

THUNDERMITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

RULES

NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

(1)

(A) This Competition shall be designated the Thundermite Football League including the Thundermite Girls League, and shall consist of not more than 200 clubs who shall be Full Member Clubs and not more than 50 Clubs who shall be Associate Member Clubs.

All such Member Clubs must be affiliated to a County Football Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on the form "D" to the Essex County Football Association.

The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be the County of Essex and all Member Clubs must have grounds or headquarters in the County of Essex.

The Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Essex County Football Association and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions as decided by the Management Committee.

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

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

(B) At the Annual General Meeting 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.

(2)

(A) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of any additional team(s) must be made in writing to the Secretary and must be accompanied by an entry deposit of £20 per 11-a-side or 9-a-side team and £10 per 7-a-side team, which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

At the discretion of the majority of the accredited voting members present applications of which due notice has been given, may be received at the Annual General Meeting. The entry fee shall apply.

When Rule 12b is applied and a Team seeks a transfer or is compulsorily transferred to another division no entry fee shall apply.

(B) The annual subscriptions per team will be confirmed when inviting Members and Designate Members to the Annual General Meeting for both eleven a side teams and mini soccer teams payable on or before the 1st July in each year.

(C) Each Club shall within fourteen days of election pay a deposit of ten pounds, which shall be returnable to Clubs on leaving the Competition provided they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all orders of the Management Committee.

(D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the Annual Subscription has been paid; this must be paid within twenty-eight days of election at the Annual General Meeting.

(E) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by the 1st July of its Essex County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming season, failing which they shall be fined £10.00. Clubs must advise to the Secretary in writing on the prescribed form, details of its Headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the competition.

OFFICERS

(3)

The Officers of this Competition shall be the President, Vice Presidents, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, Registration Secretary, Referee Secretary, Match card Secretary, Welfare Officer, Girls Development Officer and Hon. Press Officer to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting (N.B Auditors are not officers).

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTIONS

(4)

(A) The Competition shall be governed in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Football Association, by a Management Committee comprised of the Officers and Six Committee Members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. All participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The Association from time to time.

(B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination.

All other candidates for election as Officers or Members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing signed by the Secretaries of Two Member Clubs not later than 16th May in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting

(C) The Management Committee meet monthly to deal with the business as it arises. On receiving a requisition signed by two thirds of the members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Committee.

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

(E) All communications received through clubs must be conducted through their nominated officers

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

(5)

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

(B) Subject to the permission of the Essex County Football Association, having being obtained by the Management Committee may order matches to be played each season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each club (including any club that may have withdrawn during the season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the season. (See Rule 6 (e))

(C) Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote on all Management Committee meetings and have one vote thereat, but no Member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such Member or to the Club so represented.

(This shall apply to the procedure of any Sub Committee.)

In the event of voting being equal on any matter the Chairman shall have the second or casting vote.

(D) The Management Committee shall have the powers to apply, and act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition, including any not provided for the rules, except where these rules provide for the imposition of a set penalty any Club, Official (limited to Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer) or Player alleged to be in breach of a Competition rule must be formally charged in writing and given the opportunity to present their case before the Management Committee. Financial penalties can only be imposed if included within the set penalties for breaches of Competition Rules. All breaches of the Laws of the Game, Rules and Regulations of The Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance with F.A. Rules by the appropriate Association.

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

Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within twenty-one (21) days.

(F) Five members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the Management Committee and Three Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any sub committee of the competition.

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

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

(I) All fines and charges shall be paid within fourteen (14) days of posting of the written notification.

Clubs, Officials or Individuals committing a breach of this rule shall be liable to such penalties as the Management Committee may impose.

(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 Management of the Competition between the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Competition Season.

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

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(6)

(A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held no later than 30th June in each year, at this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least two thirds of the Members are present and entitled to vote.

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

(B) A copy of the duly Audited Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting and to Essex County Football Association.

(C) A signed copy of the duly Audited Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Essex County Football Association within fourteen (14) days of its adoption by the Annual General Meeting.

(D) Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an Annual General Meeting; each Club shall be entitled to one vote only; not less than fourteen (14) days notice shall be given of any meeting.

Associate Member Clubs may be represented at an Annual General Meeting in the proportion of one representative for each six or part of six Associate Member Clubs and such representatives shall exercise the powers and rights of full Members at such meetings.

(E) Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the season being concluded or who are not continuing membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the season being concluded. *This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 17.*

(F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot is demanded by at least one third of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.

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

(H) Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £50.00.

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

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

(7)

The Chairman and the Secretary of each Club shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the Competition together with application for membership for the coming season, or upon indicating that the clubs intend to complete. "We A of(Chairman) and B of (Secretary) of the Football Club shall have provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Thundermite Football Leagues Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Clubs, if elected or accepted into membership, to conform to those rules and regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16.

Any alteration of the Chairman or Secretary on the above agreement must be notified to the Essex County Football Association to which the club is affiliated and to the Secretary of the Competition.

(Note the spaces above are intended for the inclusion of the signatures of Officers and Members.)

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

(8)

(A) Contract Players, as defined in the Football Association rules are not permitted in this Competition.

No Player registered with a F.A Premier League or Football League Academy will be permitted to play in this Competition. A Player registered with a Centre of Excellence may only play in this Competition subject to the Regulations of the Programme for Excellence.

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

- (i) Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink countersigned by his/her parent or guardian and a Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the Registration Secretary seven (7) days prior to playing, and whose completed registration counterfoil has been received by the club prior to playing. *The club 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.*

New Players Please note - A player's age is required for registration purposes the 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.

Players who have previously registered should enter their league number in the appropriate place.

AGE GROUPS – 2009/10

7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Age
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			S/Y
03	02	01	00	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	Jan
03	02	01	00	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	Feb
03	02	01	00	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	Mar
03	02	01	00	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	Apr
03	02	01	00	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	May
03	02	01	00	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	Jun
03	02	01	00	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	Jul
03	02	01	00	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	Aug
02	01	00	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	91	Sep
02	01	00	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	91	Oct
02	01	00	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	91	Nov
02	01	00	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	91	Dec

S/Y – Is there as a guide only. Where there is a dispute, the year/month applies.

QUALIFICATION DATES FOR THE COMPETITION ARE AS FOLLOWS

Mixed Football may be played in the age groups up to, and including Under Elevens only.

MINI SOCCER

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

Under 7s the player must have achieved the age of 6 on or before 31st August but must be under the age of 7 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season. (School year 2)

Under 8s the player must have attained the age of seven as at midnight of the 31st August in the playing season. (School year 3)

Under 9s the player must have achieved the age of 8 on or before 31st August but the player must be under the age of 9 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season. (School year 4)

Under 10s the player must have attained the age of 10 as at midnight of the 31st August in the playing season. (School year 5)

A player in the above age ranges must not play in a match where any other player is older or younger by two years or more. **i.e. One age group.**
U 7s may play up in U 8s.

U8s can not play in U9s. To conform to rule 8 (B) above
U9's may play up in U10's

A player in the below age ranges must not play in a match where any other player is older or younger by two years or more. Players are therefore only eligible to play up or down one age group. Subject to meeting normal eligibility criteria

Players who qualify for mini soccer may not play in the youth football section.

YOUTH FOOTBALL

Under 11s the player must have attained the **age of ten** but must be under the age of eleven by midnight 31st August in the playing season. (School year 6)

Under 12s the player must be under the age of twelve as at midnight of 31st August in the playing season. (School year 7)

Under 13s the player must be under the age of thirteen as at midnight of 31st August in the playing season. (School year 8)

Under 14s the player must be under the age of fourteen as at midnight of 31st August in the playing season. (School year 9)

Under 15s the player must be under the age of fifteen as at midnight of 31st August in the playing season. (School year 10)

Under 16s the player must be under the age of sixteen as at midnight of 31st August in the playing season. (School year 11)

Under 17s the player must be under the age of seventeen as at midnight of 31st August in the playing season.

Under 18s the player must be under the age of eighteen as at midnight of 31st August in the playing season.
(Where School years are quoted they are a guide, The date of birth is the overriding factor.)

A player under the age of fifteen as at midnight on the 31st August in the playing season must not play in a match where any other player is older or younger by two years or more.

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

8 B(iii) ALL PLAYERS REGISTRATIONS ARE DEALT WITH BY POST AND CLUBS
MUST ENCLOSE A SUITABLE STAMPED ADDRESS ENVELOPE FOR RETURN
OF DOCUMENTS.

(C) Not used

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

(E) There is no limit to the amount of players a club may sign but clubs will pay **£2** each for registration forms required above 16 players.

(F) The Management Committee shall decide on all registration disputes.

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

(G) It shall be deemed misconduct for the player to:-

- (i) Play for more than one club in the competition in the same season without first being transferred.
- (ii) Having signed for one club in the competition, sign for another club in the competition in that season except for the purpose of a transfer.
- (iii) Submit a signed registration form for registrations that the player has wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

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

- (ii) The Management Committee shall have the power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player proved guilty of registration irregularities (subject to rule 16).

Reference rule 5 (L)

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

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

((Note: Action under Clause (iii) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any case be subject to an Appeal to the Football Association.) For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the competition into disrepute can only be considered where the player has received in excess of 112 days' suspension, or 10 matches in match based discipline, in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.

- (I) (i) Subject to the Football Association rules dealing with players without a written contract when a player desires a transfer, the club the player wishes to transfer to shall submit a transfer form to the Registration Secretary accompanied by a fee of **£5.00**, and the registration card from the players last club. Such transfer shall be referred by the Registration Secretary to the club for which the player is registered. Should the club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Registration Secretary and to the player concerned within seven days of receipt of the transfer form, upon receipt of the clubs consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within seven days the Registration Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new club from ten (10) days after receipt of such transfer.

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

(J) A player may not be registered for a club nor transferred to another club in the competition after 1st March except by special permission of the Management Committee.

(K) A club shall keep a list of the players it registers and a record of the games in which they have played, and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee.

In the event a Club has more than one team in an age group, each team must be clearly designated "A" and "B" etc. In such cases, players will be registered for one team only. A player so registered will be allowed to play for his Club in a younger or older age group within

the provisions of Rule 8 (B).

(L) A register containing the names of all players registered for each club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Registration Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of any duly appointed member club representative at all management committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one Season only.

(M) A player shall not be eligible to play for a team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding matches (as specified in Rule 12a) unless the player has played (FOUR) games for that team in this competition in the current season.

(N) A player who has played for a team in the premier division (FOUR) times or more shall not in that season be eligible to play in a lower division except by permission of the Management Committee.

- (O)(i) Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players shall have points gained in the match deducted from its total and may be fined or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee
- (ii) In addition teams may have the points gained deducted from its total at the discretion of the Management Committee and may be dealt with in any further manner, which is thought to be fit.
- (iii) The Management Committee may, at its discretion, award the points available in the match in question to the opponents, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.
- (iv) All teams must have a minimum of seven players registered **Fourteen (14)** days prior to the declared start of the season, failure will incur a fine of £10.00. Six players in respect of mini sides. A Full team (11, 9 or 7 as applicable) registered **Seven (7)** days prior to the declared start of the season, (September 20th 2009) failure will incur a fine of £20.00. Fixtures will be subject to rule 10f.
- (v) Clubs fielding more than one team in the same age group are to register players in each team separately; players so registered will not be considered interchangeable and will otherwise be subject to transfer procedure. As per Rule 8K

Players who leave your club, must be de-registered within Fourteen days.

(vi) With the exception of u17 & u18, Clubs may not field any player who has played for another Club or Team, if so by doing the player plays twice in any particular day any Club infringing this rule will be dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee and the registration of the Player suspended.

- (P) (i) Priority must be given at all times to school and school organizations activities.
- (ii) The availability of children must be cleared with the head teachers (except for Sunday Leagues).
- (iii) Children under 15 shall not play in a team involving players who are more than 2 years older. **i.e. One age group.**

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

CLUB COLOURS, CLUB NAME

(9)

(A) Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by the Annual General Meeting who shall decide on their suitability.

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

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

Any team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify the colours in which they will play to its opponents at least five (5) days before the match.

If in the opinion of the Referee the two Clubs have the same or similar colours the away team shall make the change, any team not having a change of colours or delaying the kick off by not having a change shall be fined £10.00.

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

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

PLAYING SEASON, CONDITION OF PLAY **TIMES OF KICK OFF, POSTPONEMENTS,** **SUBSTITUTIONS**

(10)

(A) The Annual General Meeting shall determine the commencement and concluding dates for the ensuing season which shall be in accordance with Football Association rules, no club shall be compelled to play after the concluding date, original fixtures arranged by the competition, or at a meeting specially convened for that purpose. to be held no later than 14th September, must not be arranged for a date later than seven days proceeding the concluding date determined by the Annual General Meeting.

If mutually arranged at a meeting a list of fixtures must be forwarded to the Hon. Secretary within seven days of the meeting. Fixtures are deemed to be accepted unless objections are received by the Hon. Secretary within fourteen days of their issue.

Any club failing to be represented at a fixture meeting or otherwise infringing this rule shall be liable for a fine of £30.00 and the Management Committee shall arrange the clubs fixtures.

(B) All matches shall be played in accordance with the laws of the game as determined by the International Football Association Board or, for Mini Soccer the laws of Mini Soccer as set down by Football Association.

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

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

All matches shall have a duration of:-

MINI SOCCER The duration of play shall be as follows: 15 minutes each way for under 7 and 8 age groups and 20 minutes each way for under 9 and under 10s.

FOR YOUTH FOOTBALL The duration of play shall be as follows unless it is mutually agreed by all parties to reduce the time if necessary due to weather conditions for example,

under 11s & 12s 30 minutes each way, under 13s & 14s 35 minutes each way, under 15s & 16s 40 minutes each way, under 17s & 18s 45 minutes each way.

FOR GIRLS FOOTBALL The duration of play shall be as follows unless it is mutually agreed by all parties to reduce the time if necessary due to weather conditions for example, under 11s & 12s 30 minutes each way and under 13s & 14s 35 minutes each way

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

No player under the age of 17 as at midnight on 31st August in any season shall be permitted to play more than one game or, in the event the competition allows the playing of a double header, 100 minutes per day in this competition. **This competition does not allow double headers below U17 level.**

Registration cards with photographs and a completed Match card are to be carried and must be exchanged with the opposing team prior to kick off and held the duration of all games played under the jurisdiction of the League and produced on demand to any League Official. Failure to observe this procedure or to produce the registration cards at the time of request shall render the Clubs liable to a fine of £10 and to such other action as may be decided by the Management Committee.

If a player does not have a registration card they may not participate in the match.

Only players named on the match card at the beginning of the match can participate in the game.

If a team is not able to provide registration cards, the match must not proceed. A 10 f charge will be lodged and decision decided by management committee.

The kick off times shall be fixed by the A.G.M, or Management Committee, any club failing to commence at the appointed time shall be fined a sum not exceeding £5.00 or otherwise be dealt with as the Management Committee determine.

Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition.

The home team must provide at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. Goal Nets must be used.

THE SIZE OF FOOTBALL TO BE USED ARE AS FOLLOWS

MINI SOCCER Under 7s and 8s size 3, under 9s and 10s size 4

YOUTH FOOTBALL Under 11s,12s,13s and 14s size 4, under 15s,16s,17s and 18s size 5

GIRLS FOOTBALL Under 11s,12s,13's & 14s Size 4

(C) Except by permission of the Management Committee all matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The Football Association and all relevant County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of the Divisional Representative, clubs may enter one cup-competition in addition to the league cup, entry to which is automatic.

(D) The Secretary of the home club must give notice in writing of the full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick off to the match officials and the Secretary of the opposing club, at least five clear days prior to the playing of the match. The away club shall seek and acknowledge receipt of such particulars.

Any club failing to adhere to this rule shall be liable of a fine of £10.00.

(E) Every club shall play its best-qualified team or teams in all matches in the competition. (Note the intention of this rule is not to interfere with normal team selection by Clubs, but to prevent Clubs deliberately fielding a weakened team in order to unreasonably reserve players for another game or to boost the strength of another or lower team).

If the Management Committee feel that the substance or spirit of the rule is obviously being disregarded the club or clubs concerned may be called to account for their actions and shall be subject to such decisions as the Management Committee may determine despite the fact that rule eight (8) has not been infringed.

In the event of any club playing in any match with less than eleven players they shall be fined £1.00 for each missing player, a minimum of seven players (six in the case of teams playing under mini-rules) will constitute a team for a competition match.

(F) Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a club failing to keep its engagement the Management shall have the power to inflict a fine, deduct points from the defaulting club, award points 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 provisions, the Management Committee shall have the power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponents ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

Any Club seeking a postponement of a fixture or who wish to be released on a specific date must make a WRITTEN APPLICATION via their nominated officer to the Hon. Secretary of the League at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the date in question. Any postponement of less than 28 days will be dealt with by the Management Committee under rule 10f (failing to keep an engagement). Only One (1) use of this rule per season.

Any club unable to fulfil a fixture must, without delay, give notice to their Divisional Rep, the Competition Referees Appointments Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the match officials. Any Club failing to comply shall be dealt with by the Management Committee who may inflict any penalty it may deem suitable.

In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither club has control, it shall be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Divisional Rep concerned with seven (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.

Any games played outside a Sunday, must be requested in writing by both Clubs prior to the designated fixture. This should be accompanied by a reason for the alteration. (This change will allow games to be charged when not fulfilled)

The Management Committee shall review all matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one team or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to *award the points for the match to the opponent*. In cases where a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule all points for the match as void. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match.

(G) U11's to U16's (boys) : - A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use 5 substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from 5 players .

Girls 9 aside only - A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game

use 5 substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from 5 players.

U17's & U18's (boys): - A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use 3 substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from 5 players .

For Mini-Soccer – any number of substitutions may be used at any time with the permission of the Referee. Entry onto the field of play will only be allowed during a stoppage in play. A player who has been replaced may return to the play as a substitute for another player. A Team must not have a squad greater than double the size of its team in an age group.

For Youth & Girls Football – for teams in the under 16 age group and below, a player who has been substituted himself becomes a substitute and may replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

The Referee must be informed prior to the game commencing of how many substitutes are available. This applies to age groups u11 to u16 inclusive. At under 17/18 level it is necessary under F.A law for substitutes to be named.

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

(H) The half time interval shall be of 15 minutes duration, but it shall not exceed fifteen minutes The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

REPORTING RESULTS

(11)

(A) The Divisional Rep must receive within four days of the date played, the result of each Competition match in the prescribed manner, this must include the initial(s) and surname of the team players (in block capitals) and also the referee marking required by Rule 13 or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £5.00 and/or the Club being dealt with as Management Committee decides.

(B) The Home Club shall telephone the result of each match to their Divisional Rep by the instructed time as indicated by the Divisional Rep. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £10.

(C) The match result notification correctly completed shall be signed by a responsible member of the Club. The Management Committee shall have the power to take such action as they deem suitable against a Club which submits an incomplete form or incorrect information. (Correction fluid must not be used).

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

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIPS

(12)

(A) Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three (3) points to be awarded for a win and one (1) point for a drawn match. The team gaining the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the conclusion shall be adjudged the winners. Matches must not be played for double points. In Mini Soccer points can only be awarded for

Under 9 Competitions, onwards.

In the event of two or more teams being equal on points team rankings will be decided by a deciding match, conditions decided by the Management Committee. A date will be set to facilitate this arrangement, at the start of the season.

NOTE: - 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 will be played in two equal periods as by the times allowed for each age group by the F.A. If the scores are still level at the end 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 football.

(C) In the event of a team not completing seventy-five (75%) of its fixtures for the season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting teams shall be expunged from the competition table. (This includes all games that have been awarded under rule 10f).

REFEREES

(13)

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

(B) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed Referee ,or where the competition has been unable to appoint a Referee, the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee. A Referee thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee..The Referee must be at **least Fourteen** years old.

(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. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £5.00 being imposed on the defaulting team.

(D) The Appointed Referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and the decision shall be final.

(E) Assistant Referees when appointed are entitled to charge a match fee of £13. Match Officials appointed under this rule shall be entitled to charge the following.

Under 7s & 8s	£10.00	Under 16s,17s,& 18s	£25.00
Under 9s & 10s	£12.00	Girls 11s & 12s	£15.00
Under 11s,12 & 13s	£18.00	Girls 13 & 14s & 15s	£18.00
Under 14, & 15	£20.00	Assistant Referees	£13.00

Match Officials appointed under this rule will not be entitled to claim expenses.

The Home Club shall pay the Officials before the game commences. Fees for Cup Matches and Pennant Comp. should be equally defrayed between the two competing teams.

(F) In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control Match Officials if present shall be entitled to half fee only. Where a match is not played owing to one Club being in default that Club shall be ordered to pay the Officials, if they attend the ground, their full fee.

(G) A Referee not keeping his/her engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to his/her non appearance, and the fact reported to the Association with which he/she is registered.

(H) *Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The Football Association, award marks to the Referee for each match and the name of the Referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed Form provided.*

Any Official marked Fifty (50) or under on a match card, Clubs must provide a Report Sheet. Clubs failing to comply with this rule shall be liable to be fined or dealt with, as the Management Committee shall determine.

The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the Form provided by the prescribed date each season, shall submit a summary to The Football Association/County Football Association

(J) *The Referee shall submit a report Form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the match, the number of players in each team and the time of kick-off to the (Registration) Secretary within two days of the match.*

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

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

(14)

(A) After the 31st December in the current season a Club intending to withdraw a team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the Secretary in writing by 31st March each season or be liable to a fine not exceeding £20.00.

All Clubs wishing to remain in Membership of the Competition for the following season must confirm their intention to do so in writing to the Secretary by the 1st May.

(B) A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its teams from the Competition after the Annual General Meeting. Any Club infringing this rule shall be liable to a fine of £25.00 per team and shall also be liable for its share of any call which may be made under rule 5(B).

(C) The Membership for the coming season having being decided at the AGM, the League shall have the right, irrespective of other provisions in this rule, to refuse to permit a Club to withdraw its team(s) in order to join another Competition and may hold the Club to its engagements.

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

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

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.

(ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag post or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless the protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match. Any Club lodging such protest and not proceeding with it shall be deemed guilty of a breach of this rule and shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.

(B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged in duplicate with the League Secretary within three 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 a club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of the club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

(C) Any dispute occurring between Clubs in the Competition shall be refereed for determination by the Management Committee whose decisions shall be binding on all parties subject to rule 16.

(D) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum of £10.00. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case, the Competition shall have the power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the enquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

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

BOARD OF APPEAL

(16)

Within fourteen (14) days of the posting of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee or the Competition a Club Official or Player against whom action is taken may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars in duplicate with the Secretary of the Essex County Football Association including a fee of £35.00 for adjudication of a Board of Appeal, the grounds of appeal shall be in accordance with F.A. rules, the Board of Appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited and shall decide by whom the cost of appeal shall be borne. The decision of the board of appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned.

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

EXCLUSION OF CLUBS OR TEAMS

MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS OFFICIALS OR PLAYERS

(17)

((A) At the Annual General Meeting, or Special General Meeting called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, Notice of Motion having been duly circulated on the Agenda, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude any Club or Team from further membership which must be supported by (more than) two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot..

(B) At the Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any *Club or team of a Club* whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by (more than) two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

(C) Any Official or Member of a Club proved guilty of either a breach of rule, other than field offences or of inducing or attempting to induce a player or players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to expulsion or such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provision of clauses (A) and (B) of this rule.

(D) *Any Club or Team failing to complete 75% of its fixtures in any season shall (unless the conditions are beyond their control, or the accredited delegates present at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting decide otherwise by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast) be debarred from membership the following season.*

TROPHY; - LEGAL OWNERS CONDITIONS OF TAKING OVER AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED AWARDS

(18)

(A) If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the Donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the sanctioning Association may decide

(B) The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the cup or trophy together with a £10.00 deposit within three days of the issue of such cups or trophies;

"We A _____ and B _____ the Chairman and Secretary of _____ F.C., members of and representing the club, and having been declared winners/runners up of _____ cup or trophy, and it have 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 1st March or forfeit their deposit. If the cup or trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair.

(C) At the close of each Competition awards may 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 of the clubs in membership the Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting.

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

At least seven days notice shall be given to any meeting under this rule together with an

agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.
Each full member club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all Special General Meetings; each club shall be entitled to one vote only, not less than seven days notice shall be given of any meeting.

Any continuing member club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason shall be fined £25.00.

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

All amendment of Rules can only be implemented once approved by the appropriate sanctioning authority.

ALTERATION TO RULES

(20)

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

Notice of any proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary by the 14th May in each year. The proposals together with any proposals by Management Committee, shall be circulated to the clubs with notice of the Annual General Meeting at least seven days before the date of the meeting. A proposal to change a rule shall be carried if two thirds of those present and are entitled to vote are in favour.

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

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

RULES BINDING ON CLUBS

(21)

Each member club shall be deemed to have given its assent to the foregoing rules and agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee subject to rule 16. Each member club must abide by any issued Football Association code of conduct.

FINANCE

(22)

(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 £100.00 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 each season.

(D) The books or a certified Balance Sheet of a competition shall be prepared and shall be audited annually by some suitable person(s) who shall be appointed at the Annual General

Meeting.

CHILD PROTECTION

1. Any act, statement, conduct or other matter which harms a child or children, or poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children, shall constitute behaviour which is improper and brings the game into disrepute.
2. In these Regulations the expression "Offence" shall mean any one or more of the offences contained in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and any other criminal offence which reasonably causes The Association to believe that the person accused of the offence poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children.
3. Upon receipt by The Association of:
 - 3.1 notification that an individual has been charged with an Offence; or
 - 3.2 notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the Police, Social Services or any other authority relating to an Offence; or
 - 3.3 any other information which causes The Association reasonably to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children then
The Association shall have the power to order that the individual be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
4. In reaching its determination as to whether an order under Regulation 3 should be made The Association shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:
 - 4.1 Whether a child is or children are or may be at risk of harm;
 - 4.2 Whether the matters are of a serious nature;
 - 4.3 Whether an order is necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by The Association or any other authority or body to proceed unimpeded.
5. The period of an order referred to in 3 above shall not be capable of lasting beyond the date upon which any charge under the Rules of The Association or any Offence is decided or brought to an end.
6. Where an order is imposed on an individual under regulation 3 above, The Association shall bring and conclude any proceedings under the Rules of The Association against the person relating to the matters as soon as reasonably practicable.
7. Where a person is convicted, or is made the subject of a caution in respect of an Offence, that shall constitute a breach of the Rules of The Association and The Association shall have the power to order the suspension of the person from all or any specific football activity for such a period (including indefinitely) and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
8. For the purposes of these Regulations, The Association shall act through its Council or any committee or sub-committee thereof, including the Board.
9. Notification in writing of an order referred to above shall be given to the person concerned and/or any club with which he is associated as soon as reasonably practicable.

LIST OF FINES

No Phone Call with result	Rule 11(B)	£10
No Match card	Rule 11(A)	£5
Incomplete Match card	Rule 11(C)	£5
Failure to Comply with League Business	Rule 5(H)	Minimum £10
Failure to Attend A.G.M	Rule 6(H)	Maximum £50
Failure to Attend S.G.M	Rule 19	Maximum £25
Failure to Attend Fixture Meeting	Rule 10(A)	Maximum £30
Failure to Exchange Registration cards	Rule 10(B)	Minimum £10
Failure to notify Opposition	Rule 10(D)	£10
Failure to notify Referee	Rule 10(D)	£10
Withdrawal of Club/Team after A.G.M	Rule 14(B)	£25
Intention to continue or withdraw	Rule 14(A)	£10
Late kick off	Rule 10(B)	£5
Failure to provide a Assistant Referee	Rule 13(C)	£5
Failure to have a change of Kit If both teams clash. (Away team must change)	Rule 9(A)	£10
Playing Unregistered/ineligible player	Rule 8(Q) (i)	Management Committee Decision
Failure to have a minimum number of players registered (fourteen days prior to start of season)	Rule 8 (Q) (iv)	£10
Failure to have a team (11, 9 or 7) players registered (seven days prior to start of season)	Rule 8 (Q) (iv)	£20

HOW TO MARK A REFEREE

Mark Range	Comments
91-100	The Referee was extremely accurate in decisions 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 or 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.

THUNDERMITE FOOTBALL LEAGUES
CUP COMPETITION
RULES

1. NAME and CONSTITUTION. This Competition shall be called the Thundermite Football League Cup Competition.

The Competition shall be open to all teams in the 11-a-side format competing in the Thundermite Football Leagues and shall be conducted as the Management Committee determine.

2. THUNDERMITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE and CUP RULES TO APPLY..

3. WITHDRAWAL OF CLUB. A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw from the Competition after the draw has been made. Any club infringing this rule shall be dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

4. MANAGEMENT. The Competition shall be managed by the Management Committee of the Thundermite Football League.

5. PLAYERS.

(a) All players must be bona-fide members of the Club as per League Rule 8(b).

(b) In the Semi-Final and Final Ties a player shall have previously played for the team he represents in four or more Thundermite Football League or Cup Competition games during the current season, except by special permission of the Management Committee.

(c) A player having played in a senior section shall not, in the same season, play in a junior section except by special permission of the Management Committee, League Rule 8(b) shall also apply.

(d) A player shall not play for more than one team in the same age group in the Cup competitions in the same season. Contravention of these rules will lead to forfeiture of the tie.

No player shall play in a Final Tie who is not wearing the recognized player's uniform, i.e. jersey, club football shorts, stockings and suitable footwear. In severe conditions the referee may at his discretion allow the goalkeeper to wear suitable trousers.

Any club playing an ineligible player shall be dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee. If the Club is struck out of the Competition, the Tie shall be awarded to their opponents.

6. REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES. Officials shall be appointed and fees paid as per Thundermite League Rules with the following exceptions:-

(a) In all Cup matches the fees of the Referee and Assistant Referees shall be equally defrayed by the two teams.

(b) The fees for the Final Tie will be paid by the Competition.

7. MATCHES.

(a) The Management Committee shall make the draw for the various rounds and shall fix the dates and grounds upon which the Ties (including replayed ties) shall be played. All Cup Draws must be advised to Member clubs in writing by the League Secretary. The team first drawn shall be considered the home team and shall have choice of ground for preliminary matches. The duration of matches shall be as follows:-

U11	25 minutes ew.	5 min ew.ext time	U16	40 minutes ew.	10 min ew.ext time
U12	30 minutes ew.	5 min ew.ext time	U17	45 minutes ew.	10 min ew.ext time

U13	35 minutes ew.	5 min ew.ext time	U18	45 minutes ew.	10 min ew.ext time
U14	35 minutes ew.	5 min ew.ext time		GIRLS	
U15	40 minutes ew.	5 min ew.ext time	Mini	25 minutes ew.	5 min ew.ext time
			U13	30 minutes ew.	5 min ew.ext time

In the event of the scores in special deciding championship matches and cup matches played under the conditions determined by the Management Committee being level at the end of the game, extra time shall be played in two equal periods which is allowed for each age group .If the score is still level after this, 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.

(b)Where a replay is required due to postponement or abandonment due to weather or failure of light, the home team shall retain choice of ground. If when playing extra time or taking penalties the match be stopped owing to the weather or failure of light, the visiting club will have choice of ground for the replay.

Kick-offs shall be at 10-30 am or 1-30 pm, unless prior permission is granted from the Hon Referee Secretary.

Where two legged ties are played, if the scores are level on aggregate at the end of the second game, extra time & if necessary penalties will take place.

Semi-Finals may be played on neutral ground at the request and expense of either participating Clubs.

The Final Tie shall be staged by the Competition who shall take all receipts.

8. COLOURS. In the event of two Clubs in the opinion of the Referee having the same or similar colours the away team shall make the change. In the final tie both clubs will change where a similarity exists.

9. Each finalist will supply one match ball to the referee at least 30 minutes before the commencement of play.

IMPORTANT

The exchange of Results Cards prior to the match shall apply to ALL Ties including the Semi-Final and Final Ties.

N.B. Sixteen medals shall be awarded to each team as winner or runner-up in the Official League Championships and League Cup Competitions. Additional medals may be purchased, via the Supplier, by such a team for presentation to other of their players provided they have played a minimum of 25 per cent of that team's League or League Cup fixtures.

THUNDERMITE MINI FOOTBALL LEAGUES
CUP COMPETITION RULES

1. NAME and CONSTITUTION. This Competition shall be called the Thundermite Mini Football Cup League Competition.

The Competition shall be open to all teams in the Mini Football format competing in the Thundermite Mini Football League and shall be conducted as the Management Committee determine.

2. THUNDERMITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE and MINI FOOTBALL CUP RULES TO APPLY.

3. WITHDRAWAL OF CLUB. A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw from the Competition after the draw has been made. Any club infringing this rule shall be dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

4. MANAGEMENT. The Competition shall be managed by the Management Committee of the Thundermite Football League.

5. PLAYERS.

(a) All players must be bona-fide members of the Club as per League Rule 8(b).

(b) In the Semi-Final and Final Ties a player shall have previously played for the team he represents in four or more Thundermite Mini Football League or Cup Competition games during the current season, except by special permission of the Management Committee

(c) A player having played in a senior section shall not, in the same season, play in a junior section except by special permission of the Management Committee, League Rule 8(b) shall also apply.

(d) A player shall not play for more than one team in the same age group in the Cup competitions in the same season. Contravention of these rules will lead to forfeiture of the tie. (Players playing in the north cup, cannot play in the south cup & visa-versa)

6. MATCH OFFICIALS

a) To be provided by the home team and to be a minimum of 14 years old.

b) Semi finals and finals referees will be appointed.

c) Referee fees as per Thundermite Mini Soccer rules. In All rounds up to and including Semi Finals will be equally defrayed by the two teams where required.

7. MATCHES.

(a) The Management Committee shall make the draw for the various rounds and shall fix the dates and grounds upon which the Ties (including replayed ties) shall be played. All Cup Draws must be advised to Member clubs in writing by the League Secretary. The team first drawn shall be considered the home team and shall have choice of ground for preliminary matches. The duration of matches shall be as follows:-

Under 9s 20 minutes each way - No extra time

Under 10s 20 minutes each way - 5 minutes each way extra time.

Penalties (in the manner approved by FIFA) will be taken in the event of the two teams being equal after Normal time (or extra time in the case of under 10s).

(b) Where a replay is required due to postponement or abandonment due to weather or failure of light, the home team shall retain choice of ground. If when playing extra time or taking penalties the match be stopped owing to the weather or failure of light, the visiting club will have choice of ground for the replay.

8. COLOURS. In the event of two Clubs in the opinion of the Referee having the same or similar colours the away team shall make the change. In the final tie both clubs will change where a similarity exists.

9. Each finalist will supply one match ball to the referee at least 30 minutes before the commencement of play.

IMPORTANT

The exchange of Results Cards prior to the match shall apply to ALL Ties including the Semi-Final and Final Ties.

N.B. Twelve medals shall be awarded to each team as winner or runner-up in the Official League Championships and League Cup Competitions. Additional medals may be purchased, via the Supplier, by such a team for presentation to other of their players provided they have played a minimum of 25 per cent of that team's League or League Cup fixtures.