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WELCOME to the MID LANCASHIRE COLTS JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

As we look forward to the 13th season of football in the Mid Lancashire Colts Junior Football League, the Committee wishes to extend a warm welcome to all participating teams. Over 2000 children will participate in this season's competitions and we are confident that all these players will thoroughly enjoy playing in one of the fastest growing Leagues in the North West.

From small beginnings 12 years ago at the start of the Mini-Soccer era, the Mid Lancs Colts League has grown to its present format of 9 divisions, over 4 age groups, encompassing 166 different teams. Much voluntary effort has been contributed by members of the committee past and present in order to provide for the children of Lancashire. The hard work put in by Club officials and match officials must also be recognised, as without these people, there would be no junior football for our children.

As this season's Competitions commence, the Committee would like all involved to take a minute in order to recognise the aims of the League and the Clubs that take part. **This League is run solely for the enjoyment of the children who love to play the game of football.** There is no doubt that Committee members, Club officials and Match officials can also derive a great amount of pleasure from contributing to junior football, seeing the smiles on the faces of the children who take part. However, throughout the season we must always put the children first. There will no doubt be some tricky times ahead for all of us during the year. If we can take a minute to consider what is best for the children when these situations present themselves, then we will contribute to a much more successful team.

Remember that Committee members, Club officials and Match officials are all working as part of a team – a team with the aim of putting a smile on every last player's face this season.

Finally, the Committee would like to wish everybody good luck in this season's Competitions. Only one team can win each respective division, however every team can triumph in fulfilling its own potential.

The management Committee

RULES OF THE LEAGUE

FA1: Nomenclature and Constitution

(A) This Competition shall be designated the *Mid Lancashire Colts Junior Football League and known as the Forbes Solicitors Mid Lancashire Colts Junior Football League* and shall consist of not more than 50 Clubs who shall be full members and approved by the sanctioning authority.

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 radius of 15 miles from the leagues meeting venue, unless the club is in membership prior to season 2009/10*.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the *Lancashire Football Association* and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding 12 in number.

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

This Competition wishes to become a designated Charter Standard League. Existing Member Clubs have two years (until the end of the 2012-13 season) to achieve the Charter Standard club award or face expulsion from the League. New Member Clubs have one year to achieve the Charter Standard club award. The League has the right to refuse membership to a Club if it fails to demonstrate commitment to achieving the award.

This Competition and its Clubs shall support the FA's Respect programme. As such it recognises that everyone in football has a collective responsibility to create a fair, safe and enjoyable environment in which the game can take place. A Respect League values the courtesy and fairness by opposing players, club officials and spectators. The League and its Clubs will seek to play fixtures in a fair, competitive but not antagonistic environment.

The competition will provide 11-a-side football for players who have attained the age of 10 as at midnight 31st 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 31st August in a playing season. 9v9 may be provided for players who have attained the age of 10 as at midnight on 31st August.

Other formats of youth football as authorised from time to time by the FA are also permitted.

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

FA 2: 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* 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 compete 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 present 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 £50 per *Team* playing 11-a-side football and £50 per *Team* playing Mini-Soccer payable on or before *the 1st August* in each year.

(C) Each Club shall, *on the day of election*, pay a Deposit of £10 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.

(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 *1st August* of its *Lancashire County Football Association* affiliation number for the forthcoming Season, *failing which they shall be fined £10*. 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.

FA 3: OFFICERS

The Officers of the Competition shall be the chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, Registration Secretary, Results Secretary, Fixtures Secretary, Minutes Secretary, League Development Officer, Child welfare Officer and Web Co-ordinator to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting . (*N.B. Auditors/Verifiers are not Officers*).

FA 4: 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. All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The Association from time to time.

(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 *30th 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 foregoing for 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 by 8pm start will be fined £10.00.*

On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the Members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the 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.

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

FA 5: POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

(A) The Management Committee 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 Football Association or affiliated Association

(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 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. (See Rule 6(e)).

(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 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 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.

With the exception of Rules 5(i), 6(h), 10(a), 11 and 19 for any breaches of Rule a formal written charge must be issued. The respondent shall be given seven days from the date of notice to reply to the charge and given the opportunity to:-

- (i) Accept or deny the charge
- (ii) Submit in writing a case of mitigation, or
- (iii) Put 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 by the appropriate Association.

With the exception of Clubs playing at Step 7 of the Football Pyramid and the FA Women's Premier League, the maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Competition rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Competition must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

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

Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 7 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 power 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.

The written notification of the fine will be processed by the league, either by postal mail or E-mail

Any Club failing to do so will be fined a maximum of £50. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional sum within 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding payments are settled.

(J) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or match may have any 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 Annual General or Special General Meeting called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Competition season.

(L) No participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

(M) Leagues who organise Mini Soccer for teams playing U7 and U8 football may not, with the exception of Rules 6, 10(a), 11(d), 14 and 19 fine clubs for breaches of League Rules.

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

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

FA 6: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than *30th 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 of the season and kick off times applicable to the Competitions.
 - (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(s).
- (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. Fourteen 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. *This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 17.*
- (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 Chairman so decides.
- (G)** No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Member Club.
- (H)** Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given *shall* be fined £20.
- (I)** Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an Annual General Meeting

FA 7: 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.

(Note: The spaces above are intended for the inclusion of the signatures and addresses of officers and members).

FA 8: QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

(A) Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules, are permitted in this Competition. A contract player may only play for the Club that holds his contract.

It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any Player signing a registration form for that Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any Player aged 12 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

(ii) No player registered with a 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 Centre of Excellence players.*

(iii) While serving in any branch of Her Majesty's Regular Forces, a player must first obtain the consent of his Association Secretary before signing a registration form to play for a Club.

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

(i) 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.

The registration document must incorporate 2 current passport-size photograph of the player seeking registration together with proof of the player's date of birth.

If a player's age is required for registration purposes a Competition must accept an original birth certificate or a photocopy. In cases where the birth certificate is not available a Competition is required to accept a photocopy of the player's passport or other official document issued by a Government Agency attesting to the player's date of birth.

The qualification dates for the competition shall be as follows:

Mini-Soccer

To play in a KO Cup game or a game where points are awarded, or results published, a player must have achieved the age of 8 on or before 31st August.

Under 7 – the player must have attained the age of 6 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season but must be under the age of 7 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 8 – the player must be under the age of 8 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 9 – the player must be under the age of 9 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 10 – the player must be under the age of 10 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

In accordance with the foregoing qualifications a player in the above age ranges 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 Rule C.4(a)(v) and (vi).

FA standard code of Rules FA8: (C) which is optional, has not been adopted by the League

(D) 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 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.

(E) Registration forms shall be obtained from the (*Registrations*) Secretary *free of charge on receipt of a stamped, self-addressed envelope. 15 registration forms per team shall be distributed free of charge before the season commences.*

(F) 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 (*Registrations*) Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

(G) 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. Any Club found guilty of this rule shall be fined a minimum of £25*

(H) (i) The Management Committee shall have power to accept the registration of any player.

(ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities.(Subject to Rule 16).

(iii) The Management Committee shall have power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 16) subject to the right of appeal to the FA or the relevant County Football Association.

Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated conduct, which may deter a participant from being involved in this Competition. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the player is registered_with.

(Note: Action under Clause (iii) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any case be subject to an Appeal to the Football Association.) 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 a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.

(I) 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 submit 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.

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

(J) 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 nor any player be de-registered following this date* except by special permission of the Management Committee.

(K) 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 identifiable **but not designated 'A' or 'B' or 1st or 2nd**. In such cases, players will be registered for one team only.

(L) A photo card and 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. Registrations are valid for one Season only.

A photo card and registration slips containing the names of all players within their team, with the date of registration, shall be kept by each manager. These must be taken by the teams manager to all completion games and shall be open to inspection from management committee and the oppositions manager. Failure to do so will incur a £25 fine

(M) 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 FAB: (N) which is optional, has not been adopted by the League

(O)

(i) Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players *shall* have the points gained in the match deducted from its total and may be fined and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(ii) In addition the team *may* have *may* 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 may, at its discretion, award the points available in the match in question to the opponents, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.

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

(P) (i) Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities. This is not applicable for under 17/18 football.

(ii) The availability of children must be cleared with the Head Teachers (except for Sunday Competitions).

(iii) Children under 15 shall not play in a team involving players who are more than 2 years older.

(Q) *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 14 players registered for any of its teams at any one time.*

(R) *All registration documents must be accompanied with a photocopy of the players birth*

*certificate, 2 passport sized photographs and a Size A4 SSAE for the return of the registration slips and card. If a player's name on a submitted registration form differs from the birth certificate then documentary evidence must also be submitted.
If no SSAE is sent for the return of the documents a charge of £5 will incur for administrative costs.*

FA 9: 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.

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.

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 £10.00.

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. *Shirts must be numbered.*

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

FA 10: PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY

TIMES OF KICK-OFF. POSTPONEMENTS. SUBSTITUTES

(A) The Annual General Meeting shall determine the date for the commencement of the season in accordance with Football Association Rules. Original fixtures arranged by the *Fixtures* Secretary, or at a meeting specially convened for that purpose, to be held no later than 16th August, must not be arranged for a date later than seven days preceding the concluding date.

Any Club failing to be represented at a fixture meeting or otherwise infringing this Rule shall be liable for a fine of £10.00 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 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 matches in the Competition and to order the Club concerned 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 arranged by the two Clubs in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves.

For Mini-Soccer – The maximum duration of play shall be two halves of 20 minutes each way. The maximum playing time in any one day for under 7 and under 8 age groups is 40 minutes and for under 9 and under 10 age groups is 60 minutes.

For Youth football – The duration of play shall be as follows unless it is mutually agreed by all parties to reduce the 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 under 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 participating in an under 17 division or lower age group shall be permitted to play more than one game or, in the event the competition allows the playing of a double-header, ie: two separate matches, 100 minutes per day in this Competition.

The times of kick-off shall be fixed at the AGM. Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time *shall* be fined a sum not exceeding £10 or be otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine.

*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).*

All teams must provide a visible barrier between the field of play and spectators.

Teams who do not comply with this rule will be fined £10

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.

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: For Mini-Soccer, size 3 for players in the under 7 and 8 age categories; size 4 for under 9's and 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 permission 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.

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

(D) An official representative from 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 the named manager or secretary of the opposing club (as stated in the official league handbook) at least 48hours prior to of playing of the match. Teams must also inform the opposition if changing facilities are available. Any club failing to comply with this rule shall be liable to £10.00p

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

(F) (i) 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, *award the points from the match in question to the opponents*, 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 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 if the kick off time can be the same. If it cannot be the same time it must be agreeable with both teams.*

(ii): Any Club with more than one team in the Competition shall always fulfill 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 or otherwise dealt with by the Management Committee.

A Referee thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee.

If a team consistently is seemed to have no qualified and registered referee to referee their games then the management committee will have the authority to report the club to the Lancashire Football Association.

The Management Committee may, if they consider desirable, or upon application by the two competing Clubs, appoint Assistant Referees, if available, to any match.

A TEAM MAY ONLY MAKE TWO APPLICATIONS for postponements during the course of any season. This must be applied for by 7pm on Wednesday for Under 7's and 8's and 7pm Thursday for Under 9's and 10's prior to the fixture being played. Applications for postponements will not be considered for Cup Finals.

In addition to the above, applications for postponement of fixtures due to school trips/tours can be made but MUST be notified to the Fixtures Secretary at least 14 DAYS PRIOR to the date of the match in question. All school trips/tour applications MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY WRITTEN EVIDENCE FROM THE SCHOOL CONCERNED and must be received by the League Secretary within 7 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE MATCH.

Any team failing to fulfil a fixture outside of the above criteria and without consent of the Management Committee WILL BE FINED A MINIMUM OF £25 AND THE MATCH AWARDED TO THEIR OPPONENTS.

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

(iii) Any club unable to fulfil a fixture must, without delay, give notice to the (*Fixtures*) Secretary, the Competition Referees Appointments Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the match officials. Any Club failing to comply shall be dealt with by the Management Committee who may inflict a fine.

(iv) 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 power to order the match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date.

(v) The Management Committee shall review all 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 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 opponent*. In cases where a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams and their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule all points for the match as void. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match.

(G) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use 5 substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from,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. A Team must not have a squad greater than double the size of its team in an age group.

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 Rule 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.

(I) *The League 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.*

Prior to each match the participating teams and officials shall conduct the ‘Respect’ handshake and/or participating teams to offer ‘three cheers’ and handshakes to the opposing team after the match.

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 team mates. 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.

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.

FA 11: 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 also the Referee markings required by Rule 13, opposing managers signature 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 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 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. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £10.

NB. If the fixed penalty exceeds £20 the Club must be charged as detailed in Rule 5(D).

(D) Leagues are permitted to collect but not to publish results for fixtures they organise for U7 and U8 Mini Soccer. They may require a Club to confirm that a set fixture has been played. A maximum fine of £5 may be imposed for a breach of this Rule.

FA 12: 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 mini soccer points can only be awarded for under 9's & 10's competitions.

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) & (D)**, 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*

FA 13: REFEREES

(A) Registered Referees (and Assistant Referees where approved by the FA or County FA) 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 & registered 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 and registered referee on the ground, the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee.*

*FA Standard Code of Rules FA13: **(C)**, which is optional, has not been adopted by this League.*

(D) The appointed Referee shall have 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 immediately after the match. Except in the case of under 7s where fees shall be halved between both clubs.

(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 or her engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Association with which he or she 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: (I) & (J), which is optional, has not been adopted by this League.

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

(L) Referees and Assistant Referees shall have undertaken a Respect briefing offered by the FA/County FA or the League.

FA 14: CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

(A) After 31st 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 31st March of 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 31st 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 the Annual General Meeting 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.

FA 15: PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS

(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 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 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. 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 enquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

(E) 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 7days' notice of the Hearing should they be instructed to attend.

(F) 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.

FA 16: 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 decision by lodging particulars in duplicate with the Secretary of the *Lancashire* Football Association, including a fee of £35, 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.

FA 17: 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 Rule 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 ($\frac{2}{3}$) 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 present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any *Club or team of a Club* whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by (more than) two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) 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 official 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 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.

FA 18: TROPHY:- LEGAL OWNERS, CONDITIONS OF TAKING OVER,

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED. AWARDS.

(A) 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 Association may decide.

(B) 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 31st 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.”

Failure to comply will result in a fine as determined by the Management Committee.

(C) At the close of each Competition 15 individual awards shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

FA 19: 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 seven 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 Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only, as will members of the Management Committee.

Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £20.

Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all Special General Meetings.

FA 20: ALTERATION TO RULES

Alterations, for which consent has been given by the sanctioning Association, shall be made to these Rules only at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with 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 31st March in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 14th April and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 30th April. 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% [a majority] of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.

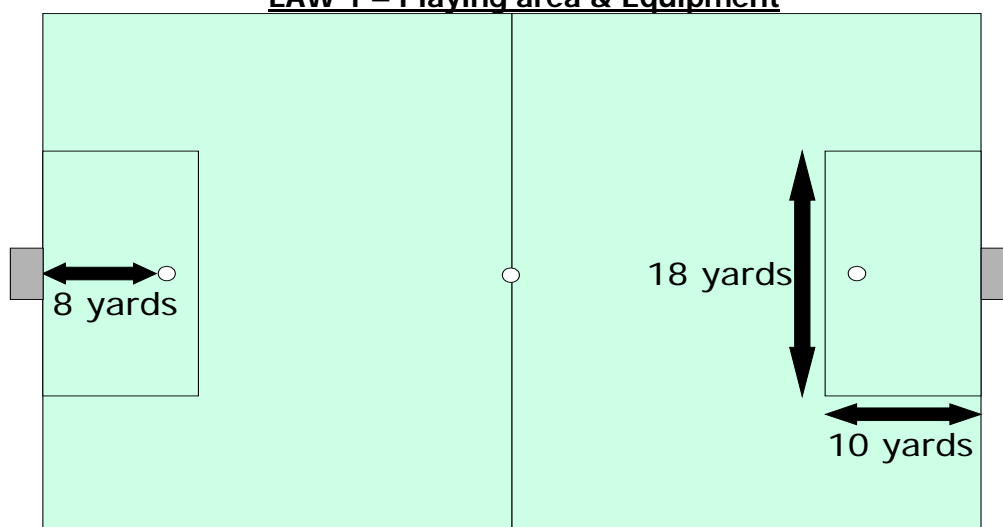
A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the sanctioning Football Association 7 days prior to the date of the meeting.

FA 21: 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 £250 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 30th 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.

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.

3G Generation Artificial Playing Surface.

The League Management Committee has the authority to sanction a league appointed fixture, (U7 & U8 an appointed fixture) to be played on a 3G playing surface providing the following criteria is met:
The pitch as been sanctioned by the league committee.

Neither the Home team nor the Away team pitch is fit or available to be played on.
Both teams agree to play the fixture on 3G playing surface.

The team hosting the fixture may ask for the visiting team to contribute half the cost of the hire of the facility for the time period the game is to be played.

The pitch size, markings and goals must be proportionate to the age group of teams that are playing. Goals must meet British Safety Standards.

The fixture secretary MUST BE informed of the intention to play the fixture on a 3G playing surface.

The fixture Secretary MUST grant approval prior to the game being played.

LAW 2 – The ball

size 3 ball shall be used for all under 7's and 8's matches.
size 4 ball shall be used for all under 9's and 10's matches.

LAW 3 – Number of players

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).

(d) It is recommended that Hats shall NOT be worn by any player during the match. However peaked Caps may be worn by the Goalkeeper.

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 be qualified. In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed Referee the away team shall provide their qualified & registered 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 and registered referee on the ground, the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee. 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 40 minutes in duration and shall comprise of 2 equal halves of 20 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) To help with the players in following the RESPECT campaign. Before the commencement of the kick off, both teams shall line up and greet each other with a friendly hand shake.

At this time the both managers shall have in their possession the opposition ID cards and will check their opponents players identification. This must be followed by each manager signing the opposition's team sheet.

(b) 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.

(c) 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 7's & 8's (i.e. under 7's & 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 7's & 8's only) Goalkeepers are permitted to handle the ball from a throw in back pass from a fellow team member

- (under 7's & 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.

(b) The ball must be kicked forward.

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.

(c)

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.

(f) To help with the development of the players .If a foul throw is awarded by the referee, he may allow the same player to re-take the throw-in until deemed suitable.

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.

