

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

RULES & REGULATIONS SEASON 2023/24

F.A. STANDARD CODE OF RULES

1. DEFINITIONS

1. A In these Rules:

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

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

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

“**Competition**” means the Central Lancashire Junior Football League.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“**Player Registration System**” means The FA system to register players as determined by The FA from time to time.

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

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

“**Sanctioning Authority**” means the Lancashire County Football Association Limited.

“**Scholarship**” means a Scholarship as defined in the FA rules.

“**Season**” means the period of time between one AGM and the next AGM.

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

“**SGM**” means a special general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

“**Team**” means a team affiliated to a Club.

“**The FA**” means The Football Association Limited.

“**Virtual Meetings**” means meetings held electronically.

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

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

- 1.B** Unless stated otherwise, terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and also the other way around.

GOVERNANCE RULES

2. COMPETITION NAME & CONSTITUTION

- 2.A** The Competition will be known as Central Lancashire Junior Football League (CLJFL) (or such other name as the Competition may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A Club which ceases to exist or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall cease to be a member of the Competition.
- 2.B** This Competition shall consist of not more than 75 Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority.
- 2.C** The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be within a radius of 10 miles from the League’s meeting venue unless the Club was in Membership prior to Season 2013/14.
- 2.D** The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Management Committee in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of The FA.
- 2.E** All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a member of the Competition to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee in relation to them, subject to the provisions of Rule 7.
- 2.F** The Rules are taken from the Standard Code of Rules for Youth Competitions (the “Standard Code”) determined by The FA from time to time. In the event of any omissions from the Standard Code then the requirements of the Standard Code shall be deemed to apply to the Competition.

- 2.G** All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority and must have a constitution approved by the Sanctioning Authority. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Lancashire County Football Association and the constituent Teams of member Clubs may be grouped in divisions. The Management Committee shall determine the playing format for each Division.

1. No Club to be included in the fixtures that owes monies from the previous season after 1st July.
2. Any team playing in the CLJFL must compete in all Competitions run by the League.

2.H Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

1. The Competition and each member Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (~~to include~~ including those contained in the Equality Act 2010).
2. This Competition and each member Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognizing that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise.
3. Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.

- 2.I** Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including, but not limited to, England Football Accredited and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- 2.J** All participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children and Regulations for Safeguarding Adults at Risk as determined by The FA from time to time.

- 2.K** Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing at a particular age group in the Competition in any other competition (with the exception of FA and County FA Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- 2.L** At the AGM or a SGM called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the constitution of the divisions at their discretion. When necessary this Rule shall take precedence over Rule 22.
- 2.M** Only one Team from Club shall be permitted to participate in a single division unless there is no viable alternative because of logistical issues and/or reasons linked to participation and geographical boundaries in which case the Competition will obtain the prior approval of the Sanctioning Authority. This Competition will ensure that, where permission is given, Teams from a Club operating in the same division are run as separate entities with no interchange of players other than by transfers of registration in accordance with these Rules.

3. CLUB NAME

- 3.A** Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority. In the event that permission is granted, the Club must advise the Competition Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

4. ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION AND DEPOSIT

- 4.A** Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same club must be made in writing to the Secretary 31 May and must be accompanied by an entry fee of £20 for each Team as set out in the Fees Tariff, which shall be returned in the event of non election.

Applications, of which due notice has been given, will be received at the AGM or an SGM if confirmed by a majority of the accredited voting members present.

1. All application forms for the new season must be in the hands of the League Secretary 28 days before the date of the AGM. In the event that an application by a Member Club for continued participation of a team or teams is proposed to be rejected by the Committee the Club shall be supplied with the reasons given in writing. Further applications after this date will only be considered and accepted at the discretion of the Management Committee.

- 4.B** The Annual Subscription (£60) shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff for each team and shall be payable on or before 1st August in each year. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 4.C** A Deposit of £50 shall be payable per Club (or £20 per Team where a Club provides more than one Team in membership of the Competition) and shall be payable on or before 1 August in each year. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 4.D** A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the entry fee, annual subscription and Deposit (if required) have been paid.

- 4.E** If requested by the Competition, Clubs must advise the Secretary annually in writing by 1st August of its Sanctioning Authority affiliation number for the forthcoming playing season. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition. Failing to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

5. MANAGEMENT NOMINATION & ELECTION

- 5.A** The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition who shall all be elected at the AGM.

1) The Management Committee shall consist of not more than 14 members and not less than 7. At least 2 shall be officials of member clubs.

- 5.B** Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination provided that the Officer notifies the Secretary in writing not later than 30 April in each year. All other candidates for election as Officers of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the secretaries of two member Clubs, not later than 30th April in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being no nomination for any office by the date stated in the earlier part of this Rule nominations may be received at the AGM and left for the Management Committee's attention.

- 5.C** The Management Committee shall meet a minimum of twice a season or as and when required. On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Management Committee.

- 5.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.

- 5.E** All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Officers and sent to the Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

6. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

- 6.A** The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they seem necessary. The decisions of all sub-committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of the FA or Affiliated Association.
- 6.B** Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call on each Club to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the season.
- 6.C** Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee meetings and have one vote at all such meetings, but no member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly relating to that member or to the Club so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest. (This shall also apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).
- 6.D** In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chair shall have a second or casting vote.
- 6.E** The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition. Any action by the Competition must be taken within 28 days of the Competition being notified. With the exceptions of rules 6(I), 8(H) and 9, in relation to any alleged breaches of Rule the Management Committee shall issue a formal written charge to the Club concerned. The Club charged shall be given 7 days from the date of notification of the charge to reply. In such reply a club may:-
1. Accept the charge and/or submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee; or
 2. Accept the charge and notify the competition that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or
 3. Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee; or
 4. Deny the charge and notify the competition that it wishes to have a hearing before the Management Committee.

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

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

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

The maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £100 and, when setting any fine, the Management Committee must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

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

- 6.E** All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7. Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 7 days.
- 6.F** A minimum of 40 % of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee or any of its sub-committees.
- 6.G** The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill, any vacancies that may occur in their number.
- 6.H** A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee, and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 6.I** Subject to its right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges shall be paid within 14 days of the date of posting of notification of the decision, any Club failing to do so will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional sum within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.
- 6.J** A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or Competition Match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.
- 6.K** The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the Membership of the Competition between the AGM or SGM called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Playing Season.

- 6.L** The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may/shall be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

7. PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

- 7.A** 1. All questions of eligibility, qualifications of Players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee.
2. Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the Referee prior to the commencement of the Match.
- 7.B** Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded), must be lodged in duplicate with the Secretary within 7 days (excluding Sundays) of the Competition Match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of their Club) when such protest or claim is being determined.
- 7.C** No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum of £20 in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have 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.
- 7.D** All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded the opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days before the protest or complaint being heard.
1. All parties must have received a minimum of 7 days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.
2. Should a Club elect to state its case in person then they should forward a deposit of £20 and indicate such when forwarding the written response.

7.E The Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Management Committee shall direct.

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

- 1 Invite submissions by the parties involved;
- 2 Convene a hearing to hear the appeal;
- 3 Permit new evidence; or
- 4 Impose appropriate deadlines.

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

7.G No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

7.H Not applicable

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8.A The AGM shall be held not later than 30th June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least 51% of members are present and entitled to vote:-

- 1 Confirm the Minutes of the last AGM.
- 2 Adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts from the previous season or accounting period.
- 3 Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
- 4 Constitution of the Competition for ensuing Season.
- 5 Election of Competition Officers and Management Committee members
- 6 Appointment of auditors/verifiers.
- 7 Alteration of Rules, if any (See Rule 14).
- 8 Agree the date for the beginning of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competitions.
- 9 Agree the date for the end of the Playing Season
- 10 Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted by the Chair as being relevant to an AGM.

- 8.B** A copy of the duly audited balance sheet, statement of accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 14 days prior to the meeting together with any proposed Rule changes.
- 8.C** A signed copy of the duly audited balance sheet and statement of accounts and agenda shall be sent to the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of its adoption by the AGM.
- 8.D** Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Fourteen days notice shall be given of any AGM.
- 8.E** Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the Playing Season being concluded or who are not continuing membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the Season being concluded.
- 8.F** All voting shall be conducted by a show of hands, or count of email or virtual responses (for virtual meetings), unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chair so decides.
- 8.G** No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Club.
- 8.H** Any continuing Club must be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 8.I** Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM, but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a club. (See rule 8.G)
- 8.J** Where a Competition is an incorporated entity, the Officers of the Competition shall ensure that the Articles of Association of the Competition are consistent with the requirements of these Rules.

9. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- 9.A** On receiving a requisition signed by two thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call an SGM.
- 9.B** The Management Committee may call an SGM at any time.
- 9.C** At least 7 days notice shall be given of either meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.
- 9.D** Each member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGM's. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.
- 9.E** Any Club failing to be represented at a SGM without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Clubs MUST be represented at all

league meetings, AGM, EGM or SGM's by the Club Secretary, Manager or Committee member of their Club. Any club found guilty of contravening this rule will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

9.F Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all Special General Meetings, but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a club. (See rule 9.D).

9.G Club failing to send an appropriate representative to 3 monthly meetings will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

10. AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

10.A Each Club shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the Competition together with the application for membership for the coming Season.

We (A) (name) _____ of (address) _____ (Chair/Director)

and

(B)
(name) _____ of (address) _____ (Secretary)/Director

of _____ Football Club (Limited) have been provided with a Copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Central Lancashire Junior Football League Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, if elected or accepted into Membership, to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7.

The agreement shall be signed:

1. where a Club is an unincorporated association, by the Club Chair and secretary; or
2. where a Club is an incorporated entity, by two directors of the Club.

Any change of the Chair, secretary or Directors of the Club as named on the above agreement must be notified to the County Football Association to which the Club is sanctioned and to the secretary of this competition.

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

11. CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

11.A Any 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 of such intention by at least 70 days before the AGM. This does not apply to a Club moving in accordance with Rule 22(B). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

All Clubs wishing to remain in membership of the Competition for the following season must confirm their intention to do so, by filling in and returning the League Questionnaire and Application Form by the date indicated on the relevant documents.

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

11.C Notwithstanding the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 6.I, in the event of a Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50, the Management Committee shall be empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.

12. EXCLUSION OF CLUBS OR TEAM. MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

12.A At the AGM, or SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, notice of motion having been duly circulated on the agenda, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to (i) remove a member of the Management Committee from office, (ii) exclude any Club or Team from membership, both of which, must be supported by (more than) two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A member of the Management Committee or Club which is subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

12.B At the AGM, or at an SGM called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club or Team whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, provided this is supported by (more than) two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

12.C Any Officer or member of a Club found guilty of either a breach of Rule, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a player or players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to expulsion or such penalty as a

General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of 12.A and/or 12.B of this rule.

13. TROPHY

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

“We A (name) _____

and B (name) _____

The Chair and Secretary of _____ JFC members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of _____ Cup or Trophy, and the cup or Trophy 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 on or before 31st March. If the Cup or Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair”

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

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

1. Annual Presentation Evening(s) will be held as determined by the Management Committee. All Clubs are expected to participate in the running of this function. Teams or their representatives to be presented with the trophies at the Presentation Evening(s) must be present to receive the trophies. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff under Rule 6.H.

2. Shields and cups must be returned to the designated league engraver on or before the 31st March each year in good order, clean condition, so that engraving can be completed costs to be covered by the League. Any Club failing to return shields and/or cups by the said date will have their fixtures suspended immediately and shall be fined for each week or part week the shield and/or cup are not returned.

3. Any team or club who resigns from the League either during the season or at the end of the season shall return all cups, shields or trophies to the League Press Secretary within 28 days of resignation. A fine is liable to be imposed on Clubs failing to comply.

All such cups, shields and trophies shall remain the property of the league and may never be won outright.

4. The League will supply 14 trophies for all 9v9 competitions and 16 trophies for all 11v11 competitions. Additional trophies may be purchased by the clubs if they so wish.

14. ALTERATION TO RULES

- 14.A** Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Association, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at an SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. Any alteration made during the Playing Season to the Rule relating to the qualification of Players shall not take effect until the following Playing Season, except in exceptional circumstances and approved by the Sanctioning Authority and the FA.
- 14.B** Notice of the proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by 31st March in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 14th April and any amendments to these proposals shall be submitted to the Secretary by 30th April. The proposals and proposed amendments to these proposals shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.
- 14.C** A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or SGM shall be submitted to the Sanctioning Authority or the FA (as applicable) at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

15. FINANCE

- 15.A** The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged. All payments made to the league by clubs in the preferred method of electronic transfer (cash will be accepted in exceptional circumstances).
- 15.B** All expenditure in excess of £500 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.
- 15.C** The financial year of the Competition will end on a date at the Treasurers discretion.
- 15.D** The accounting records or a certified balance sheet of the Competition shall be prepared and shall be audited/verified annually by a suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

16. INSURANCE

- 16.A** All Clubs must have valid public liability insurance cover for a minimum of ten million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.
- 16.B** All Clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Player's personal accident insurance cover must be in place prior to the Club taking part in any Competition Match and shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time to time by the Sanctioning Authority. In instances where The FA is the Sanctioning Authority, the minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which the Club affiliates.

Failure to comply with Rule 16.A or 16.B will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

17. DISSOLUTION

- 17.A** Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at an SGM by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant SGM.
- 17.B** In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.
- 17.C** The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:
1. Any surplus assets, save for a Trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or Affiliated Association or The Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the Sanctioning Authority.
 2. 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 Authority may decide.

MATCH RELATED RULES

18. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

- 18.A** A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:-

1. Registered through the Player Registration System and received approval from the Competition. In order for a player to be eligible to play in a match, the registration must be completed 24 hours before the scheduled kick-off.

Or

2. N/A

Any registration that is not fully and correctly completed will be returned to the Club unprocessed and the player classed as unregistered. If a Club attempts to register a player via the Player Registration System but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via the Player Registration System, the registration will not be processed.

For Clubs registering Players under Rule 18.A.2, registration forms will be provided in a format to be determined by the Competition. For Clubs registering Players by the Player Registration System, Clubs must access the Player Registration System in order to complete the registration process.

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

If a Player changes their name for whatever reason their club should ensure that written notification is submitted to the relevant Registration Secretary. If this is not done and the unregistered name appears on the team sheet he/she shall be deemed an unregistered Player and dealt with accordingly.

18.B 1. Contract Players are not permitted in this Competition with the exception of those Players who are registered under Contract with the same Club who have a team operating at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System.

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

A Player registered with a Premier League or EFL Academy under the Elite Player Performance Plan contained within Youth Development Rules will not be permitted to play in this Competition, except for those in the under 11 age-group and below where consent has been given by the relevant Premier League or EFL Academy (such consent can be withdrawn at any time). Trial players are not considered to be registered with a Premier League or EFL Academy for these purposes and therefore the prohibition on playing in the Competition does not apply to them. The relevant Premier League/EFL Academy remains responsible for managing the frequency of the

player's playing time. Details of the Youth Development Rules are published on The FA website. A Player registered with a FA Emerging Talent Centre or an FA Professional Game Academy may play in this Competition subject to the FA Girls' Emerging Talent Centre Operating Criteria and Professional Game Academy Youth Development Rules.

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

- i) Players in the above categories finding themselves available and given permission to play for their registered Club in any fixture in the Central Lancashire Junior Football League must obtain and produce a letter for EVERY MATCH verifying this fact from the appropriate Professional Club duly signed by the Centre of Excellence Director, (this directive to comply with Programme of Excellence Regulations Paragraph 2) to the opposing Secretary/Manager. An original letter correctly dated for the match in question verifying availability MUST be attached to the Match Report Sheet which is submitted to the appropriate Registration Secretary. Any Club contravening this rule will be deemed to be fielding an ineligible Player and will be dealt with accordingly.
- ii) Any club having a Player released from their contract with a Professional Club's Centre of Excellence during the current season MUST provide a letter from the Professional Club verifying this fact. This letter must be forwarded to the appropriate Registration Secretary.

3. Each team must have the following number of Players registered 35 days before the start of each Playing Season:

FORMAT	MINIMUM NUMBER
5v5	5
7v7	7
9v9	9
11v11	11

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. If the minimum number is not registered 14 days before the start of the season, the team will be withdrawn.

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

The relevant age for each Player is determined by their age as at midnight on 31 August of the relevant Playing Season.

i.e. children who are aged 6 as at midnight on 31 August in a Playing Season together with those who attain the age of 6 during the playing season will be classed as Under 7 Players for that Playing Season. Children who are aged 7 as at midnight on 31 August

in a Playing Season will be classed as Under 8 Players for that Playing Season, and so on.

Notwithstanding the above, a child is permitted to play up in the age group above their chronological age group, irrespective of any changes of format or competition structure, save that a child who attains the age of 6 after 31 August is permitted to play only in the Under 7 age group, and may not play in the Under 8 age group, for that Playing Season.

The age groups that children are eligible to play in are set out in the table below, along with the permitted football formats for each of those age groups. For the purposes of this Rule 18(C), provisions relating to playing in specified age groups shall include participating in training as well as playing in matches. **Children shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match between sides of more than the stated number of Players, according to their age group:**

Age on 31 August of the relevant Playing Season	Eligible Age Groups	Maximum Permitted Format	Minimum Pitch Sizes		Maximum Pitch Sizes		Recommended Goal Sizes in feet	Ball Size
			Yards	Metres	Yards	Metres		
6	Under 7	5v5	30x20	27.45 x 18.3	40x30	36.3 x 27.45	12x6	3
	Under 8		30x20	27.45 x 18.3	40x30	36.3 x 27.45	12x6	3
7	Under 8	5v5	30x20	27.45 x 18.3	40x30	36.3 x 27.45	12x6	3
	Under 9	7v7	50x30	45.75 x 27.45	60x40	54.9 x 36.6	12x6	3
8	Under 9	7v7	50x30	45.75 x 27.45	60x40	54.9 x 36.6	12x6	3
	Under 10		50x30	45.75 x 27.45	60x40	54.9 x 36.6	12x6	3
9	Under 10	7v7	50x30	45.75 x 27.45	60x40	54.9 x 36.6	12x6	3
	Under 11	9v9	70x40	64 x 36.6	80x50	73.15 x 45.75	16x7	4
10	Under 11	9v9	70x40	64 x 36.6	80x50	73.15 x 45.75	16x7	4
	Under 12		70x40	64 x 36.6	80x50	73.15 x 45.75	16x7	4
11	Under 12	9v9	70x40	64 x 36.6	80x50	73.15 x 45.75	16x7	4
	Under 13	11v11	90x50	82.3x45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
12	Under 13	11v11	90x50	82.3 x 45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
	Under 14		90x50	82.3 x 45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
13	Under 14	11v11	90x50	82.3 x 45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
	Under 15		90x50	82.3 x 45.75	110x70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
14	Under 15	11v11	90x50	82.3 x 45.75	110x70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
	Under 16		90x50	82.3 x 45.75	110x70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
15	Under 16	11v11	90x50	82.3 x 45.75	110x70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
	Under 17		100x50	91.44 x 45.75	130x100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5
	Under 18		100x50	91.44 x 45.75	130x100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5
16	Under 17	11v11	100x50	91.44 x 45.75	130x100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5
	Under 18		100x50	91.44 x 45.75	130x100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5
	Open Age		100x50	91.44 x 45.75	130x100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5

A Player that owes a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) shall be permitted to register for a Club but will/may be suspended from football activities if the Player does not comply with the terms of the Football Debt Recovery Regulations in respect of that Football Debt.

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

18.E The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes taking into account the following.

1. A Player shall not be permitted to register for more than one club subject to the exceptions set out in Rule 18.E 3 below.
2. In the event of a Player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club priority of registration shall decide for which Club the Player shall be registered. The Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the Player of the fact of the previous registration subject to the exceptions set out in Rule 18.E 3 below.
3. A Player is only permitted to register for more than one Club provided that:
 - a. The Team(s) in which the Player plays in are not in the same age group, or
 - b. Except for the purpose of a transfer.
And the Player meets the requirements of Rule 18.C.

18.F It shall be a breach of the Rules for a Player to:-

1. Play for more than one Club in the same age group in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.
2. Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season, except if the provisions set out in Rule 18.E 3 apply.
3. Submit a signed registration form as per Rule 18.A 2 or submit a registration through the Player registration System that the Player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

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

18.G 1. The Management Committee shall have power to accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rule 18.G 2 and 3 below.

2. The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player, the exercise of such power being without prejudice to the Management Committee's ability to fine a Club at its discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) that has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities. (Subject to Rule 7)

3. The Management Committee shall also have the power to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 7) subject to the right of appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or the FA. Where the Management Committee does not have enough information to enable it to make a decision pursuant to the above power, it may apply, in its absolute discretion, to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA for further information.

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

4. A Player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18.G 4 but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the Player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition may consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

(Note) Action under Rule 18.G 3 shall only be taken against a Player in cases of the Player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any event be subject to an appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. All decisions must include a period of restriction. For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the competition into disrepute can only be considered where the Player has received in excess of 112 days suspension, or 10 matches in match based discipline, in any competition (and is not restricted to the Competition) in a period of 2 years or less from the date of the first offence).

18.H Subject to compliance with FA Rule C when a Club wishes to register a Player who is already registered with another Club it shall submit a transfer notification to the competition via the Player Registration system. Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to Club for which the Player is registered. Should this Club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the Player concerned within 3 days of the receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the Clubs consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within 3 days, the Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the Player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new club from such date or 7 days after such transfer.

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

- 18.I** A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the competition after 7pm 31st March except by special permission of the Management Committee.
- 18.J** In the event a Club has more than one team in an age group, each team must be clearly identifiable but not designated A or B or 1st or 2nd. In such cases, Players will be registered for one Team only. A Player so registered will be allowed to play for their Club in a younger or older age-group within the provisions of Rule 18.C.
- 18.K** Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.
- 18.L** A Player shall not be eligible to play for a team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding match (as specified in Rule 22.A) unless the Player has played 2 league games for that Team in this Competition in the current Playing Season.

In the event of a Non Contract Player changing their status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition or with a Club in another Competition their registration as a Non Contract Player will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 18.B 1.

- 18.M** 1 A Team shall not include more than 5 Players who have taken part in 10 or more senior Competition Matches during the current Playing Season unless a period of 21 days has elapsed since they last played.
- 2 For the purpose of this Rule a senior competition is in the Premier Divisions of Step 7 of the Football League.

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

- 18.N** 1 Subject to Rule 18.L 2, any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a match or matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that Competition Match deducted from its record, up to a maximum of 12 points, and have levied upon it a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 2 The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18.M 1 only in circumstances where the ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate or where the ineligibility is related to the Player's status.

3 Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible player in accordance with Rule 18.M above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion:

- (a) Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed;
- (b) Levy penalty points against the Club in default; and/or
- (c) Order that such match or matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).
- (d) If the fixture is a Cup fixture, the team will be disqualified and the opposition shall progress.

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

18.O 1 Priority must be given at all times to activities of schools and school organisations. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

2 The availability of children and young people must be cleared with the Head Teachers or Principals (except for Sunday leagues competitions).

3 A child under 15 as at midnight on 31 August in the relevant Playing Season shall not be permitted to play in a team Competition Match during the Playing Season where any other Player is older or younger than that child by two years or more.

18.P If a club wishes to cancel a player's registration within the Competition, it must make a request through the FA's electronic player's registration system giving the reasons for the request. The Competition may either approve or decline the request.

If a player's registration is cancelled he/she will not be able to play in the Competition for a period of 14 days from the date of cancellation.

19. CLUB COLOURS

19.A Every team must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the League Secretary by 1st June and the Competition Secretary shall decide as to their suitability.

19.B Any team changing its colours during the Playing Season must notify the Competition Secretary immediately..

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

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

- 19.E** Any team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents the colours in which they will play (including the colour of the goalkeeper jersey) at least 1 day before the Competition Match.
- 19.F** If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the home Team shall make the change. Should a Team delay the scheduled time of kick-off for a Competition Match by not having a change of colours they will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 19.G** Shirts must all be numbered and no two shirts shall have the same number, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff

20. PLAYING SEASON, CONDITIONS OF PLAY, TIMES OF KICK OFF, POSTPONEMENTS, SUBSTITUTES

- 20.A** All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board or, for Mini-Soccer, The Mini-Soccer and Youth Futsal Handbook, or, for 9v9 football, The FA's guide to 9v9 football.

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 Competition 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.

Artificial football Turf Pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition provided they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA's register of Football Turf Pitches. <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register>. All Football Turf Pitches used must be tested (by an FIFA accredited test institute) every 3 years and the results passed to The FA. The FA will give a decision on the suitability for use and add the pitch to the Register.

The home Club is also responsible for advising Participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements in accordance with Rule 20.C.

Overhead netting is allowed for 5v5 and 7v7 mini soccer if the overhead netting height is at a minimum of 6m. No overhead netting is allowed for 9v9 and 11v11 affiliated matches.

Overhead wires used to support pitch divider netting are ideally removed for affiliated matches but if they cannot be removed then discretion is given to the match official to restart the match in accordance of the laws of the game.

It is the Clubs responsibility to provide the League Secretary with documentary proof that the 3G pitch they are using is on the FA's Register. Clubs will be expected to play on 3G pitches if the ground is listed on the FA register. It is both the clubs responsibility to ensure that footwear in accordance with FA Ruling is worn. Matches postponed due to footwear issues will automatically be awarded to the opponent.

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

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

Age Group	<u>Minimum Duration of play per quarter (minutes)</u> <u>(Mini-Soccer)</u>	<u>Maximum Duration of play per quarter (minutes)</u> <u>(Mini-Soccer only)</u>	Minimum duration of play per half (minutes)	Maximum duration of play per half (minutes)	Maximum playing time in one day in all organised development fixtures (minutes)	Maximum playing time in one day in all tournaments and trophy events/festivals (minutes)	Competition structure
Under 7 and Under 8	5	10	10	20	40	60	Development focused with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 2 week periods (6 weeks)
Under 9 and Under 10	10	12.5	20	25	60	90	Development focused with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 4 week periods (12 weeks)

Under 11	N/A	N/A	20	30	80	120	Development focused with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 6 week periods (18 weeks)
Under 12	N/A	N/A	20	30	80 (if applicable)	120	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 13 and Under 14	N/A	N/A	25	35	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 15 and Under 16	N/A	N/A	25	40	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table

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

For trophy events, the Competition may award mementos.

The times of kick-off shall be fixed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs and the competition.

- (i) Matches will kick off at 11am or 2pm. However, the Fixtures Secretary can approve amended kick off times where this may be warranted by special circumstances. Away teams must arrive no later than 15 minutes prior to kick off.

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

The home Team must provide goal nets, corner flags and at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if not provided. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- 20.B** Except by permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches must be played on the dates originally agreed but priority shall be given to The FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered

secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

1. A team may apply for two postponements in League and Cup matches. Applications must be made by 7pm on Friday for Sunday matches and by 7pm on Sunday for midweek matches unless extreme circumstances apply. No mandatory League fixtures will be issued on the Sunday at the start of the normal October half term break (as per the school holiday schedule issued by Lancashire County Council).

2. In addition to the above, applications for postponement of fixtures due to school trips/tours can be made but must be notified to the Fixtures Secretary 14 days prior to the date of the match in question.

All School trips/tour applications must be accompanied by written evidence from the school concerned and must be received by the League Secretary within 7 days of the date of the match.

3. No applications for postponements will be permitted for the last Sunday in the playing season (date of which will be confirmed at April meeting).

20.C An Officer of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the Ground and time of kick-off to the Match Officials and an Officer of the opposing Club at least 1 clear day prior to the playing of the Competition Match. If not so provided, the away Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

20.D In accordance with the Laws of the Game, the minimum number of Players which will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is as follows:

FORMAT	MINIMUM NUMBER
5v5	4
7v7	5
9v9	6
11v11	7

20.E 1. In Competitions where points are awarded home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have the power to impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff), deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the match in question to the

opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except by 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.

2. Not applicable

3. Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a fixture has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the Competition, the secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

In the event of the home team pitch being declared unfit the home team must inform the opposing Team manager immediately to seek the possibility of the game being switched to their opponents ground if the kick off time can be the same. If it cannot be the same time it must be agreeable with both teams.

Teams must not postpone a fixture until the above procedure has been complied with.

4. In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Competition. Failing such agreement and notification to the Competition within 5 days the Competition shall have the power to order the match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

5. 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 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 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 that neither Team will be awarded any points for that Match and it shall not be replayed. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned Match.

The Management Committee shall review any match that has taken place where either or both Teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by The FA or Affiliated Association. In each case the Team that was under suspension would be dealt with in

the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible players in accordance with Rule 18.M 1 above. Where both Teams were under suspension the match must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.

- 20.F** A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use substitute Players in any Competition match .

Where a Competition does allow return substitutes:

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

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

In Youth Football only, the referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than 5 minutes before the start of the match and a Player not so named may not take part in the match.

A Player who has been named as a substitute before the start of the Competition Match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a Player in that Competition Match within the meaning of Rule 18 of this Competition.

- 20.G** The half time interval shall be of at least 5 minutes duration, but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.
- 20.H** The Teams taking part in Under 7s to Under 11s or Youth Football shall identify a Team captain who may/shall wear an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of their team mates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

All teams must provide a taped physical barrier between the field of play and spectators. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

21. REPORTING RESULTS

- 21.A** The Competition must receive within 24 hours of the date played, the result of each Competition Match in the prescribed manner, (and also the referee markings as required by Rule 23 or any other information required by the Competition). Failure to do so will incur a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 21.B** Both teams in all league and cup fixtures played in the CLJFL will be responsible for sending by text the result of the fixture to the league by 5.30pm for matches played on Sunday and 9pm for mid-week games.
1. If the fixture is postponed for whatever cause, the person nominated must still be notified by that Club immediately the match is postponed.

Clubs playing in Lancashire Football Association Competitions are also required to notify their results as above.

Failure to do so will incur a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- 21.C** The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect but NOT publish results or any grading tables for fixtures involving Under 7's, Under 8's, Under 9's, Under 10's and Under 11's. Any Competition failing to abide by this Rule will be dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority and any Club failing to abide by this Rule will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect and publish results for trophy events.

22. DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

- 22.A** In Competitions where points are awarded, Team rankings within the competition will be decided by points, with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn match. The Teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the conclusion of the Playing Season shall be adjudged the winners. Matches must not be played for double points.

In the event of two or more Teams being equal on points at the end of the Playing Season, rankings maybe determined by a match or matches played under conditions determined by the Management Committee, or the position shared.

Please note: Goal difference does not apply to League positions.

In play-off matches in the event of the scores being level at the end of the game, 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.

22.B Automatic promotion shall be applied for the first 2 Teams and automatic relegation shall be applied for the last 2 Teams in each division except as provided for below, subject to the provisions of Rule 2.L.

1. Should one or more Teams withdraw from any one division after the Playing Season has commenced an equal number of Teams to those withdrawing in that division shall not be automatically relegated.

2. Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the Playing Season may be filled in any of the following ways:

(a) retention of otherwise relegated Team(s); or

(b) additional promotion of the next ranked Team(s) from the division below;
or

(c) election

3. Not applicable

4. Should either or both of the leading Teams in any of the divisions have a Team in the next higher division, promotion shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next highest Team or Teams in the division concerned.

5. Should either or both of the relegated Teams in any of the divisions have a Team in the next lower division, relegation shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next lowest Team or Teams in the division concerned.

22.C Not applicable

22.D In the event of a team withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the Playing Season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting team shall be expunged from the Competition table. For the purposes of this Rule 22.D a completed fixture shall include any Competition Match(es) which has/have been awarded by the Management Committee.

23. MATCH OFFICIALS

23.A Registered referees (and assistant referees where approved by the FA or County FA) for all Competition Matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Authority.

23.B 1. Not applicable

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

for example, a 15 year old Referee may only officiate in competitions where the age banding is 14 or younger.

- 23.C** Where assistant referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant referee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

The Referees Secretary may, if he/she considers it desirable or upon application by the two competing clubs, appoint Assistant Referees, if available to any match.

- 23.D** The appointed Referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground in all Competition Matches and that decision shall be final, subject to the determination of the Local Authority or the owners of a Ground, which must be accepted.

- 23.E** Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Authority, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee of £27 for Under 11 &12, £30 for Under 13 &14, and £35 for Under 15&16.

Each team will be responsible for 50% of the referees` fee.

In the case of Assistant Referees being appointed by the Referees Secretary, they shall be entitled to a £20 fee, both teams to share equally the cost of ALL officials. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- 23.F** In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to half fee. Where a match is not played owing to one club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Ground, their full fee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

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

- 23.I** 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 Sanctioning Authority.

- 23.J** Not applicable

23.K A copy of the Competition Rules can be found on the league's website.

23.L Not applicable

The home team must communicate and receive a response from the referee nominated on the fixture list no later than Thursday 8pm (midweek fixtures Sunday 8pm) unless the referee is appointed after this time which then contact should be made as soon as possible. You should also keep the official up to date with any planned pitch inspections and change of venues. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Any Referee who is unable to fulfil their appointment **MUST** inform the Referees Secretary immediately. It is the duty of a replacement Referee to contact the home manager.

Schedule A

FEES TARIFF

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
4.A	Entry fee	£50.00
4.B	Annual subscription	£150.00
4.C	Deposit	£100.00
7.C, 7.E, 7.G	Protest/appeal fees	£25.00
18.D	Player Registration Fee	£10.00(per player)
18.H	Transfer form	£10.00
23.E	Referee fees	As agreed with Sanctioning Authority
23.E	Assistant referee fees	As agreed with Sanctioning Authority

FINES TARIFF

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
2.G	Failure to affiliate	£100.00
2.I	Failure to comply with FA initiatives	£100.00
2.K	Unauthorised entry of teams into competitions	£100.00
3	Failure to obtain consent for a change of club name	£30.00
4.C	Failure to pay a deposit	£100.00
4.E	Failure to provide affiliation number/details form	£100.00
5.E	Communications conducted by persons other than nominated officers	£25.00
6.H	Failure to comply with an instruction of the management committee	£100.00
6.I	Failure to pay a fine within required timeframe	Double the original fine up to £100.00
8.H	Failure to be represented at AGM	£100.00
9	Failure to be represented at SGM	£100.00
10	Failure to submit the required written agreement or to notify changes to signatories	£25.00
11.A	Failure to provide notice of withdrawal before deadline	£100.00
11.B	Failure to commence/complete fixtures	£100.00

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
13.A	Failure to submit the required written agreement regarding the trophy	£25.00
16.A	Failure to have the required insurance	£100.00
16.B	Failure to have the required insurance	£100.00
18.A	Failure to correctly register a player	£40.00
18.B 3	Failure to have the required number of registered players 35 days prior to the season commencing	£25.00
18.F	Registering or playing for multiple clubs, or inaccurate completion of a registration form	£25.00
18.G 2	Registration irregularities	£100.00
18.K	Fielding more than the permitted number of players who have participated in senior competitions.	£100.00
18.L	Playing an ineligible player	£100.00
18.M	Failure to give priority to school activities	£50.00
19.F	Delaying kick off due to no change of colours	
19.G	Failure to number shirts And Failure to have different numbered shirts	£10.00 (per shirt, up to an aggregate maximum of £30)
20.A	Delaying kick off due to failure to provide required equipment	£30.00
20.B	Failure to play matches on the date fixed	£100.00
20.C	Failure to provide details of a fixture	£50.00
20.D	Playing match with less than the required number of players	£100.00
20.E 1 & 4	Failure to play a fixture	£100.00
20.H	No captains armband	£20.00
21.A	Late result notification form	£20.00
21.B	Failure to provide a result	£20.00
21.D	Publishing results, grading tables for fixtures involving U7's,U8's,U9's,U10's or U11's	£50.00
23.C	Failure to provide club assistant referee	£25.00
23.E	Failure to pay match officials' fees and expenses	£25.00
23.F	Failure to pay match official where match is not played	£25.00

Schedule B – Index

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SCHEDULE A

Fees Tariff

Fines Tariff

APPENDIX 1 – PLAYING AREA/PITCHES & CONDITIONS

For pitch dimensions see table in Rule 18.B.

Teams in all Divisions will use corner flags which will be not less than 5ft high.

The pitch named on the League's Website for a team is the one registered by the League as that team's official pitch and cannot be changed without permission of the Management Committee.

Any team requiring to change pitches must inform the League Secretary in writing to enable a check to be carried out by the Grounds Committee.

Only 2 coaches per team are allowed at a game, and must stand on the opposite side to parents. Should a team have more than 2 coaches, the extras should stand as a spectator and follow the spectator's code of conduct

Coaches to remain in marked out or coned out technical area at all times during the game, unless called onto the pitch by the referee.

APPENDIX II - CLUB FACILITIES

All teams must provide decent dressing accommodation for home and away teams and match officials, with running water and toilet facilities.

Each team must provide an FA Approved First Aid Kit on the ground which must be accompanied by a responsible official.

All Clubs in the League must, if so required, place their grounds at the disposal of the Fixtures Secretary at least twice a year if requested to do so by the Fixtures Secretary.

APPENDIX III – SPOT CHECKS

Spot checks on Players may take place at the half time interval by members of the Management Committee. Referees will extend the half time interval accordingly to allow this to take place. Failure to do so will result in the Club being charged in line with Rule 6(H).

APPENDIX IV – BREACHES OF RULES

For any breaches of Rule with the exception of Rules 8.H and 9, and subject to Rule 6.I Clubs will be charged in line with Rule 6.H.

CUP COMPETITION RULES

1. The Cup Competitions shall be known collectively as the `Central Lancashire Junior Football Challenge Cup Competitions`.
2. The Management Committee of the Central Lancashire Junior Football League shall have the entire control and management of the Competition.
3. All questions of eligibility and qualification of competitors, interpretation of the rules and all other matters in dispute shall be referred to the Management Committee whose decision shall be final, subject to appeal.
4. Matches shall be played according to the laws of the game except as otherwise stated in the rules of this League. If the scores are tied at the end of normal time then 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.
5. If a first match is postponed on two occasions, the Committee shall have the power to order the match to be played on the ground of the Club second drawn.
6. All rounds prior to the final tie each team will be responsible for 50% of the referees` fee. In the case of Assistant Referees being appointed to the fixture, the home team shall be responsible for the Referees fee and the away team responsible for both the Assistant Referees fees.
7. The Referees for all ties and the Assistant Referees in the final tie shall be appointed by the Management Committee who shall also fix the fee to be paid. Both teams in the Semi Finals and the Final tie shall each submit a match ball of good quality and condition to the Referee in charge of the game at least 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the game.
8. In addition to the Cup, the League shall present souvenirs or medals to Players of both teams in the finals. When a Player taking part is dismissed or ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct, the medal or souvenir to which they may be entitled may be withheld at the discretion of the Committee. League Rule 13 will apply to all Cups & Trophies won in this competition.
9. Any Club or Player infringing the rules will be liable to be dealt with by the Management Committee under the above mentioned rules of the Association.
10. To be eligible to play in the Cup & Plate Competitions a Player must be registered in accordance with League Rule 18(A) but no Player shall be eligible to play for more than one team in both Cup & Plate competitions. Any Player who has played for any club in the Cup & Plate Competitions shall be termed cup-tied and cannot play for any other Club or age group in the Cup & Plate Competition. A Player must have played

two games for his/her team during the current season to be eligible to play in a Final Tie. It is the responsibility of the Club to ensure any transferred Players are not cup tied with any previous Club

11. Any team/club having a protest, claim or complaint must submit this in writing to the League Secretary within 5 days of the date of the match (excluding Sundays) together with a £20 Administration Fee. If the protest or complaint is upheld the £20 Administration Fee will be returned. The offending Club shall pay all expenses necessitated by the enquiry and be further dealt with as the Management Committee may decide. If however, the protest, claim or complaint is not upheld the deposit shall be forfeited and paid into the funds of the League.
12. Where a Club has two teams entered in the Cup Competition two separate squads must be submitted to the appropriate Registration Secretary.
13. Any team reaching a Cup Final must be available to play on the scheduled date. If a team is unavailable they may be eliminated from the appropriate competition the discretion of the Management Committee and the tie awarded to their opponents. Competing teams and their spectators must not arrive at the appropriate venue until 45 minutes before the scheduled kick off time. Any team/club contravening this rule will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
14. All matters not dealt with in the foregoing rules shall be governed by the rules of the Central Lancashire Junior Football League.
15. These rules shall govern all cup competitions.
16. Validity of Players Qualification
 - A) The Committee shall have power to call upon a Player, and/or the Club to which they are registered, or for which they have played, to prove that the Player is qualified according to the competition rules.
 - B) Failing satisfactory proof, the Committee may disqualify such player and may remove the club/team from the Cup & Plate Competition and impose such other penalty as it considers appropriate. The Committee shall also have the power to impose penalties against clubs already knocked out of the Cup & Plate Competition
17. Disqualification

In addition to any other action or penalty, the Committee shall have the power to disqualify any competing Club/team or Player for any competing club(s), which it determines to have breached the rules and the decision of the Committee shall be final and binding.

NOTES TO CLUB SECRETARIES/MANAGERS

All League meetings take place at Lostock St. Gerard`s Parochial Centre, Brownedge Road, Lostock Hall, and will commence at 8.00pm.

All monies must be paid to the League Treasurer. Cheques must be payable to “The Central Lancashire Junior Football League”. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope if a receipt is required.

Please do not allow any foul language in the dressing rooms or on or near the pitch. Remember you are responsible for your spectators.

Please ensure that your Players and managers respect all facilities provided and that they also respect any parking restrictions either on a private ground or park facility.

Management of teams should check that Players are not wearing anything which is dangerous to themselves or other Players including any kind of jewellery.

REFEREES INSTRUCTIONS /ADVICE

All appointments must be confirmed as soon as possible to the Referee Appointments Secretary.

Matches must commence at the time stated on the fixture sheet. Referees are instructed to ensure that they themselves are ready, on the field of play, at such stated time and must report in writing all late starts to the League Secretary.

Referees who find themselves available for matches at short notice or can be available for another game are asked to contact the Referees Secretary.

If any Referee is unable through illness or injury to fulfil their engagement, please inform the Referees Secretary immediately. Please remember he/she has to find a substitute to take your place and this takes time.

Should you require guidance or information, do not hesitate to contact the Referees Secretary.

Referees fees are as per Rule 23.E.

If you are not the Referee on the fixture sheet will you please confirm your appointment with the home team Manager as soon as possible. This could help you, the home club and the Referees Secretary.

All cases of misconduct must be reported by the Referee within two days (Sundays not included) to the Lancashire Football Association.

THE FA RESPECT CODES OF CONDUCT

Young Players

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game.

As a Player, you have a big part to play.

That's why The FA is asking every Player to follow a Respect Code of Conduct.

When playing football, I will:

- Always play my best for the benefit of the team
- Play fairly and be friendly
- Play by the rules, and respect the Referee
- Shake hands with the other team – win or lose
- Listen carefully to what my coach tells me
- Understand that a coach has to do what's best for the team
- Talk to someone I trust or the club welfare officer if I'm unhappy about anything at my club.
- Encourage my team mates
- Respect the facilities home & away

I understand that if I do not follow the Code,

I may:

- Be asked to apologise to whoever I've upset
- Receive a formal warning
- Be dropped, substituted or suspended from training

THE FA RESPECT CODES OF CONDUCT

Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials

Play your part and observe The Football Association's Respect Code of Respect

On and off the field, I will:

- Always show respect to everyone involved in the game
- Stick to the rules and celebrate the spirit of the game
- Encourage fair play and high standards of behaviour
- Always respect the referee and encourage players to do the same
- Never enter the field of play without the referee's permission
- Never engage in, or tolerate offensive, insulting or abusive behaviour
- Be aware of the potential impact of bad language on others
- Be gracious in victory and defeat
- Respect the facilities home and away

When working with Players, I will:

- Place the well-being, safety and enjoyment of each player above everything
- Never tolerate any form of bullying
- Ensure all activities are suited for the players' ability and age
- Work with others (e.g. officials, doctors, welfare officers and physiotherapists) for each player's best interests.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code,

I maybe:

- Required to meet with the club or league Welfare Officer or your CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)
- Suspended by the club from attending matches
- Suspended or fined by the County FA
- Required to leave, lose my position and/or have my license withdrawn

THE FA RESPECT CODES OF CONDUCT

Spectators and Parent/Carers

Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct for spectators and parents/carers at all times.

- Have fun; it's what we're all here for!
- Celebrate effort and good play from both sides
- Always respect the Referee and coaches and encourage players to do the same
- Stay behind the touchline and within the Designated Spectators' Area (where provided)
- When players make mistakes, offer them encouragement to try again next time
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting, or abusive language or behaviour.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code

I may be:

- Issued with a verbal warning or asked to leave
- Required to meet with the club committee, league or CFA Welfare Officer
- Obligated to undertake an FA education course
- Requested not to attend future games, be suspended or have my membership removed
- Required to leave the club along with any dependents and/or issued a fine

THE FA RESPECT CODES OF CONDUCT

Match Officials

Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct of match officials at all time.

I will:

- Respect the game, the competition and all other participants
- Maintain my integrity and approach each game with a positive mind set
- Be knowledgeable of the laws of the game, regulations and competition rules
- Set a positive personal example, by promoting good behaviour
- Embrace and empathise with the spirit of the game
- Submit accurate and concise reports and misconduct
- Apply the laws of the game, promoting positive actions and not tolerating actions that do not fit the image of the game

I understand that if I do not follow the Code,

I may be:

- Required to meet with The FA/County FA Refereeing Development Staff or Referees Committee
- Suspended by the County FA