

NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

1. (A) This league shall be designated the Russell Foster Tyne & Wear Youth Leagues.

All member Clubs must be affiliated to an affiliated County Football Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on the form "D" to the Durham County Football Association.

The area covered by the competition Membership shall be as agreed by the League Management Committee.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Durham County Football Association and the constituent teams of member Clubs may be grouped in divisions, as agreed by the League 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 5 years.

(B) The Annual Subscription shall be £110.00 for teams playing 11-a -side football and £130.00 for teams playing mini soccer this payable in two instalments, the first instalment on the first day of August and the second on the first day of December. The league will provide Standing Order Mandate forms for teams to use for payments. Failure in payment being made at the correct time a further £20.00 will be added for administration charges after 14 days have elapsed. If necessary clubs will be omitted from their fixture programme and charged with cancellation of fixtures unless payment is made on time.

(C) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 1st July of its County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming Season, also advise of its headquarters. Officers and any other information required by the Competition.

OFFICERS

2. The Officers of the leagues shall be the Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Registration Secretary, Child Welfare Officers and Referee's Appointment Secretaries, all to be elected at the Annual General Meeting. (N.B. Auditors are not Officers)

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

3. (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 a minimum of two member clubs from each age group who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

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

All other candidates for election as Officers shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of the two Member Clubs, no later than 15th May in each year.

Names of candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual General meeting. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting.

(C) The Management Committee shall meet as often as is necessary to deal with business as it arises.

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

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

(E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their nominated Officers.

(F) Bi-monthly meetings of the league shall be held on the first Wednesday of the designated month for the under 21's, 18's, 17's, 16's, and 15's age groups. The second Wednesday of the designated month for the under 14's, 13's, 12's, and 11's 11 a side age groups. The third Wednesday of the month for all boys small-sided teams and the fourth Wednesday of the month for all girls football teams. This is to conduct the business of the leagues. Any Clubs not in attendance at the meeting will be fined £10.00. An apology for non-attendance will not be accepted.

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

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

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

(C) Each Member of the management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee Meetings and have one vote there at, but no Member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such member or to the Club so represented. (This shall apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).

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

(D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition including any not provided for in the Rules. Except where these Rules provide for the imposition of a set penalty any club, Official or Player alleged to be in breach of a Competition Rule must be formally charged in writing and given the opportunity to present their case before the Management Committee. All breached of the Laws of the Game, Rules and Regulations of the Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance with F.A. Rules.

(E) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal to the Board of Appeal in accordance with Rule 16.
Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within seven days.

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

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

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

(I) All fines and charges shall be paid within 14 days failure will have all fines doubled Plus £20.00 administration charges. If payment is still not made the club will be suspended. Clubs and Officials or individuals committing a breach of this Rule will incur 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 to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the Annual General or Special General Meeting called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Competition season.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

5. (A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held no later than 14th 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 preceding Annual General Meeting.
- (ii) To consider any business arising there from
- (iii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
- (iv) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies (as recommended by the management Committee).
- (v) Constitution of the Competition for ensuring season.
- (vi) Election of Officers and management Committee.
- (vii) Appointment of Auditors.
- (viii) Alteration of Rules, if any (of which notice has been given).
- (ix) Fix the date for the commencement and conclusion of playing season.
- (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.

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

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

(D) Each Member Team shall be empowered to send one delegate to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Not less than fourteen days notice shall be given of any Meeting.

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

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

(G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Member Club.

(H) Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting shall be fined £10.00.

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

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

6. The Chairman and the Secretary of each Club shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the Competition together with the Application for the Membership for the coming season, or upon indicating that the Clubs intends to compete.

“We A----- of ----- (Chairman) and B-----
----- of ----- (Secretary) of the ----- Football
Club have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Russell Foster Tyne
& Wear Youth League and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, if elected or
accepted into Membership, to confirm to those Rules Regulations and to accept, abide by and
implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition subject to the right
of appeal in accordance with Rule 16.

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

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

QUALIFACTIONS OF PLAYERS.

7. (A) A player registered with a Centre of Excellence may only play in this Competition subject to the Regulations of the Programme of Excellence.

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

Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration, or re 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 league seven days prior to playing and whose completed registration counterfoil i.e. I D card has been received by the Club prior to playing.

The registration document must incorporate a current passport- size photograph of the player seeking registration together with proof of the players date of birth (for newly registered Players). A stamped addressed envelope must accompany any registration forms and documents for return. Failure to provide a S.A.E will incur a £10.00 fine.

A line up of all participating players together with their I.D. cards shall be held prior to kick off in all Matches. Failure will incur a £10.00 fine with the player omitted from playing until a card is Produced. No club between the age groups of under 11s to 16s may have more than eighteen players registered at any one time. This restriction will not apply to age groups under 17's to 21's.

Individual forms are to be provided to re-register players that were registered with that club in the previous season.

A de-registration form and the players I.D. card must be returned to the R.F.Y.L. office before a Player is deemed to be de-registered. Players will not be de-registered unless their I.D. card is Returned to the League. Lost cards must be reported to the R.F.Y.L. office together with a new photograph of the player and a £5.00 fee in order for a replacement card to be produced.

De-registration

No forms regarding De-registration will be accepted during the First or last six weeks of the season. If any are submitted, they will be returned and a fine of £10.00 imposed. De- registration is deemed the same as a transfer.

The qualification dates for the competition shall be as follows:

Mini- Soccer

Development - The player must be under the age of 7 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season. The player must have attained the age of 5 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Junior - The player must be under the age of 8 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

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

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

In accordance with the foregoing qualifications a player in the above Age range must not play in a match where any other player is younger by 2 years or more.

Youth Football

Under 11 - The player must be under the age of 11 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 12 - The player must be under the age of 12 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 13 - The player must be under the age of 13 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 14 - The player must be under the age of 14 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 15 - The player must be under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 16 - The player must be under the age of 16 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 17 - The player must be under the age of 17 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 18 - The player must be under the age of 18 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 21 - The player must be under the age of 21 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

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

All players under the age of 10 as at the 1st September must be playing mini-soccer only.

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

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

(D) Registrations of players cost £1.00 per player and forms are available from the office or can be downloaded from the web-site. Transfer forms at a cost of £5.00 per form.

(E) The Management Committee shall decide all registrations 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 by the Management Committee. The Registration Secretary shall notify the Clubs last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

(F) It shall be deemed misconduct for a player to:

(i) Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same season without being transferred.

(ii) Having signed on for a club in the competition, sign for another club in the same competition in that season except for the purpose of a transfer.

(iii) Submit a signed registration form for registration that the player has wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

(G)

- (i) The Management Committee shall have power to accept the registration of any player.
- (ii) The Management Committee shall have the power to refuse or cancel or suspend their registration of any player or may fine any player, except those under 18 years of age, at their discretions who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities. (Subject to Rule 16).
- (iii) The management committee shall have power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to rule 16) subject to the right of appeal to the FA or the relevant County Football Association.

Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated conduct, which may deter a participant from being involved in the 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.

(H) 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 R F Y L office accompanied by a fee of £5.00 and the players I.D. card. Such transfer shall be referred by the R F Y L office to the Club for which the player is registered.

Should his Club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Secretary and to the player concerned within seven days of receipt of the transfer form. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within seven days, the Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club seven days after the 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.

A player can be approached from the same team but only in one every 28 days, with a maximum of Two in a season.

(I) A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition during the first or last six weeks of the season.

(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 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 7 (B).

(K) A register containing the names of all players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the (league) 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 agreed.

(L)

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

(ii) In addition the team shall have Three points deducted from its total at the discretion of the Management Committee and may be dealt with in any further manner which is thought to be fit.

(iii) The Management Committee in exceptional circumstances may, at its discretion, award any points deducted from a Club under this Rule to the opponents in the match in question, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.

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

(M)

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

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

(iii) Children under 14 shall not play in a team involving players who are more than 2 years older.

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

(N)

All clubs to have a minimum of eleven players registered fourteen days prior to the starting date of the season.

CLUB COLOURS, CLUB NAME.

8. (A) Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by the A.G.M. The league shall decide as to their suitability.

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

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

Any team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify the colours in which they will play to its opponents at least Seven days before the match. A £10.00 fine will be imposed.

If, in the opinion of the referee, 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 or shorts as they think fit.

(B) Any Club wishing to change its name and/or colours must seek permission from its affiliated County Football Association (NO LATER THAN 1st July) and from the Management Committee.

(C) Clubs are requested to assist the league with their facilities, this for prestigious events such as cup finals etc.

PLAYING SEASON, CONDITIONS OF PLAY

TIMES OF KICK OFF, POSTPONMENTS, SUBSTITUTES

9. (A) The League Secretary shall determine the commencing and concluding dates for the ensuing season which shall be in accordance with Football Association Rules. No Club shall be compelled to play after the concluding date.

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

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

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

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

For Mini-Soccer – The duration of play shall be as follows: For development and juniors age groups, 10 minutes each way and for under 9 and under 10 and above 15 minutes each way.

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

The minimum time for any game will not be less than 20 minutes each half for players in the under 14 age group and below, 25 minutes each half for players in the under 15 & 16 age groups and 35 minutes 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, ie : two separate matches, 100 minutes per day in this Competition.

The Clubs for 11-a-side and the Management Committee for small-sided games shall fix the times of Kick off. Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time shall be fined £10.00 or be otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine.

Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts and cases of club misconduct to the League Secretary.

The home team must provide at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. The size of a football to be used shall be : for Mini-Soccer, size 4 this for players in the development, junior, 9s and 10s categories: for youth football – size 4 for those playing under 11's, 12's and 13's age groups 2009/10 season: size 5 for all other age groups. Goal nets must be used.

(C) Except by permission of the Management Committee all matches must be played in 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 consent of the League Secretary.

(D) The Secretary of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground after confirmation, the time of kick-off to the match officials, and the Secretary of the opposing Club at least Seven clear days prior to the playing of the match. Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine of £10.00.

(E) A minimum of seven players will constitute a team for a Competition match between under 11s to 21s (Eleven aside only)

(F) 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 inflict a fine, deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the 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 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.

Notice of postponement of any match must be given without delay by the postponing Club to the league and the opposing club or clubs in writing. Any club wishing to cancel a game (of which only two in a season are allowed) must give 14 days notice to the League secretary and opponents in writing only. Any Club failing to comply with this shall have three points deducted and fined such amount as the management Committee 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 League Secretary. Failing such agreement and notification to the League Secretary within Seven days the Management Committee shall have power to order the match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date.

The Management Committee shall review all abandoned matches and in a case where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one team or its Club member (s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the match to the opponents.

In cases where a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams or their club Members(s), the management committee shall rule all points for the match as void. No fines(s) Can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match.

(F) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use five substitutes players (at under 11s to 16s) or Three (at under 17s to 18s) in any match in this Competition who may be selected from seven players.

For Mini-Soccer three substitutes may be used at any time with the permission of the referee. Entry onto the field of play will only be allowed during stoppage in play. A player who has been replaced may return to the play as a substitute for another player

The referee shall be informed prior to kick-off of the names of the substitutes.

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.

(G) The half time interval shall be of Five 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

10 A) The League Secretary must receive within two days of the date played., the result of each Competition match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the team players (in block letters) and forwarded to the league office at 12 Tavistock Place Sunderland SR1 1 PB. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £10.00 and the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decides. The person completing the result card on behalf of their team should insert the persons name playing in goal against the GK position and the rest of the team against the numbers 2-11 with the substitutes named against the numbers 12-18.

(B) The Home Club shall telephone the result of each match to the League Secretary on 0191 5342000 before 5.00pm (Sundays) or 9.00pm (Midweek's) on the day of the match. Failure to do so will result in a £10.00 fine.

(C) 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.

(D) A fine of £10.00 will be imposed upon teams where mal-administration relating the completion of documents issued by the League. Teams that are regularly found guilty of mal-administration will be asked to attend the management meeting where further fines may be imposed.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

11. (A) Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with Three points 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 conclusions shall adjudge the winners. Matches must not be played for double points.

In the event of two or more teams being equal on points teams ranking shall be decided in any one or more of the following ways:

- (i) goal difference.
- (ii) goals scored.
- (iii) goals against.
- (iv) number of wins.
- (v) deciding match(es) played under conditions determined by the Management Committee. (FOR ALL AGE GROUPS)

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, 20 minutes (Under 11s to 14s), 30 minutes (Under 15s to 18s) extra time shall be played in two equal periods, should one of the teams score a goal during the period of extra time the match will be considered as finished and the team scoring the goal declared the winner. If no goal scored during 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.

- (B) The Management Committee will decide promotion and Relegation.

REFEREES

12. (A) Registered referees for all matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee.

In the event of the non – appearance of the appointed Referee the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. A referee thus agreed upon shall for the game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee.

- (B) The Management Committee may, if they consider it desirable, or upon application by the two competing Clubs, appoint Assistant Referee, 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 £10.00 being imposed on the defaulting Club.

- (C) 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, the Representative of a Local Authority or the owners of a ground, the Representative of that body is the sole arbiter and whose decision must be accepted unless the ground is declared fit for play.

- (D) Match Officials shall be entitled to the following match fees:- as recommended by the Durham County Football Association.
The Home Club shall pay the Officials their fees.

- (E) 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 plus expenses only. Where a match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Officials, if they attend the ground, their full fee and expenses.

- (F) A Referee not keeping his engagement and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to his/her non-appearance may be reported to the County Football Association with which he/she is registered.

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP
OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

13 (A) After 31st December in the current Season a Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a team from the Competition on Completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the Secretary in writing by 31st March each season or be liable to a fine not exceeding £100.00.

(B) A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all its teams from the Competition after the Annual General Meeting for the following Season. Any Club infringing this Rule shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £100.00 per team and shall also be liable for its annual subscription.

(C) In the event of 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 such obligations remains discharged 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.

(D) The formulation of all leagues shall be determined by the league management committee.

PROTESTS AND APPEALS

14. (A)

(i) All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee.

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

(B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged in triplicate with the Secretary within two days (excluding Sundays) of the match or occurrence & which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

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

(D) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum of £25.00. 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 power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay expenses to 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 Fourteen 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

15. Within 14 days of the posting of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee or the Competition a Club, Official or Player against whom action is taken may appeal against such decision by Lodging particulars in triplicate with the Secretary of the Durham County Football Association, including a fee of £25.00, for adjudication of a Board of Appeal shall be in accordance with FA Rules. The Board of Appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited and shall decide by whom the costs of the appeal shall be borne. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned. No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at any Annual or Special General Meeting unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

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

- 16 (A) At the Annual General Meeting, or Special General Meeting called for the purpose in accordance with the provision of Rule 17, Notice of Motion having been duly circulated on the Agenda, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude any Club or Team from further membership which must be supported by (more than) two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot.
- (B) At the Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, the accredited delegates 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) (2/3rds) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.
- (C) Any official or member of a Club proved guilty of either misconduct, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a player or players of the Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to expulsion or such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Clauses (A) and (B) of this Rule.
- (D) Any Club or Team failing to complete all of its fixtures in any season shall (unless the conditions are beyond their control, or the accredited delegates present at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting decide otherwise by a majority two-thirds of the vote cast) be debarred from the membership the following season.
17. Players are NOT permitted to train with other Clubs unless permission has been given by the Secretary of the clubs he/she is registered with. Clubs in default of this rule will be fined £10.00 and dealt at the Management Committee discretion.

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

18. A Competition Cup or Trophy shall be vested in the Association sanctioning the Competition as trustees. If a Competition be discontinued for any cause the Cup or Trophy shall be returned to the Donor, if the conditions attached to it so provide, or otherwise dealt as the Association may decide. At the close of each Competition awards shall be made to the winners and runners-up- if the funds of the Competition permit.

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

“We A-----and B-----, the Chairman and Secretary of ----- FC, members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of----- Cup or Trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the Cup or Trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before 1st March, or a fine of £25.00 will be levied. 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.

(B) Sixteen individual momentos shall be presented to all league and cup winners and runners-up of their respective competition.

Ten momentos shall be awarded to all mini-soccer winners and runners-up

Teams entitled to receive trophies and momentos at the league presentations shall purchase a minimum of 25 presentation tickets.

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

Each Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. 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 being given shall be fined £10.00. Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all Special General Meetings.

ALTERATION TO RULES

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

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary by 15th May in each year. The proposals shall be circulated to Clubs with notice of the Annual General Meeting. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the Annual General Meeting 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 sanction 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 the Leagues Code of Conducts. Failure will be dealt with by the League Management Committee.

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 £500.00 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.

(C) The books or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be audited/verified 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 and 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 the 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 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 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 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 a offence, that shall constitute a breach of the Rules of the association and Association shall the power to order the suspension of the person from all or any specific football activity 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/she is associated as soon as reasonably practicable.