

STANDARD CODE OF RULES FOR YOUTH

COMPETITIONS

2017-2018 SEASON

This document contains the Standard Code of Rules developed by The Football Association and additions, for Youth Competitions. The MHRML has added to the core of the Standard Code, *(which is mandatory)*

This Standard Code of Rules is mandatory for all sanctioned Youth Competitions as from Season 2003-2004. Competitions seeking sanction must draft their Rules in conformity with the code putting them in the correctly numbered Rule and showing the standard heading



2017-2018

SEASON

MHRML LEAGUE RULES 2017/2018 SEASON

INDEX

Page 3-5	RULE 1	Definitions
Page 5-6	RULE 2	Name and Constitution
Page 6-7	RULE 3	Entry Fee, Subscription, Deposit
Page 7-8	RULE 4	Management, Nomination, Election
Page 8-11	RULE 5	Powers of Management
Page 11-12	RULE 6	Annual General Meeting
Page 12-13	RULE 7	Agreement to be signed
Page 13-22	RULE 8	Qualification of Players
Page 22	RULE 9	Club Colours, Club Name
Page 23-30	RULE 10	Playing Season, Conditions of Play, Times of Kick-Off, Postponement, Substitutes
Page 31	RULE 11	Reporting Results
Page 31-32	RULE 12	Determining Championship
Page 31-36	RULE 13	Referees
Page 36-37	RULE 14	Continuation of a Membership or Withdrawal of a Club
Page 37-38	RULE 15	Protests and Complaints
Page 38	RULE 16	Appeals
Page 38-39	RULE 17	Exclusion of Clubs or Teams, Misconduct of Clubs, Officials, Players
Page 39-40	RULE 18	Trophy, Legal Owners, Conditions of Taking Over, Agreement to be Signed, Awards
Page 40	RULE 19	Special General Meetings
Page 40-41	RULE 20	Alteration to Rules
Page 41	RULE 21	Finance
Page 41-42	RULE 22	Insurance
Page 42	RULE 23	Dissolution
Page 42-44	RULE 24	League Cup
Page 45		Appendix 1: Fees
Page 46		Appendix 2: Fines
Page 47		Appendix 3: Match Delegate
Page 48-51		Appendix 4: 9 v 9 Rules
Page 52-59		Appendix 5: Mini Soccer Rules
Page 60-62		Appendix 6: Referees

STANDARD CODE OF RULES FOR MINI SOCCER AND YOUTH FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS

This document contains the Standard Code of Rules developed by The Football Association, for Mini Soccer and Youth Football Competitions. Such Competitions may add to the core of the Standard Code, which is mandatory, providing the additions are approved by the sanctioning Association and do not conflict with the mandatory Rules or any relevant principles and policies established by the FA. Guidance from the sanctioning Association should be sought in advance if there is any doubt as to the acceptability of additional Rules.

This Standard Code of Rules is mandatory for all Mini Soccer and Youth Football Competitions. Mini Soccer and Youth Football Competitions seeking sanction must draft their Rules in conformity with the code putting them in the correctly numbered Rule and showing the standard heading. The mandatory element is printed in normal text and the optional elements in italics.

It should be noted that in many cases Rules are so printed because they are alternatives and the procedure to apply should be retained and the others omitted. In all cases where a line is shown the necessary name, address, number or wording to complete this Rule must be inserted.

DEFINITIONS

1. (A) In these Rules:

“Affiliated Association” means an Association accorded the status of an affiliated Association under the Rules of The FA.

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

“Club” means a Club for the time being in membership of the Competition.

“Competition” means the [] League.

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

“Contract Player” means any Player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play under a written contract of employment with a Club.

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

“Fees Tariff” means a list of fees approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any matters for which fees are payable under the Rules.

“Fines Tariff” means a list of fines approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any breach of the Rules.

“Ground” means the ground on which the Club’s Team(s) plays its Competition Matches.

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

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

“Mini Soccer” means those participating at ages under 7s to under 10s.

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

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

“Participants” means an Affiliated Association, Competition, Club, Club Official, Intermediary, Player, Official, Match Official, Management Committee member, member or employee of an Affiliated Club and all such persons who are from time to time participating in any activity sanctioned either directly or indirectly by the Association.

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

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

“Rules” means these rules under which the Competition is administered.

“Sanctioning Authority” means [The FA][the [] County Football Association Limited].

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

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

“Team” means a team affiliated to a Club.

“Team Sheet” means a form provided by the Competition on which the names of the Players taking part in a Competition Match are listed.

“The FA” means The Football Association Limited.

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

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

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

- (B) The Rules are taken from the Standard Code of Rules for Youth Competitions (the “Standard Code”) determined by The FA from time to time. In the event of any omissions

from the Standard Code then the requirements of the Standard Code shall be deemed to apply to the Competition

- (C) All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a Member of the Competition to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee in relation thereto, subject to the provisions of Rule 16.
- (D) The Competition will be known as **The Mid Herts Rural Minors League** (or such other name as the Competition may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A Club which ceases to exist or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall thereupon automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.
- (E) The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Competition acting (save where otherwise specifically mentioned herein) through the Management Committee in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of the FA.
- (F) Unless stated otherwise, terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

NAME AND CONSTITUTION

- 2. (A) This Competition shall consist of not more than **85** Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority.
- (B) All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority and must have a constitution approved by the Sanctioning Authority. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff). The area covered by the Competition membership shall be within a 15 mile radius of Hertford Town centre. Any Member Club who wishes to move their registered home pitches to outside the 15 mile radius after Season **2013/2014** must write to the General Secretary for approval.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Hertfordshire Football Association County Football Association(s) and the constituent Teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions.

(C) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

- (i) The Competition and each member Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (to include those contained in the Equality Act 2010).
 - (ii) This Competition and each member Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise.
 - (iii) Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.
- (D)** Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including but not limited to, Charter Standard and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).
- (E)** Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing at a particular age group in the Competition in any other competition (with the exception of FA and County FA Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff). Member Clubs will only be allowed to enter into one County FA Cup Competition.
- (F)** At the AGM or a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the compilation of the divisions at their discretion. When necessary this Rule shall take precedence over Rule 12.

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

- 3. (A)** Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same Club must be made in writing to the Secretary by no later than 15th **March** must be accompanied by an entry fee, which will be determined at the AGM and set out in the Fees Tariff per Team which shall be returned in the event of

non-election. The Management Committee will complete the interview process for all new Clubs by 15th **April**.

At the discretion of the voting members present applications, of which due notice has been given, may be received at the AGM or a Special General Meeting or on a date agreed by the Management Committee.

- (B)** An annual subscription shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per *Club (or per Team where a Club provides more than one Team in membership of the Competition)* and shall be payable on or before the AGM each year.
- (C)** A Deposit, which will be determined at the AGM, shall be payable per Club (or per Team where a Club provides more than one Team in membership of the Competition) and shall be payable on or before the AGM each year. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).
- (D)** A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the entry fee, annual subscription and Deposit (if required) have been paid.
- (E)** If requested by the Competition, Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by **31st July** of its Sanctioning Authority affiliation number for the forthcoming Playing Season, failing which they shall be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

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.

- (F)** All payments to the Competition [League] must be in the form of a cheque drawn on the Club's account or an on-line payment from a Club's account, and no cash will be accepted.

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

- 4. (A)** The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and any members who shall all be elected at the AGM. All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The FA 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 14 days before the AGM in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the AGM.

- (C) The Management Committee shall meet as and when required, save that no more than three calendar months shall pass between each meeting.

On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Management Committee.

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

- (E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Officers and sent to the Secretary.

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

- (F) The Presidents and Vice Presidents are honorary positions and are not members of the Management Committee. They are traditionally appointed in recognition of their past service to the League and are experienced in the problems of running a League. As they are not members of the Management Committee they have no voting rights but should be regarded as a valuable resource upon which the Management Committee can call upon for advice and assistance.

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

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

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

- (C)** Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee meetings and have one vote thereat, but no member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such member or to the Club so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest. (This shall 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. Any action by the Competition must be taken within 28 days of the Competition being notified.

With the exception of Rules 5(I) 6(H) and 19, in relation to any alleged breaches of a Rule the Management Committee shall issue a formal written charge to the Club concerned. The Club charged is required to respond to the charge within 7 days from the date of notification of the charge. In such reply a Club may:-

- (i)** Accept the charge and submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or

- (ii)** Accept the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or

- (iii)** Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or

- (iv)** Deny the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee.

Where the Club charged fails to respond within 7 days, the Management Committee shall determine the charge in such manner and upon such evidence as it considers appropriate.

Where required, hearings shall take place as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of the reply of the Club as more fully set out above.

Having considered the reply of the Club (whether in writing or at a hearing), the Management Committee shall make its decision and, in the event that the charge is accepted or proven, decide on the appropriate penalty (with reference to the Fines Tariff where applicable).

The maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is **£100** and, when setting any fine, the Management Committee must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances. No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

All breaches of the Laws of the Game, Rules and Regulations of The FA shall be dealt with in accordance with FA Rules by the appropriate Association.

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

Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 10 days.

- (F) Five (5) of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee or three (3) for any sub-committee thereof.
- (G) The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill, in an acting capacity, any vacancies that may occur amongst their number.
- (H) A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee, and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).
- (I) Subject to its right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16 below, all fines and charges shall be paid within 14 days of the date of posting of notification of the decision.

Any Club failing to do so will be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff). Further failure to pay the fine including the additional sum within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.

- (J)** A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or 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 AGM or Special General Meeting called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Competition Playing Season.
- (L)** The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may/shall be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 6. (A)** The AGM shall be held not later than **30th June** in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least 65% members are present and entitled to vote:-
- (i)** To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding AGM.
 - (ii)** To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
 - (iii)** Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
 - (iv)** Constitution of the Competition for ensuing Playing Season.
 - (v)** Election of Officers and Management Committee.
 - (vi)** Appointment of Auditors.
 - (vii)** Alteration of Rules, if any (See Rule 20).
 - (viii)** Fix the date for the commencement of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.
 - (ix)** Fix the date for the end of the Playing Season.
 - (x)** Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an AGM.

- (B)** A copy of the duly verified Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 14 days prior to the meeting together with any proposed changes.
- (C)** A signed copy of the duly verified Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of its adoption by the AGM.
- (D)** Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. 14 days' notice shall be given of any Meeting.
- (E)** Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the Playing Season being concluded or who are not continuing membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the Playing 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 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.
- (G)** No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Member Club.
- (H)** Any continuing Club must be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).
- (I)** Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM.
- (J)** Where a Competition is an incorporated entity, the Officers of the Competition shall ensure that the Articles of Association of the Competition are consistent with the requirements of these Rules.

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

- 7.** 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 Playing Season, or upon indicating that the Club intends to compete.

“We, (A), (name) [] of (address) [] (Chairman)/Director and (B) (name) [] of (address) [] (Secretary/Director) of [] Football Club (Limited) have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the [] Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, if elected or accepted into membership, to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16.”

The agreement shall be signed by:

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

Any alteration of the Chairman and /or secretary of the Club on the above agreement must be notified to the []County Football Association(s) to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary.

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

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

8. (A) (i) A registered youth playing member of a Club is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has **been issued with a valid league registration card and has:-**
- (a) *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 three (3) days prior to the player 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.*
 - (ii) Registration forms may also be submitted to **DE Photo** by electronic mail prior to the Player playing. The original document must be forwarded by post within three days of the match to the appropriate Officer if requested.

The registration document must incorporate a 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.

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

- (iii) Replacement registration cards to replace lost ones will be charged at £2 each.
 - (iv) The registration card of a player who is suspended shall be surrendered to The Discipline Chairman together with a SAE for its return. The registration card is to be posted to The Disciplinary Chairman before the date the suspension commences. The player's registration with the Competition is regarded as having been withdrawn on the date the suspension commences. The registration card shall be retained by The Disciplinary Chairman-for the duration of the suspension, and will be returned to the player's Club Chairman-when the suspension ends. Failure to send the registration card to The Disciplinary Chairman on the occasion of the imposition of a suspension shall result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) being imposed on the Club for whom the suspended player is registered.
- (B)** (i) Contract Players are not permitted in this Competition with the exception of those Players who are registered under contract with the same Club who have a Team operating at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System.

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

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

A team shall not include any player who has taken part in any Centre of Excellence matches during the current season unless a period of 14 days has elapsed since they were released.

- (iii) If any Player is serving in any branch of Her Majesty's Regular Forces, the Player must first obtain the consent of his Association Secretary before signing a registration form to play for a Club.
- (iv) Each Team must have the following number of Players registered 10 days before the start of each Playing Season:

FORMAT	MINIMUM NUMBER
5 v 5	5
7 v 7	7
9 v 9	9
11 v 11	11

- (a) Each 11 a-side team shall be restricted to 18 [eighteen] players within the Competition with the exception of U17 / U18 that may sign up to 22 players.
- (b) Each 9 a-side team shall be restricted to 14 players.
- (c) Each Mini soccer (7 a-side) team shall be restricted to 12 players within the Competition
- (d) Each 5 a-side Under 7's & Under 8's shall be restricted to 8 players within the Competition

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

- (C) A child who has not attained the age of 6 shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match of any kind.

The relevant age for each Player is determined by his or her age as at midnight on 31 August of the relevant Playing Season i.e. children who are aged 6 as at midnight on 31 August in a Playing Season (together with those who attain the age of 6 during the Playing Season) will be classed as Under 7 Players for that Playing Season. Children who are aged 7 as at midnight on 31 August in a Playing Season will be classed as Under 8 Players for that Playing Season, and so on.

Notwithstanding the above, a child is permitted to play up in the age group above his or her chronological age group, irrespective of any changes of format or competition

structure, save that a child who attains the age of 6 after 31 August is permitted to play only in the Under 7 age group, and may not play in the Under 8 age group, for that Playing Season.

The age groups that children are eligible to play in are set out in the table below, along with the permitted football formats for each of those age groups. Children shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match between sides of more than the stated number of players, according to their age group:

N.B. This Competition plays:

- Mini Soccer at Under 7 to Under 10
- 9 v 9 Football at Under 11 to Under 12
- 11 v 11 Football at Under 13 to Under 18

(D) A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered, if applicable

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

- (E) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes.

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

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

- (i) Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being **transferred**.
- (ii) Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season, except for the purpose of a transfer.
- (iii) Submit a signed registration form or submit a registration through WGS for registration that the Player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

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

- (G) (i) The Management Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of clauses (ii) and (iii) below.
- (ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player, the exercise of such power being without prejudice to the Management Committee's ability to fine a Club at its discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) that has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 16).
- (iii) The Management Committee shall also have the power to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct, such refusal or cancellation being subject to the right of appeal to the Sanctioning Authority. Where the Management Committee does not have enough information to enable it to make a decision pursuant to the above power, it may apply, in its absolute discretion, to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA for further information.

Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition.

- (iv) For a Player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with clause (iii) but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the Player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition would be empowered to consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

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

- (H) Subject to compliance with FA Rule C2(a) when a Club wishes to register a Player who is already registered with another Club it shall submit a transfer form to the Competition **(in a format as determined by the Competition)** accompanied by a fee as set out in the Fees Tariff. Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to the Club for which the Player is registered. Should this Club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the Player concerned within 7 days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within 7 days, the Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee transfer the Player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from after receipt of such transfer. **All transfers shall be limited to two per player, per season.**

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

The Club Secretary of the present team must advise the New Club Secretary on the transfer form whether the player has played in a League Cup or Special Match (County Cup etc) prior to the date of the transfer in the current season as any player may not play for more than one team in the MHRML Cup or Special Matches (County Cup etc) within the League in any one season.

- (I) A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 28th February except by special permission of the Management

Committee. No player will be permitted a transfer between the start of the MHRML season and the 30th September.

- (J)** 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. 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(C).

- (K)** A register containing the names of all Players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the (*Registrations*) Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of any duly appointed member Club representative at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.

In the event of a Non Contract Player changing his status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition or with a Club in another Competition his registration as a Non Contract Player will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 8(B)(i).

- (L)** A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding match (as specified in Rule 12(A)) unless the Player has played 2 league games for that Team in this Competition in the current Playing Season or has been registered for that team in the League for two weeks [14 days] or has received special permission from the League Management Committee. In the case of postponed, drawn or replayed matches only those players shall be allowed to play who were eligible on the original date fixed for the completion of the fixture. **(N.B. this is a League Rule)**

- (M)** (i) Subject to Rule 8(M)(ii), any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a match or matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that match deducted from its record, up to a maximum of 12 points, and have levied upon it a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).
- (ii) The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 8(M)(i) only in circumstances where the ineligibility is due to

the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate or where the ineligibility is related to the Player's status.

- (iii) Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible player in accordance with Rule 8(M)(i) above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion:
 - (a) Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed;
 - (b) Levy penalty points against the Club in default; or
 - (c) Order that such match or matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).

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

- (N)** (i) Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities.

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

- (ii) The availability of children must be cleared with the head teachers (except for Sunday Competitions).
 - (iv) A child under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31 August in a Playing Season, shall not be permitted to play in a Competition Match during that Playing Season where any other Player is older or younger than that child by two years or more.
- (O)** A team shall not include any player who has taken part in any more senior competition matches during the current season without prior sanction of the Management Committee. For the purpose of this Competition a more senior competition shall be defined as one of a higher age group than that in which the player is registered for the Competition.
 - (P)** Prior to the commencement of each match, teams must line up in the centre of the pitch and each team member must present their registration card to the opposition Manager. Proven failure to produce cards will result in a fine (in accordance with Fines tariff) for Sunday fixtures, and the match being awarded to the opposing team. In the event of ONE or BOTH clubs being unable to produce their Registration cards the match is **NOT** to be

played. Both clubs are required to submit a written report within 24 hours to The Discipline Chairman detailing in full the circumstances for the non-production of the cards. Any individual player whose identity card is not made available will not be permitted to participate in the match.

- (Q) In the event that a manager is not satisfied that a player is the player on the identity card, the game should be played. The concerned manager should make his / her objection known to The Discipline Chairman by telephone within 24 hours and should then follow procedures set out in Rule 15.

CLUB COLOURS. CLUB NAME

9. (A) Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the General Secretary who shall decide as to their suitability.

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

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

Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents the colours in which they will play (including the colours of the goalkeeper jersey) at least 7 (Seven) days before the match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the **AWAY** Team shall make the change. Should a Team delay the scheduled time of kick-off for a Competition Match by not having a change of colours, they shall be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff). *Shirts must be numbered.*

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

PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY TIMES OF KICK-OFF. POSTPONEMENTS.

SUBSTITUTES

- 10. (A)** All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board or, for Mini-Soccer, and 9v9 football, the Rules as set down by The FA.

Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their Grounds in a playable condition. All Competition Matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee.

If through any fault of the home Team a 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.

Football Turf Pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition. All Football Turf Pitches used must be on The FA's Register of Football Turf Pitches and must be tested (by an accredited test institute) every 3 years and the results passed to The FA. The FA will give a decision on the suitability for use and add the pitch to the Register.

The home Club is also responsible for advising Participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements in accordance with Rule 10(C).

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

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

Age Group	Minimum duration of play per half (minutes)	Maximum duration of play per half (minutes)	Maximum playing time in one day in all organised development fixtures (minutes)	Maximum playing time in one day in all tournaments and trophy events / festivals (minutes)	Competition structure
Under 7 and Under 8	10	20	40	60	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 2 week periods (6 weeks)
Under 9 and Under 10	20	30	60	90	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 4 week periods (12 weeks)
Under 11	20	30	80	120	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 6 week periods (18 weeks)
Under 12	20	30	80 (if applicable)	120	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 13 and Under 14	25	35	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 15 and Under 16	25	40	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 17 and Under 18	25	45	120	180	Any varieties including one season long league table

For round robin/trophy events, the maximum duration of play per half cannot be exceeded, but the minimum duration of play per half may be adjusted.

For trophy events, the Competition may award mementos.

The times of kick-off shall be fixed by the AGM or the Management Committee, or by the home club. No match shall kick off earlier than **10.00 am** or later than **3.00 pm**, unless the Management Committee so decides, or gives express permission. Any Club failing to commence 10 [ten] minutes after the appointed time shall be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) or be otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine. Any delay exceeding 20 [twenty] minutes from the agreed kick-off time shall deem the game as a non-fulfilment and the offending team will be dealt with as appropriate.

Continuing misconduct on this point will result in the Club being requested to explain its failings to the Management Committee at a convened meeting.

Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Referee Co-Ordinator

The home Team must provide goal nets, corner flags and at least two MHRML footballs fit for play and the Referee shall make a report to the Secretary 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 and size 5 for all other age groups.

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

- (B)** Except by permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of the (*Fixtures*) Secretary.
- (i) If a team is notified that it is to play in a Parent County FA Competition fixture on the **same day** as a League or League Cup match the Club concerned shall notify the appropriate Fixture Secretary within 48 hours of receiving such notification, and the League or League Cup match may be postponed. If a Parent County FA match is postponed, the appropriate Fixture Secretary must be notified within 24 hours of that match of the re-scheduled date. A Club failing to comply with this instruction shall be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).
- (ii) Teams who play on a Saturday will no longer be asked to play if their team has a FA County Cup Competition on a Sunday of that weekend, but this must be requested in writing to the relevant Fixture Secretary, no later than 7 days before the published league match i.e. Sunday before. This only covers this competition.
- (iii) There will be no fixtures scheduled for the Christmas period Saturday and Sunday (2 weeks in total also including when Christmas falls on a weekend) There will be no fixtures (1 week only) for Easter (this includes the Saturday before & Easter Sunday only). Two '**free weeks**' will be granted to a team providing the request is received in writing by the Fixture Secretary at least 21 days before the date required

NOTE :-

- school trips/events will count against a 'free week' request
- a 'free week' request will be granted at the discretion of the Fixture Secretary
- half term fixtures are at the discretion of the Fixture Secretary

If requesting a 'free week' for school trip/event under a 7 day notice a school letter is needed showing the names of the players' that are unable to play the published fixture. A free week will only be granted under a 7 day notice for a school trip/event if the team has less than the minimum players required to play a fixture.

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

In the case of a revised fixture date, the Clubs must be given by the Competition 5 clear days' notice of the match **(i.e. by 9.00 pm the previous Monday in relation to a Saturday match and 9.00pm on Tuesday in relation to a Sunday match)** unless otherwise mutually agreed.

- (C)** An Officer of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the group and time of kick-off to the Match Officials and the Secretary or Manager of the opposing Club at least 5 (five) clear days prior to the playing of the match. (i.e. by 9.00 pm the previous Monday in relation to a Saturday match and 9.00pm on Tuesday in relation to a Sunday match). Where the away team has not received the required notice from the home team by 9pm on the Monday prior to Saturday fixture or 9 pm on the Tuesday prior to a Sunday fixture, the manager or Club Secretary shall notify the Fixture Secretary by telephone within 24 hours) If not so provided, the away Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition. The notice required in relation to midweek matches is 48 hours.

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

- (D)** The minimum number of Players that will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is as follows:

FORMAT	MINIMUM NUMBER
5 v 5	4
7 v 7	5
9 v 9	7
11 v 11	7

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

- (E)** (i) In Competitions where points are awarded home and away matches shall be played.

In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have the power to impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff), deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the 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.*

- (ii) Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a fixture has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the (Fixtures) Secretary, the Competition Referees Co-Ordinator, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials.

A team, which fails to fulfil 3 [three] or more fixtures during a Season **will be** suspended from further participation in the League until the Club concerned submits a written explanation to the Management Committee as to the reason for its non-fulfilment of its fixtures. The report should be submitted within 7 days to the Discipline Secretary in any event. Failure to do so may result in further action being taken under Rule 5[H]

- (iii) In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the (*Fixtures*) Secretary within 7 days 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. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and the Clubs involved agree, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand. Additionally, for clarity, in the event of a postponement due to unplayable pitches or adverse weather conditions, it is the responsibility of both Teams to make all efforts to play the game.

If an alternative pitch can be found or the fixture can be reversed (within 24 hours of the scheduled match) then this must occur, even if the fixture has already been reversed (this may mean that teams play both fixtures at home or away). Teams should not be stood down until both Teams have confirmed with their Fixture Secretary that an alternative pitch cannot be secured.

If either Manager refuses to play or has stood their team down, without seeking an alternative pitch, the Discipline Committee will ask for a written explanation from the Manager concerned. If the Discipline Committee finds the written explanation invalid or it is not received, they may impose a non-fulfilment fine and/or award the game to the opposing team. **(N.B. This is a League Rule)**

The reason for postponement must be recorded on the Result Card. Home Team i.e. unable to field required number of players (PRN/A) (Fixture will not necessarily be rescheduled an appeal must be submitted) Away Team i.e. unable to field required number of players (PRN/B) (Fixture will not necessarily be rescheduled an appeal must be submitted)

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

- (iv) 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. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match.
 - (v) The Management Committee shall review any match that has taken place where either or both Teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by The FA or Affiliated Association. In each case the Team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible players in accordance with Rule 8(M)(i) above. Where both Teams were under suspension the match must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.
- (F)** A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use substitute Players in any match in this Competition.

Where a Competition does allow repeat substitutes:

For Under 11s - Under 18s – up to 5 may be selected from 5 substitute Players. A Player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace any Player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

For Mini-Soccer – any number of substitutions may be used at any time with the permission of the Match Official. 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. All substitutes must be used and play a minimum of 50% of the total match play time. A Team must not have a **match day** squad greater than double the size of its Team in an age group. (See Rule 8(B)(iv)(c-d) for League maximum squad size)

In Youth Football only, the referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes before the start of the match and a Player not so named may not take part in the 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 Rule 8 of this Competition, but having shown his/her card at the start of the match, his/her name must be entered on the Result Card.

- (G) The half time interval shall be of 5 [five] minutes' duration, but it shall not exceed 15 [fifteen] minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the Match Officials.
- (H) The Teams taking part in Under 7s to Under 11 or Youth Football shall identify a Team captain who shall wear an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his/her teammates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).
- (I) The Competition shall require all players and Club officials to have signed the FA's Respect Codes of Conduct and produce these if so requested by the League Management Committee.

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

All Clubs to have 'Respect Barriers', rope and cones are acceptable, a painted line is not acceptable, and all should be placed at least 3 [three] feet from the 'Touchline' All spectators from both teams shall stand on one side of the pitch behind the 'Respect Barriers', all coaches and managers and player substitutes shall stand on the opposite side of the pitch. A fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) will be imposed on Clubs failing to observe this rule. Please see appendix from FA Guidance.

Under no circumstances is a manager, coach or spectator allowed to stand behind the goal, it is the responsibility of the **Match Delegate** to make sure this does not happen

- (J) The Management Committee reserves the right to hold Supplementary Competitions. Entry will be at the Management Committee's discretion, and any such competition will be held in accordance with the League Rules

(K) The Management Committee may for any reason instructs teams to play two short games on one day (double headers) these will only apply to published results. The times shall apply as per our rule 10 (B) iv.

- U13's and U14's 22.5 minutes each way
- U15's and U16's 25 minutes each way
- U17's and U18's 30 minutes each way

Referees fees will be paid at one and half times the normal referee fees as per Rule (E).

Home and away team to split the official's fee between them.

Age Group	Total Fee £	Home Fee £	Away Fee £
Under 13s & U14s	42.00	21.00	21.00
Under 15s & U16s	45.00	22.50	22.50
Under 17s & U18s	52.50	26.25	26.25

In addition, the Management Committee may also instruct that matches be played mid-week. Midweek matches should be played ***between teams within ten miles of each other (early evening)*** on an agreed date between the teams involved during the week instructed by the fixture secretary. Should the two teams involved not be able to agree a date the fixture Secretary will decide the day the match is to be played.

(L) No scheduled fixture shall be allowed to be played as a 'friendly'. Any Club failing to comply shall be fined and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(M) **MATCH DELEGATES**

ALL MATCHES shall have a nominated 'match delegate' by each team, each delegate shall wear a MHRML 'Match Delegate' Bib provided by the League (one per team, replacements will have to be paid for) **MUST** be introduced to the referee before 'Kick-off' and shall assist the referee where necessary i.e. keeping parents back from the touchline. Please see appendix at the back of the Rules.

Failing to supply and introduce a match delegate to the referee wearing a Bib shall result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

REPORTING RESULTS

- 11. (A)** You must complete the result card on Mitoo website for each published fixture without fail before 6pm on the following day of the scheduled game. The Referee markings required by Rule 13, or any other information required by the Competition should be completed. Failure to do so will incur a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) and/or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide. Result Cards are not required for postponed matches but notice of postponement must be e-mailed or text to your relevant fixture Secretary on the day of the match of the match by 6pm, as per Rule F (ii).

Failure to do so shall see clubs being fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

- (B)** For Clubs/teams competing in the MHRML Cup Competitions it is the home teams' responsibility to report the Result as above by 6.00pm on the day of the match to the relevant Fixture Secretary. Clubs in default shall be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).
- (C)** The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by an Officer of the Club, or as prescribed by the Competition. Failure to do so will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).
- (D)** The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect but NOT publish results or any grading tables for fixtures involving Under 7s, Under 8s, Under 9s, Under 10s, and Under 11s. Any Competition failing to abide by this Rule will be dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and any Club failing to abide by this Rule will be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff). The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect and publish results for trophy events.
- (E)** The Competition may require a Club to confirm that a set fixture has been played. A fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) may be imposed for a breach of this Rule.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

- 12. (A)** In Competitions where points are awarded, Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn 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 Team rankings may be determined by deciding match(es) played under conditions determined by the Management Committee, or the position shared.

- (B)** For deciding matches, in the event of the scores in a special championship match played under conditions determined by the management committee being level at the end of the game, extra time shall be played. If the scores are level after the period of extra time, the winners will be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the International Board Decision contained in the Laws of Association Football.

- (C)** In the event of a Team withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the Playing Season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting Team shall be expunged from the Competition table. For the purposes of this Rule 12 (D) a completed fixture shall include any Competition Match(es) which has been awarded by the Management Committee.

REFEREES

- 13. (A)** Registered referees (and assistant referees where approved by The FA or County FA) for all Competition Matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee Sanctioning Association(s).
 - (i) Referees to be allocated to fixtures by 11am on Monday before the fixtures are due to be played.
 - (ii) Clubs then have up to 9pm on Monday for Saturday fixtures and 9pm on Tuesday for Sunday fixtures to confirm the appointment with the referee in line with League Rule 10D.
 - (iii) If the Referee is not available then the Clubs are to email the Referee Co-Ordinator before 9pm on the Tuesday with the age group, venue and kick off time for their fixture.
 - (iv) The Referees Co-Ordinator will then contact all referees to find suitable replacements for the matches where the referee is unavailable, they will also update the Mitoo website.
 - (v) If no Referee can be found for the fixture by 11am on Thursday morning then responsibility to find a Referee will be passed back to Clubs in line with the League Rule 13 (B).

(B) In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a Referee or Assistant Referee in any open age competition and individuals under the age of 14 must not participate either as a Referee or Assistant Referee in any competition. Referees between the ages of 14 and 16 are only eligible to officiate in competitions where the players' age band is at least one year younger than the age of the Referee, for example. a 15 year old Referee may only officiate in competitions where the age banding is 14 or younger.

The following procedure will be adopted to reach agreement:

- (i) The Home Team should attempt to secure the services of an independent **(An independent Referee is a Non-MHRML registered Referee)** qualified Referee who is affiliated to a County FA.
- (ii) If the Home Team has been unable to secure an independent qualified referee, they should contact the manager of the Away Team no less than 48 hrs before the scheduled kick off time for the match.
- (iii) The Away Team can then have the opportunity to secure the services of an independent qualified referee who is affiliated to a County FA.
- (iv) If both Home and Away teams have been unable to secure the services of an independent qualified referee, then the Managers must agree on a qualified referee as a replacement.
- (v) The Away Team Manager will have the first opportunity to secure the services of a qualified referee and if unable the Home Team Manager will seek to secure the services of a qualified referee.
- (vi) If both Home and Away Team have been unable to secure the services of a qualified referee then both Managers must agree on a suitable replacement.
- (vii) The Away Team Manager will have the opportunity to make the first suggestion as to who be given the task of acting as the referee. If the Away Team Manager is unable to do so, then the Home Team Manager will then make a suggestion.
- (viii) The order of preference for use of Referee's is as follows:
 - 1) Referee appointed by the Fixtures Secretary/Referees Secretary
 - 2) Independent Qualified Referee who is affiliated to a County FA
 - 3) Qualified Referee who is affiliated to a County FA
 - 4) (Manager) Parent or Official of Away Team (Must be CRB checked)

5) (Manager) Parent or Official of Home Team (Must be CRB checked)

A Referee thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee. In the event of teams being unable to find a suitable substitute and the match is not played, the match will be shown as void [no points or re-scheduling] unless the Management Committee decides otherwise. In such circumstances both clubs must supply written circumstances to the Discipline Secretary within 7 days of the match.

- (C) The Management Committee may, if they consider it desirable, or upon application by the two competing Clubs, appoint Assistant Referees, if available, to any match. Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee, who must be an adult, or a qualified referee. Failure to do so will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) being imposed on the defaulting Club
- (D) The appointed referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground in all 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.*
- (E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Association, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid their fees as follows:-

Under 7	£15	Under 11	£25	Under 15	£30
Under 8	£15	Under 12	£25	Under 16	£30
Under 9	£20	Under 13	£28	Under 17	£35
Under 10	£20	Under 14	£28	Under 18	£35

- (i) Registered Referees appointed by the Management Committee, as Assistant Referees shall be paid the same fee, subject to any limits laid down by the sanctioning Association(s). Where Assistant Referees are appointed, the total cost of the fees payable to officials shall be shared equally by the participating clubs. This rule does not apply to semi-finals of MHRML Cup Competition see Rule 24 (F)

The Home Club, unless otherwise ordered by the management Committee, shall offer to pay the Officials their fees before the start of 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. Where a match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Ground, their full fee.

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

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

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

If the Referee is awarded a mark of 50 [Fifty] or less, [please see attached Appendix] the Club must submit a report to The Discipline Secretary [plus a copy] to the Referees Co-Ordinator within 7 [seven] days of the date of the match.

Failure to do so will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

- (I)** The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided by the prescribed date each Playing Season, shall submit a summary to the FA/County FA

- (J)** The Referee shall submit a report Form via email, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the match, the number of players in each team, the time of kick-off, full details of caution offences and dismissals, and any other additional disciplinary information to the Discipline Secretary within 2 [two] days of the match

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

- (L)** N/A to this Competition.

- (M)** The Referee appointed by the Referee Co-Ordinator must officiate at the match. When a Club requires a substitute Referee the Club must first contact the Referee Co-Ordinator for a replacement. In the absence of a substitute Referee Rule 13[B] applies. When a Club appoints a Referee, the nominated person's name shall be communicated to the opposition Team Manager and the Referee Co-Ordinator straightaway.

Clubs found in breach of this rule will be subject to a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

(N) In the event of the designated referee being unable to officiate at a MHRML Cup Competition the above rule 13b does not apply a replacement Referee must be sought through the Referee Co-Ordinator of the age group concerned.

{O} In the event that the appointed Referee is not used for their appointed match and the home team is proven not to have contacted the Referee, when the appointed official is available then that Club shall be liable to a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

A Club cannot arrange their own Referee without first contacting the Referee Co-Ordinator who will, where possible, re-allocate another Referee.

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

14. (A) (i) 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 General Secretary in writing by 31st March each Season or be liable to a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

(ii) All Clubs wishing to remain in membership of the Competition for the following Season must re-apply for election in to the league, in writing, to the General Secretary by **30th April** of the current season.

(iii) All Member Clubs must make formal application for the teams that they wish to enter the League for the following Season, by the time of AGM. The appropriate Entry Fees, Annual Subscription and/or Deposit must be paid to the League at the AGM. If any team is withdrawn after the date of the AGM but before the scheduled start of the playing season, then the Club will be liable for 100% of the entry fee.

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

- (C) In addition to the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 5(I), in the event of a member Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50, the Management Committee are empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.

PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS

15. (A) (i) All questions of eligibility, qualifications of Players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee.
- (ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the match.
- (B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (as set out more fully at Rule 15(A) above) (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged in duplicate with the Secretary within 7 (Seven) 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) 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 £10 in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the inquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.
- (D) All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 [seven] days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.
- (i) All parties must have received 7 [Seven] days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.

(ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then they should forward a deposit of £10 and indicate such when forwarding the written response.

(E) If so requested by all parties concerned, the Management Committee may determine any disputes, protests, appeals, claims or complaints between two Clubs in which event both Clubs shall send a non-returnable fee. Such determination shall be final and binding upon the parties concerned. The procedure for such determination shall be determined by the Management Committee.

APPEALS

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

- (i) Invite submissions by the parties involved;
- (ii) Convene a hearing to hear the appeal;
- (iii) Permit new evidence; or
- (iv) Impose deadlines as are appropriate.

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

(B) 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.

EXCLUSION OF CLUBS OR TEAMS, MISCONDUCT, CLUBS, OFFICIALS, PLAYERS

17. (A) At the AGM 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 (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot.

- (B) At the AGM, 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 whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by (more than) two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.
- (C) Any Officer or member of a Club proved guilty of either a breach of Rule, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a Player or Players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to 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 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 (2/3) of the votes cast be debarred from membership the following season.

TROPHY:- LEGAL OWNERS, CONDITIONS OF TAKING OVER, AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED. AWARDS.

18. (A) The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the Cup or Trophy:-

“We A [name] and B [name], the Chairman and Secretary of [] FC(Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of [] Cup or Trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the Cup or Trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before **31st March** each year. If the Cup or Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair.”

- (i) Competition Cup or Trophy shall be vested in the Association sanctioning the Competition as Trustees. If a Competition were 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.

- (ii) The Treasurer of the Competition shall be responsible for the insurance of all the trophies belonging to the Competition.
- (iii) No trophy can be won outright.
- (v) A Club failing to return a trophy in good condition by 1st March each year, or failing to engrave the trophy with the season and Club name shall be dealt with in accordance with the Fines Tariff, and shall be liable for the cost of restoration to the condition at the time of presentation.

Failure to comply will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

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

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- 19.** Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) 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[seven] days' notice shall be given of a meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.

Each member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all Special General Meetings.

Any continuing member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

ALTERATION TO RULES

- 20.** Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Association, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM 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 Playing Season.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM 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 **15th April** and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by **1st May**. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

FINANCE

- 21. (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 £100 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.
- (C)** The financial year of the Competition will end on 31st May.
- (D)** The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be verified annually by some suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

INSURANCE

- 22. (A)** Clubs must have valid public liability insurance cover of at least ten million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.
- (B)** All Clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Players' personal accident insurance cover must be in place prior to the Club taking part in any Competition match and shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time to time by The Association

Failure to comply with Rule 22(A) or Rule 22(B) will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

DISSOLUTION

- 23. (A)** Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a Special General Meeting by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant Special General Meeting.
- (B)** In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.
- (C)** The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:
- (i)** Any surplus assets, save for a Trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or Affiliated Association or The Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the Sanctioning Association.
 - (ii)** If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a Trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the Donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the Sanctioning Association may decide.

LEAGUE CUP

- 24. (A)** A separate competition called “The Mid Herts Rural Minors League Cup” shall be run annually. It shall be affiliated to the Herts F.A., and shall be controlled by the League Management Committee.
- (B)** The competition shall be open to all teams playing in the League [except for non-published age groups], with a Cup Competition for the Premier and First Division Teams and a Shield Competition for Second and Third Division Teams. If there are 5 Divisions second division will be split, top half of the table at the time of draw to be entered into the League Cup and the bottom half of the table to be entered into the Shield. The entrance fee for each team

shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting for the ensuing year, which shall be paid to the Treasurer of the League at the Annual General Meeting each year.

- (C)** The competition shall be held annually. There shall be one cup/one shield for the teams in each group as laid down in Rule 1[a]
- (D)** Rule 18 shall apply to the Cup Competition.
- (E)** The method of conducting the competition shall be decided annually, before the commencement of the draw for the first round. Cup Final dates will be published at the beginning of the season.

Rules 8, 9, 11 & 13 shall apply to all matches in the Competition except where alternative arrangements are made by the League Management Committee when the method of conducting the Competition is decided.

If the score in any match is level at the end of normal time, extra time shall be played in accordance with the following: -

Under 13, 14, 15 & 16	10 [ten] minutes each way
Under 17 & 18	15 [fifteen] minutes each way

If after extra time the scores are still level the game shall be decided by the taking of penalties in accordance with the Referees Chart, unless instructed otherwise by the Management Committee. Failure to do so may result in both teams being expelled from the Competition.

All finals shall be played on neutral grounds wherever possible and published dates will not be altered except where HFA County Competition takes precedence.

- (F)** The Referees Co-Ordinator shall appoint Referees, and for all semi-finals and finals assistant referees, where possible. Home team will pay the Referee and one assistant Referee in the Semi-final and the away team will pay the other assistant Referee as laid down in Rule 13(E). In the Finals Referees and assistant Referees shall be entitled to such fees as laid down in Rule 13[E] these will be paid by the MHRML League.
- (G)** The League Management Committee shall deal with any matters not covered by these rules. All decisions of the League Management Committee shall be final and binding on all parties.
- (H)** The League Cup Competition for the U14s will be known as the Mathew Blease Memorial Cup and the League Shield Competition for the Under 14s called The Kevin Huttleston

Memorial Trophy. These competitions are for Member Clubs only, and are by invitation of the Management Committee, and shall be played in accordance with this Rule [League Cup Rules].

- (I) The ORC Divisional Cup will be open to all age groups from Under 9s through to Under 18s. These Competitions are for Member Clubs only, and are by invitation of Management Committee and shall be played in accordance with (League Cup Rules).

- (J) All matters not provided for in the foregoing rules shall be governed by the rules of the MHRML.

Appendix 1

FEES TARIFF

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	FEE
3 (A)	Entry fee	£TBA at AGM
3 (B)	Annual subscription	£TBA at AGM
3 (C)	Deposit	£TBA at AGM
8 (D)	Registration form	£Nil(per Player)
8 (H)	Transfer form	£5.00
13 (E)	Referee fees	See fees table
13 (E)	Assistant referee fees	See fees table
15 (C),16	Protest/appeal fees	£35.00 (£10 Schoolboys)

Appendix 2

FINES TARIFF

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	FINE
2 (B)	Failure to Affiliate	£100.00 MAX
2 (D)	Failure to comply with FA initiatives	£100.00 MAX
2 (E)	Unauthorised entry of teams into competitions	£100.00 MAX
3 (C)	Failure to pay a deposit	£100.00 MAX
3 (E)	Failure to provide Affiliation number/details form	£100.00 MAX
4 (E)	Communications conducted by persons other than nominated Officers	£25.00
5 (H)	Failure to comply with an instruction of The Management Committee	£100.00
5 (I)	Failure to pay a fine within 14 days of notice	£100.00 MAX
6 (H)	Failure to be represented at AGM	£100.00
7	Failure to submit the required written agreement or to notify changes to signatories	£25.00
8 (A)	Failure to correctly register a player	£40.00 MAX
8 (A)(ii)	Failure to return card of a player who is suspended	£25.00
8 (B)(iii)	Failure to have the required number of registered players prior to the season commencing	£25.00 MAX
8 (F)	Signing or playing for multiple Clubs, or inaccurate completion of a Registration Form	£25.00 MAX
8 (G) (ii)	Registration Irregularities	£100.00 MAX
8(M)(i)	Playing an Ineligible Player	£100.00 MAX
8 (N)(i)	Failure to give priority to school activities	£50.00 MAX
8 (O)	Failure to produce Registration ID Cards for a Sunday Fixture.	£50.00
9 (A),10 (A)	Delaying Kick Off/No Nets/ No Corner Flags/MHRML Footballs	£30.00 MAX
9	Failure to number shirts, away team has no change of shirts, etc.	£10.00 (per shirt, with an aggregate max. of £30)
9 (B)	Failure to obtain consent for a change of Club Name	£30.00 MAX
10 (B)	Failure to play matches on the date fixed	£100.00 MAX
10 (C)	Failure to provide details of a fixture	£50.00
10 (D)	Failure to have minimum number of players that will constitute a team	£100.00 MAX
10 (E) (i) & (iii)	Failure to play fixture	£100.00 MAX
10 (J)	Failure to provide a Respect Barrier	£25.00 MAX
10 (M)	Failure to introduce a Match Delegate	£18.00 MAX
11 (A) & 11 (C)	Late team sheet	£20.00 MAX
11 (B)	Failure to provide result	£20.00 MAX
11 (D)	Failure to comply with Rule	£50.00 MAX
11 (E)	Failure to comply with Rule	£20.00 MAX
13 (C)	Failure to provide Club Assistant Referee	£25.00
13 (E)	Failure to pay Match Officials' Fees.	£25.00 MAX
13 (L)& 13(N)	Failure to provide Referees name to opposition team Mgr/ Failure to contact the Appointed Referee.	£35.00 MAX
13 (H)	Failure to provide Referee's mark	£25.00
14 (A)	Failure to comply with Rule	£100.00
14 (B)	Failure to commence or complete fixtures	£100.00 + FEES
18 (A)	Failure to comply with Rule regarding the Trophy	£100.00 + any costs
19	Failure to be represented at a Special General Meeting	£100.00
22 (A) & (B)	Failure to have the required insurance	£100.00 MAX

Appendix 3

Match Delegate

Role of the Match Delegate

Both clubs home and away, must nominate a responsible adult/member of their club to act as Match Delegate on the day of the game. This should NOT be the team manager or coach, but another adult who is at the match. The Match delegate must wear a "Match Delegate" bib with MHRML emblem on.

Responsibilities of the Match Delegate

- 1) Upon arrival at the venue, the match delegate from the home team will ask their opponents, who their match delegate is and make introductions to one another.
- 2) Together, they will then report to the match official at least 15 [fifteen] minutes before the start of the game and introduce themselves to him or her.
- 3) The primary responsibility of the home team match delegate is to look after the Referee(s) before, during and after the game until he or she leaves the ground. It would be appropriate if the home and away team delegates did the job together.
- 4) This would include, showing the Referee(s) where the changing rooms and toilets are, directing them to the correct pitch, and possibly offering them a drink at half time and after the game and ensuring that their fees are paid.
- 5) During the game, each delegate will be responsible for the behaviour of all Club Members and spectators. If the referee needs to he/she will, during a stoppage in play, approach the match delegate to assist him/her in dealing with any problems that may occur. The match delegate is not exempt from being reported for misconduct.
- 6) The FA RESPECT programme must be considered by the delegate at all times, and a report form is provided for any issues to be reported to the County FA.
- 7) The Mid Herts Rural Minors League is totally committed to equality and the County FA Equality Policy must be emphasised and observed at all times.

Appendix 4

9 v 9

MID HERTS RURAL MINOR LEAGUE 2016-2017 SEASON 9 V 9 RULES

PLAYING RULES – 9 v 9 Under 11s & Under 12s

Except where other provisions in these 'Laws' are made, the Laws of Association Football apply. Each Law is numbered to correspond with the appropriate Law of the Game.

These Laws are **mandatory** unless the Football Association grants special permission.

1. Playing Area

Follow the standard 11 v 11 Laws of the Game except:

Substitutes: Under 11s & U12s Maximum squad of 14 with repeat substitutes allowed

Playing Time: Maximum 30 [thirty] mins each way

Anything not covered above; FA Standard Code of Rules for Youth Leagues should apply

2. The MHRML Match Ball

Under 11s & Under 12s shall play all their matches with a **size 4** football.

3. Number of Players

Under 11s & U12s Maximum squad of 14 players may be signed per team

ALL PLAYERS TAKEN TO A MATCH MUST PLAY BY WAY OF ROLL ON /ROLL OFF SUBSTITUTIONS

4. Playing Equipment

A Team 'First Aid Kit' must be available at all matches.

All players are required to wear shin guards – any player without shin guards is not permitted to play.

Corner Flags must be provided.

FA RESPECT barriers must also be used alongside the pitch for each Match.

NO JEWELLERY OF ANY KIND SHOULD BE WORN BY ANY PLAYER

5. Referees

Referees shall be appointed to all competitive matches where possible. The 'HOME' team shall pay costs – the 'AWAY' team will pay costs in return matches.

6. Duration of Play

Under 11s & Under 12s shall play **30 [thirty]** minutes each half – total match length **60 [sixty]** minutes.

ALL PLAYERS TAKEN TO A MATCH MUST PLAY A MINIMUM OF 50% OF THE TOTAL MATCH TIME.

In 'CUP' matches when needed extra time shall be played, the length of time shall be as follows:-

7 [seven] minutes each half – total extra time of **14 [fourteen]** minutes.

If necessary 'Penalties' shall be taken from the penalty mark as per Referees chart.

7. Start of Play

Kick Off shall be taken at the centre of the playing area, to start each half and to re-start after a goal has been scored.

The team to take kick-off shall be decided as per FA rules.

8. Ball in/out of play

As per FA Rules

9. Methods of Scoring

As per FA Rules

10. Offside

Offside Rules apply as per 11 v 11 Laws of the game.

11. Fouls and Misconduct

As per FA Rules

12. Penalty Kicks

Penalty kicks shall be taken from regulation penalty spot.

All players (excluding the kicker & goalkeeper) must be behind the ball and at least **7 [seven]** yards away.

13. Throw Ins

Throw ins shall be taken as instructed in FA Rules.

14. Goal Kicks

Goal Kicks from the floor should be taken at any point within the penalty area.

Goal Keepers may kick the ball from their hands, providing the ball has remained in play

15. Corner Kicks

Corner Kicks should be taken within the corner 'arc'.

Players from the opposing team should be at least **7 [seven]** yds away from the ball.

REGISTRATIONS

All players must be registered in accordance with League Rule 8.

REGISTRATION CARDS MUST BE SHOWN PRIOR TO ALL MATCHES ORGANISED BY THIS LEAGUE.

A MATCH SHOULD NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL BOTH TEAMS HAVE PRODUCED CARDS NO CARD, NO PLAY, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Players that have not reached their 10th Birthday before 31st August are not permitted to play in this competition.

FIXTURES

Matches within this League shall be played on a Saturday for Under 11s who shall have fixtures arranged by the League and play for 4 [four] weeks, followed by a rest week and Sunday for Under 12s. The Under 11s & U12s shall have matches arranged by the league, but shall be competitive but non-published results.

MISCONDUCT

Team leaders are reminded of League Rule 17. The main objective of the League is to provide organised football for boys and girls, and any misconduct by Team Leaders or Spectators will **not** be tolerated.

Fines will be appropriate for the offence

REFEREE

The fee for the Referee (Rule 13) shall be paid by the '**HOME**' team unless otherwise agreed between the teams taking part.

Appendix 5

Mini Soccer

MID HERTS RURAL MINOR LEAGUE 2017/2018 SEASON MINI SOCCER RULES

Under 7s, U8s, U9s & U10s shall have matches arranged by the League, but shall be competitive but non-published results.

Under 7s will play 'friendly fixtures' [5v5] as arranged at organised festival events up to Christmas. After Christmas, 5 v 5 fixtures will be arranged by the League four 10 minute quarters per match; with only a 2 [**two**] minute break in between each quarter other formats of competition may be organized throughout the season. Teams will be playing for 2 [two] weeks followed by a rest week.

Under 8s will play 5 v 5 shall have fixtures arranged by the League four 10 minute quarters per match, with only a 2 [**two**] minute break in between each quarter other formats of competition may be organised throughout the season. Teams will be playing for 2 [two] weeks followed by a rest week.

Under 9s will play 7 v 7 shall have fixtures arranged by the League, fixtures results are collected but are not published. If the Management Committee should determine divisions maybe relined in the best interest of the Competition and development of the players. Teams will be playing for 4 [four] weeks followed by a rest week.

Under 10s will play 7 v 7 shall have fixtures arranged by the League, fixtures results are collected but are not published. If the Management Committee should determine Divisions maybe realigned in the best interest of the Competition and development of the players. Teams will be playing for 4 [four] weeks followed by a rest week.

All teams must complete Result Card on webpage by no later than 6.00 pm following the day of play. Failure to do so will result in a fine.

Players at Under 7s, Under 8s, Under 9s & Under 10's shall be registered with their Club, and not a team, therefore can be moved between team(s) each week. However, players **cannot** be moved from team to team on the day of the match.

Under 7s, Under 8s & Under 9s may take part in two trophy events each season. The winners of these events can be published and trophies can be presented.

Under 9s and Under 10s may take part in a Divisional Cup, but players will not be allowed to move between teams for these fixtures.

MATCH DELEGATES

ALL MATCHES shall have a nominated 'match delegate' by each team, each delegate shall wear a MHRML 'Match Delegate' Bib. **MUST** be introduced to the referee before 'Kick-off' and shall assist the referee where necessary i.e. keeping parents back from the touchline. Please see Appendix at the back of the Rules.

Failing to supply a match delegate wearing a Bib shall result in a fine of £18.00.

PLAYING RULES – MINI-SOCCER

Except where other provisions in these 'Laws' are made, the Laws of Association Football apply.

Each Law is numbered to correspond with the appropriate Law of the Game.

These Laws are **mandatory** unless the Football Association grants special permission.

1. Playing Area

The number of players per team including a goalkeeper shall be as follows:

Under 7s	5 players per team
Under 8s	5 players per team
Under 9s	7 players per team
Under 10s	7 players per team

A **maximum of 3 [three] substitutes for 5 a-side and a maximum 3 [three] substitutes for 7 a-side can be named for each team (i.e. only 10 players may be taken to a match for U9s & U10s) all of whom must play a minimum of 50 % of the match with the exception of U7s.**

The size of the playing area shall be within the following guidelines for Under 7s - Under 10s

Age	Format	Pitch Size Yards
Under 7	5 v 5	30*20 – 40*30
Under 8	5 v 5	30*20 – 40*30
Under 9-10	7 v 7	50*30 – 60*40

Halfway Line

The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The centre mark is indicated at the mid-point of the halfway line. This is also used as the retreat line when restarting play with a goal kick.

Technical Areas

Due to FA recommendations 'Best Practise' MHRML will be supporting this by having Technical areas for our Trophy events.

Goal Size

The distance between the posts is 12ft and the distance between the lower edge of the cross bar and the ground is 6ft.

Age	Goal Size
<i>Under 7</i>	<i>Mini Soccer</i>
<i>Under 8</i>	<i>Mini Soccer</i>
<i>Under 9 – 10</i>	<i>Mini Soccer 12*6</i>

Penalty Area

The penalty mark is on the edge of the penalty area directly opposite the centre of the goal.

WARNING

In view of a number of accidents that have occurred it is necessary to ensure that portable goals of any size are either pinned or weighted to prevent them from toppling forward.

2. The MHRML Match Ball

Under 8s and Under 9s shall play all their matches with a **size 3** football. Under 10s shall play their matches with a **size 4** football.

3. Number of Players

Under 8s Each 5 v 5 team shall be restricted to 8 players may be signed per team.

Under 9s & Under 10s Mini-Soccer (7-a-side) team shall be restricted to 12 players may be signed per team.

A **maximum** of 3 substitutes for 5 v 5 and a **maximum** of 3 for 7 v 7 all must play a minimum of 50% of the total match time.

Substitutes can be used at any time during a match, with the permission of the Referee.

A player who has been replaced may return to the playing area as a substitute for another at any time during the match.

ALL PLAYERS TAKEN TO A MATCH MUST PLAY BY WAY OF ROLL ON/ROLL OFF SUBSTITUTIONS

4. Playing Equipment

A Team 'First Aid Kit' must be available at all matches.

All players are required to wear shin guards – any player without shin guards is not permitted to play and goalkeepers must wear a distinguishing playing strip. Shin guards must be covered entirely by the socks.

Players must wear the appropriate clothing dependent on the weather. Correct footwear must be work for the surface of the pitch e.g. no metal studs on artificial grass pitches.

Corner Flags must be provided.

FA RESPECT barriers must also be used alongside the pitch for each Match.

NO JEWELLERY OF ANY KIND SHOULD BE WORN BY ANY PLAYER

5. Referees

Referees shall be appointed to all competitive matches where possible. The '**HOME**' team shall pay costs – the '**AWAY**' team will pay costs in return matches.

The Referee has full authority to enforce the Laws for Mini-Soccer in connection with the match to which they have been appointed.

6. Timekeeper / Scorer

An independent timekeeper / scorer may be appointed to assist the referee, where necessary. This official shall:

- (a) - Record the goals scored
- (b) - Act as timekeeper and signify half-time and full-time by an agreed signal

- (c) - Suspend time on the referee's instructions for all stoppages, and add time to the end of each half
- (d) - Supervise the use of substitutes as permitted by the Rules of the Competition

7. Duration of the Game

Under 8s shall play to the following times: -

Under 8s shall play four 10 minute quarters, with a break of 2 minutes maximum between quarters – total match length 40 minutes.

Under 9s and 10s shall play to the following times: -

25 [twenty-five] minutes each half – total match length of **50 [fifty]** minutes.

In 'CUP' matches when needed extra time shall be played, the length of time shall be as follows: -

5 [five] minutes each half – total extra time of **10 [ten]** minutes.

If necessary 'Penalties' shall be **3 [three]**, then sudden death.

Under 7s & Under 8s - No Player shall play more than 40 [forty] minutes in one day.

Under 9s & Under 10s - No Player shall play more than 60 [sixty] minutes in one day.

8. Start of Play

Kick Off shall be taken at the centre of the playing area, to start each half and to re-start after a goal has been scored.

Opponents must be 5 [five] yards away from the ball and in their own half of the field. The ball must be played forward. In Mini-Soccer a goal cannot be scored directly from a start or restart of play.

Special Circumstances

A dropped ball to restart the match, after play has been temporarily stopped inside the penalty area, takes place on the penalty area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when the play stopped. No goal can be scored direct from a dropped.

9. Ball in / out of play

As per FA Rules

10. Methods of Scoring

As per FA Rules

11. Offside

There shall be NO offside in Mini - Soccer football.

12. Fouls and Misconduct

As per FA Rules

Under 8 'Goalkeepers' may pick up a pass back – i.e. NO pass back rule.

'Goalkeepers' at Under 9 and Under 10 **cannot** pick up a back pass, in doing so a **Direct Free Kick on the edge of the area, directly in line where ball was picked up**, should be awarded.

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

However, in Mini-Soccer all free kicks are direct.

A free kick is awarded to the opposing team if the goalkeeper:

- Takes more than 6 **[six]** seconds to release the ball from his/her hands
- Touches the ball again with his/her hands after it has been released from his/her possession and has not touched any other player
- Touches the ball with his/her hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him/her by a team mate
- Touches the ball with his/her hands after he/she has received it directly from a throw in taken by a team mate

For all these offences, the free kick should be taken from the penalty area line, parallel with the goal line, at the nearest point to the offence.

13. Free Kicks

For all free kicks opponents must be 5 **[five]** yards from the ball.

14. Penalty Kicks

Penalty kicks shall be taken from a mark at the edge of the penalty area directly opposite the centre of the goal.

All players (excluding the kicker & goalkeeper) must be behind the ball and at least 5 **[five]** yards away.

15. Throw-in

Throw ins shall be taken as instructed in FA Rules.

U7 and U8 children are permitted to roll the ball underarm with one or both hands into the field of play.

The role of the referee is to also allow young players to learn the game. This may involve letting players take throw-ins again, if incorrect technique is used. The referee should ensure the same player attempts a second time, with guidance and help from the match official.

16. Goal Kicks

Goal Kicks from the floor should be taken at any point within the penalty area.

Goal Keepers may kick the ball from their hands, providing the ball has remained in play

Opponents must retreat to their own half until the ball is in play. The defending team does not have to wait for the opposition to retreat and has the option to restart the game before should they choose to. The ball is in play when it is kicked directly out the penalty area.

17. Corner Kicks

Corner Kicks should be taken within the corner 'arc'.

Players from the opposing team should be at least 5yds away from the ball. The kicker may not touch the ball again until it has touched another player. If he/she does, a free kick is awarded against them. The ball is in play immediately when it enters the field of play.

SMALL SIDED MATCHES

In this League for 2017–2018 small sided matches will be open to boys and girls.

The age qualification is set out in Rule 8(B).

REGISTRATIONS

All players must be registered in accordance with League Rule 8.

REGISTRATION CARDS MUST BE SHOWN PRIOR TO ALL MATCHES ORGANISED BY THIS LEAGUE.

A MATCH SHOULD NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL BOTH TEAMS HAVE PRODUCED CARDS, NO CARD, NO PLAY, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Players that have not reached their 6th Birthday before 31st August are not permitted to play in this competition.

FIXTURES

The 'Mini Soccer Co-Ordinator' on a monthly basis will issue fixtures on a monthly basis.

All Mini- Soccer matches within this League shall be played on a Saturday.

Appendix 6

Referees

REFEREES GUIDE TO MARKING

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

Mark Range Comment

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

Notes

- A scale of up to 100 allows greater flexibility for clubs to distinguish between different refereeing performances more accurately.
- A mark within each mark range can be given to reflect the referee's performance e.g. a mark of 79 indicates a somewhat better performance than a mark of 71.
- A mark between 71 and 80 represents the standard of refereeing expected.
- When a mark of 50 or less is awarded, an explanation must be provided to the League or Competition by completing the appropriate box on the marking form. It must include comments which could help improve the referee's future performances. Even where a referee

has significant shortcomings there will have been some positive aspects which should be given credit; extremely low marks (**below 20**) should be very rare.

REFEREES

HOW TO DECIDE ON THE REFEREE'S MARK

The following questions focus on the key areas of a referee's performance. They are intended as an "aide memoire", are not necessarily comprehensive and need not be answered individually. It is, however, worth considering them before committing yourself to a mark for the referee.

CONTROL AND DECISION MAKING

- How well did the Referee control the game?
- Were the players' actions recognized correctly?
- Were the Laws applied correctly?
- Were all incidents dealt with efficiently/effectively?
- Were all the appropriate sanctions applied correctly?
- Was the Referee always within reasonable distance of incidents?
- Was the Referee well positioned to make critical decisions, especially in and around the penalty area?
- Did the Referee understand the players' positional intentions and keep out of the way accordingly?
- Did the Referee demonstrate alertness and concentration throughout the game?
- Did the Referee apply the use of the advantage to suit the mood and temperature of the game?
- Was the Referee aware of the players' attitude to advantage?
- Did the Referee use the assistants effectively?
- Did the officials work as a team, and did the Referee lead and manage them to the benefit of the game?

COMMUNICATION AND PLAYER MANAGEMENT

- How well did the Referee communicate with the players during the game?
- Did the Referee's level of involvement/profile suit this particular game?

- Did the Referee understand the players' problems on the day – e.g. difficult ground/weather conditions?
- Did the Referee respond to the changing pattern of play/mood of players?
- Did the Referee demonstrate empathy for the game, allowing it to develop in accordance with the tempo of the game?
- Was the Referee pro-active in controlling of the game?
- Was the Referee's authority asserted firmly without being officious?
- Was the Referee confident and quick thinking?
- Did the Referee appear unflustered and unhurried when making critical decisions?
- Did the Referee permit undue questioning of decisions?
- Did the Referee deal effectively with players crowding around after decisions/incidents?
- Was effective player management in evidence?
- Was the Referee's body language confident and open at all times?
- Did the pace of the game, the crowd or player pressure affect the Referee negatively?

FINAL THOUGHTS

- Always try to be objective when marking. You may not obtain the most objective view by marking immediately after the game.
- Judge the performance over the whole game. Don't be too influenced by one particular incident.
- Don't mark the Referee down unfairly because your team was unlucky and lost the game or some disciplinary action was taken against your players.