarded when the whole of the ball passes over either touchline (on the ground or in the air).

(c) The opponents of the player who last touched the ball shall take the throw-in from the point where the ball crossed the touchline.

(d) The only permitted method for throw-ins shall be that as outlined in the most recent Laws of the Game publication.

(e) The player who takes the throw-in shall not be permitted to touch the ball again until another player has touched it.

#### LAW 16 – Goal kick

(a) A goal kick shall be awarded when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line that the last player to touch the ball is attacking (excluding between goal posts).

(b) Goal kicks shall be taken from any place along the edge of the penalty area (of the team taking the kick).

(c) Opponents must be at least 5yds away from the ball.

(d) The player who takes the kick shall not be permitted to touch the ball again until another player has touched it.

**LAW 17 – Corner kick**

(a) A corner kick shall be awarded when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line that the last player to touch the ball is defending (excluding between goal posts).

(b) Corner kicks shall be taken from within 1yd of the nearest corner flag from where the ball passed out of play.

(c) Opponents must be at least 5yds away from the ball.

The player who takes the kick shall not be permitted to touch the ball again until another player has touched it.