



**CHARTER STANDARD**

# **LEAGUE RULES – 2011/2012**

**As Approved at League AGM June 21st 2011**



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## **RULE 1: NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION**

### **A. Name**

This Competition shall be designated the DERBY MINI-SOCCER LEAGUE, and shall consist of not more than sixty Clubs approved by the sanctioning authority.

All such Member Clubs must be affiliated to an affiliated County Football Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on Form "D" to their Affiliated County Football Association. The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire and Leicestershire.

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

Member Clubs must have or attain within a twelve month period of election FA Charter Standard Status.

The Competition will provide Mini-Soccer for players who have attained the age of 6 years but not the age of 10 years as at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in a playing season. 9 v 9 football maybe provided for players who have attained the age of 10 as at midnight 31<sup>st</sup> August in a playing season.

Age Groups: Under 7 – 7 a side. (Mini-soccer Rules)

Under 8 – 7 a side.

Under 9 – 7 a side.

Under 10 – 7 a side.

Under 11 – 9 a side (11 v 11 laws of the game with FA exceptions)

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

Matches will take place on Saturdays and/or Sundays at central locations within Derby.

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.

Any Club failing to comply with the Rule shall be liable to such penalties as the Management Committee deem suitable.

The constitution of the Competition shall be vested in the Management Committee.



## **RULE 2: ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT**

### **A. Application and Renewal**

Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of an additional team(s) shall be made in writing to the League Secretary and in turn an on-line Club Registration Form must be submitted by the club secretary. Clubs who are renewing their membership of this Competition shall submit their on-line Club Registration Form by the first day of June in each year.

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

When Rule 12(b) is applied and a team seeks a transfer or is compulsorily transferred to another division no Entry Fee shall be payable.

### **B. Annual Subscription**

Each Club shall pay an Annual Subscription for each team they have entered in the Competition (fees are shown on the Club Registration Form). New club Fees shall be invoiced following election. Clubs renewing their membership are invoiced at the time of on-line registration.

### **C. Fixture Guarantee**

Each Club shall pay a Fixture Guarantee, which shall be returnable to Clubs withdrawing from the League providing they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all orders of the Management Committee.

### **D. Non Payment**

A Club shall not participate in this Competition until fees have been paid.

### **E. Affiliation Number**

Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by August 1<sup>st</sup> of its County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming season, failing which they may be fined.



### **RULE 3: OFFICERS**

The Officers of the Competition shall be determined by the Annual General Meeting and elected thereat.

Chairman,  
Vice Chairman,  
Treasurer,  
League Secretary,  
Registrar,  
Assistant Registrar,  
Referee Secretary,  
Welfare Officer,



## **RULE 4: MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION**

### **A. Governing Rules**

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 nominated members who shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. All participants shall abide by the Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by the Association from time to time.

### **B. Election and Re-Election of Members**

Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination. All other candidates for election as Officers or Members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the League Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two Member Clubs, not later than 30th April in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting.

### **C. Committee Business**

The Management Committee shall meet monthly 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. Communication**

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

### **E. Nominated-Officers**

All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their nominated Officers. Daily contact from the League is electronic and the Club Secretary or Nominated Person must have access to this facility.

### **F. Attendance**

Any Management Committee member who shall fail to attend three consecutive meetings shall be automatically removed from the Management Committee unless a sufficient reason be given to the League Secretary in writing.



## **RULE 5: POWERS OF MANAGEMENT**

### **A. Sub-Committee**

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

### **B. Competition Funds**

Subject to the permission of the Derbyshire County Football Association having been obtained the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any Club which, may have withdrawn during the season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the season. (See Rule 6(e))

### **C. Voting Rights**

Each Member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee Meetings and have one vote thereat, but no Member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such Member or to the Club so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest. (This principle shall apply to the procedure of any Committee). In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

### **D. Rule Enforcement**

The Management Committee shall have the power to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition, including any not provided for in the Rules. With the exception of Rules 5(i), 6(h), 11 and 19 for any breaches of Rule a formal written charge must be issued. The respondent shall be given seven days from the date of notice to reply to the charge and given the opportunity to:-

- (i) Accept or deny the charge
- (ii) Submit in writing a case of mitigation, or
- (iii) Put their case before the Management Committee.

Except where these Rules provide for the imposition of a set penalty any Club, Club Official (limited to Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer) or Player alleged to be in breach of a Competition Rule must be formally charged in writing and given the opportunity to present their case before the Management Committee. Financial penalties can only be imposed if included within the set penalties for breaches of Competition Rules. All breaches of the Laws of the Game, Rules and Regulations of The Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance with F.A. Rules by the appropriate Association.

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

### **E. Decisions**



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

Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 14 days.

#### **F. Quorum**

Four 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 subcommittee of the Competition. In the absence of a Quorum, the Chairman may ascertain whether those present wish to proceed. In the event that the majority so wishes, the meeting shall proceed as if a quorum had been present.

#### **G. Acting Capacity**

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

#### **H. Failure to Comply**

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. Fines**

All fines and charges shall be paid within 14 days of the date of posting of the written notification. Any Club failing to do so will be fined a maximum of £50. Further failure to pay such fine including the additional sum within 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding payments are settled.

#### **J. Expenses**

A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition may have all reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.

#### **K. Vacancies**

The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the Annual General or Special General Meeting called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Competition season.

#### **L. U18**

No participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

#### **M. No Fines**

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

#### **N. The business**

The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee shall be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.



## **RULE 6: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **A. Date and Business**

The Annual General Meeting shall be held no later than June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted:

- (i) To receive and confirm the minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
- (ii) To consider any business arising therefrom.
- (iii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
- (iv) Election of new Clubs.
- (v) Presentation of the proposed constitution of the Competition for the ensuing season.
- (vi) Election of Officers and Management Committee.
- (vii) Appointment of Auditors.
- (viii) Alteration of Rules, if any ( of which notice has been given)
- (ix) Fix the date for commencement of the season and kick off times applicable to the Competitions.
- (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.

### **B. Documents Issued**

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

### **C. Accounts**

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

### **D. Attendance**

Each Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Fourteen days' notice shall be given of any Meeting.

### **E. Withdrawn Clubs**

Clubs who have withdrawn their Membership of the Competition during the season being concluded or who are not continuing their Membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the season being concluded.

### **F. Ballot**

All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by a majority of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.

### **G. Voting**

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

### **H. Attendance**

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



### **I. Officers**

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

### **J. Rule Changes**

Clubs wishing to submit changes to Rules will do so in writing to the League Secretary no later than 1<sup>st</sup> May.



## **RULE 7: AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED**

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

"We;

A \_\_\_\_\_(Chairman)

and

B \_\_\_\_\_(Secretary)

of \_\_\_\_\_Football Club

having been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Derby Mini-Soccer Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the Club, if elected or accepted into Membership, to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16."

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



## **RULE 8: QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS**

### **A. Eligibility**

(i) Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules, are not permitted in this Competition. A contract player may only play for a club that holds his contract.

(ii) No player registered with a FA Premier League or Football League Academy will be permitted to play in this Competition. A player registered with a Centre Of Excellence may only play in this Competition subject to the Regulations of the Programme for Excellence.

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

ID cards for players who are, or who become, ineligible shall be returned immediately. Any Club which fails to return an ID card may be fined and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

Suspension by a County Football Association automatically makes the player ineligible to play in the competition during the period of suspension.

Any bona fide member of a Club shall be eligible to play for that Club in this competition provided he has not, in the current season, played for another Club in the competition.

Players shall be eligible to play for only one team in a specific age-group in the current season.

### **B. Player Registration**

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

Had their details entered by the Club Secretary into the on-line registration form.

Submitted to the Registration Secretary by the Tuesday prior to playing a Registration Consent form signed by his parent or guardian and the Club Secretary, along with two passport sized photographs and a stamped addressed envelope, addressed to the Club Secretary. Incomplete forms will be returned.

Received Player ID card prior to playing.

Player Consent Forms shall be available to Clubs via the League Website.

The Club Secretary must hold records of proof of age for all registered players. These records may be requested by the League Registration Secretary in cases of dispute.

Players registering into the Development Section (u7 and u8) are not required to have a Player ID Card.

A player may not be registered for a Club in the Competition, nor transferred to



another Club in the competition, between 1<sup>st</sup> February and the end of the playing season except by special permission of the Management Committee.

All teams must have the minimum of 7 players and in the case of under 11's 9 players registered with the League Secretary by 17<sup>th</sup> August.

The maximum number of players that can be registered per team in any playing season is under 7's – 8's no limit, under 9's, 10's – 14 players, under 11's – 18 players. Additional players may only be registered at the discretion of the Management Committee.

It is compulsory for all teams in this Competition to produce their ID cards to the opposing team manager for ratification, together with their team members and substitutes, on the field of play five minutes prior to the commencement of their matches. Any Club who fails to abide by this regulation or who fail to produce ID cards at the request of a member of the Management Committee shall be fined and/or dealt with as the Management Committee may determine.

Any Club losing an ID card shall be charged for the issue of a replacement.

ID cards shall bear the name of the player's current Club and team.

In the event a Club has more than one team in an age group, each team must be clearly designated by a name e.g. Black Sox & White Sox. In such cases, players will be registered for one team only. A player/s so registered will be allowed to play for his Club in a younger or older age group within the provisions of Rule 8.

After the 1<sup>st</sup> March in each season, the Competition will make available to all Clubs an online Re-registration process and form for all players currently registered. Each player who wishes to play for the Club in the same team in the following season must be re-registered by 1<sup>st</sup> July in each year. Failure to complete the process or return the Parental Consent form within the specified time period will result in the cancellation of that (or those) registrations.

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

The qualification dates for the competition shall be as shown in Appendix 4.

### **C. Age Qualification**

In accordance with the foregoing qualifications a player must not play in a match where any other player is older or younger by 2 years or more.(The above qualification dates are subject to the provisions contained in FA Rule C.4 (a)(v)).

Club Secretaries shall be held responsible for the certified ages of all players signed by them (see Appendix 4 for qualification dates).

### **D. Financial Liabilities**

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.

The Club returning the Player's ID card is confirming that the player is free from all obligations to the Club.

#### **E. Fee**

A fee of £2 shall be paid for each player registered.

Parental Consent Forms shall be obtained from the Registration Secretary or League website.

#### **F. Disputes**

The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes.

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

#### **G. Misconduct**

It shall be deemed misconduct for a player to:

Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same season without first being transferred.

Having signed for one Club in the Competition, sign for another Club in the Competition in that season except for the purpose of a transfer.

Submit a signed registration form for registration that the player had willfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

#### **H. Powers Of The Management Committee**

The Management Committee shall have power to accept the registration of any player.

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

The Management Committee shall have power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any player found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 16) subject to the right of appeal to the FA or the relevant County Football Association. Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated conduct, which may deter a participant from being involved in this Competition. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the player is registered with.

(Note: Action under Clause (iii) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any case be subject to an Appeal to the Football Association.) For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the competition into disrepute can only be considered where the player has



received in excess of 112 days' suspension, or 10 matches in match based discipline, in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.

#### **I. Transfers**

Subject to The Football Association Rules dealing with players without a written contract when a player desires a transfer, the Club the player wishes to transfer to shall submit a transfer form to the Registration Secretary accompanied by a fee of £25 (non refundable). Such transfer shall be referred by the Registration Secretary to the Club for which the player is registered. Should this club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Registration 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 Registration Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such time that the player registration process has been satisfied.

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

No member Clubs may apply for the transfer of more than two players per team from a member Club during the period 1<sup>st</sup> July to the 1<sup>st</sup> February without the permission of the Management Committee.

#### **J. Deadline**

A player may not be registered for a club nor transferred to another club in the Competition after February 1 except by special permission of the Management Committee.

#### **K. Records**

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 by a name e.g. Black Sox & White Sox. In such cases, players will be registered for one team only. A player/s so registered will be allowed to play for his Club in a younger or older age group within the provisions of Rule 8.

#### **L. Register**

A register containing the names of all players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Registration Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of any duly appointed Member Club representative at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one season only.

#### **M. Eligibility**

A player shall not be eligible to play for a team in any special championship, promotion or relegation-deciding match (as specified in Rule 12(A)) unless the player has played 5 games for that team in this Competition in the current season.



A player approached between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> June inclusive shall not play for the Club making the approach in the current season.

Clubs shall refuse the attendance of any player at training sessions if such player is registered to play in this competition for another Club.

Any Club which believes an illegal approach has been made to one of their players registered to play in this competition shall not enter into any correspondence with the Club or player concerned if they intend to refer the issue to the County FA.

#### **N. Correspondence**

All correspondence relating to the registration or transfer of players, or complaints or protests regarding Clubs playing ineligible players must be addressed to the Registration Secretary.

#### **O. Unregistered/Ineligible**

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

In addition the team may 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.

The Management Committee may, at its discretion, award the points available in the match in question to the opponents, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.

#### **P. School Priority**

Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations' activities. This is not applicable to under 17/18 football.

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

Children under the age of 15 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)

#### **Q. Withdrawal Of A Club Or Team**

If a Club or team withdraws from the Competition during the playing season, no more than two players who were registered with for such Clubs or team shall register for any one Club in membership with this Competition during the current season without the permission of the Management Committee.



## **RULE 9: CLUB COLOURS; CLUB NAME**

### **A. Colours**

Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the League Secretary by August 1<sup>st</sup> who shall decide as to their suitability.

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

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

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

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the away team shall make the change. Bibs are acceptable as a change of strip.

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

Shirts must be numbered on the back, with no duplication within each teams playing squad.

Players may not exchange or share shirts during the course of a match.

### **B. Change of Club Name**

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



## **RULE 10: PLAYING SEASON, CONDITIONS OF PLAY TIMES OF KICK OFF, POSTPONEMENTS, SUBSTITUTES**

### **A. Playing Season**

The Annual General Meeting shall determine the date for the commencement of the season in accordance with Football Association Rules. Original Fixtures arranged by the League Secretary, or at a meeting specially convened for that purpose, to be held no later than 20 August and must not be arranged for a date later than seven days preceding the concluding date.

### **B. Laws Of The Game**

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.

All matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee. If through any fault of either 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.

The maximum duration of play shall be two halves of 20 minutes each way (all mini-soccer games, all ages). The maximum playing time in any one day for under 7 and under 8 age groups is 40 minutes and for under 9 and 10 age groups is 60 minutes. For 9 v 9 under 11's the maximum duration of play shall be two halves of 30 minutes each half.

The times of kick-off shall be confirmed in accordance with Rule 6. Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time shall be fined a sum not exceeding £50 or be dealt with as the Management Committee may determine.

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

The home team must provide at least two footballs white in colour fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. The size of football to be used shall be: For Mini-Soccer, size 3 for under 7s & 8s, size 4 for under 9s, 10s and 11s. Goal nets must be used.

Each team taking part in the match fixture must remove and store the Mini-Soccer goal it defended during the second half of the fixture. This rule may be disregarded only if there is a match immediately following.

Teams must be ready to kick off at the allotted time. Should a match fail to start within ten minutes of the allotted time, the match report form should be marked accordingly and a reason entered. The Management Committee may, at their discretion, apply a fine for all late starts.

Team managers are responsible for the behaviour of their spectators at all times. This includes immediately before and after the match.



Managers and spectators shall not encroach upon the field of play and shall not stand within 10 yards of the goal. They shall not intimidate, provoke an individual or team and shall not aggravate a situation or incident.

Teams must install and remove Respect Barriers when designated to do so. Games will not be allowed to commence without these in place.

When 9 v 9 at u11's is played only goals sized 16' x 7' will be permissible.

The Management Committee shall take such action as they consider appropriate against any individual (s), team or Club who fail to comply with Rule 10F subject to the alleged misconduct being reported to and actioned by the appropriate County FA.

### **C. Fixture Priority**

Except by permission of the Management Committee all matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The Football Association and all relevant County Association Cup Competitions.

All other matches must be considered secondary.

Clubs may with the agreement of the League Secretary and their opponents, bring forward a match.

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).

### **E. Under-Strength Team**

Every Club shall play its best available qualified team or teams in all matches in the Competition.

(Note: The intention of this Rule is not to interfere with normal team selection by Clubs, but to prevent Clubs deliberately fielding a weakened team in order to unreasonably reserve players for another game or to boost the strength of another or lower team. It is NOT intended that Clubs MUST field higher team players in lower teams when the higher team has no engagement. If, in the opinion of the Management Committee, the substance or spirit of the Rule is obviously being disregarded, the Club or Clubs concerned may be called to account for its/their actions and shall be subject to such decisions as the Management Committee may determine, despite the fact that Rule 8 has not been infringed.)

In the event of a Club playing in any match with less than 7 players for under 9's/10's or less than 9 players for under 11's they may be fined £15 for each missing player.

A minimum of 5 players will constitute a team for a Competition match.

At 9 v 9 under 11's a minimum of 7 players will constitute a team.

### **F. Failure To Keep A Match Fixture**

Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have power to inflict a fine, deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points 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.

Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture must, without delay, give notice to the League Secretary, the Referee Appointments Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club.



Any Club failing to comply shall be dealt with by the Management Committee who may inflict a fine.

In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the League Secretary within 7 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 and take what other action they may deem necessary.

In cases where a match is abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams or their Club members, the Management Committee shall take such action, as they consider appropriate. Such action is subject to any disciplinary action taken by the appropriate County Football Association.

#### **G. Substitutions**

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

A 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.

A Team must not have a squad greater than double the size of its team in an age group. 9 – a side 18 players, 7 – a side 14 players.

#### **H. Half Time**

The half time interval shall be at least five minutes duration, but it shall not exceed fifteen minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

#### **I. Payment Of Officials**

For League matches, the team designated as the 'Home' team shall pay the full amount of the designated fee to the League appointed match official(s) before the commencement of the match.

For Cup matches, each team shall pay half the designated fee to the League appointed match official(s) before the commencement of the match. Failure or refusal to pay match officials will result in a fine.

NB Fees are only payable to League appointed Match Officials.



#### **J. Closed Dates**

No more than two closed dates will be allowed per team per season.

One months written notice must be given to the League Secretary of any team Closed Date(s).

The reasons given for the Closed Date must be acceptable to the Management Committee.



## **RULE 11: REPORTING RESULTS**

### **A. Responsibility**

Both the home and away team must ensure that their designated section of the Match Report Form is complete. The home team must supply the Match Report form and ensure that the prescribed procedure has been adopted to deposit the form with the Competition immediately after the fixture and that the match result has been reported.

### **C. Match Report Form**

The match report form, correctly and fully completed, shall be signed by a responsible members of both playing teams.

The signing of a Match Report Form confirms that:

The score is correct.

The players' names are correct.

That identity cards have been checked.

The referee is correctly identified.

Referee marks have been entered.

The Management Committee shall have power to take such action, as they deem suitable against a Club, which submits an incomplete form or incorrect information or does not adopt the correct procedure for the reporting of results.

### **D. Non Competitive**

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



## **RULE 12: DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP**

### **A. Points To Determine The Championship**

Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with 3 Points to be awarded for a win and 1 point for a drawn match. The teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective Groups at the conclusion shall be adjudged the winners. Matches must not be played for double points. In Mini-Soccer points can only be awarded for under 9,10 and under 11's competitions.

In the event of two or more teams being equal on points, team rankings will be decided in following order:

- (i) Goal difference
- (ii) Goals scored
- (iii) Deciding match played under conditions determined by the Management Committee.

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 10 minutes extra time shall be played in two equal periods of 5 minutes. 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 is 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. Clubs Not Completing Fixtures**

In the event of a team not completing 75% of its fixtures for the season, all points obtained by, or recorded against, such defaulting team shall be expunged from the Competition table.



## **RULE 13: REFEREES**

### **A. Appointment of referees**

Registered Referees and Assistant Referees for all matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee.

The Referees' Secretary shall keep a list as approved and issued by the Derbyshire County Football Association.

The Management Committee may, if they consider it desirable, or upon application by the two competing Clubs, appoint Assistant Referees, if available, to any match. Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee.

### **B. Substitute Referees**

In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed Referee, the appointed senior Assistant Referee shall take charge.

In cases where the Competition has been unable to appoint a Referee and where there is no officially appointed Assistant Referees, the clubs shall agree upon a Referee. A Referee thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee.

### **C. Pitch Inspections**

The appointed match Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground and the decision shall be final subject to either in the case of a ground of a Local Authority or the owners of a ground, the Representative of that body may declare the field of play unfit for play.

A Club may not refuse to play on a pitch passed as fit by a match Referee appointed by the Competition.

### **D. Referee Fees and Expenses**

Fees will be laid down by the Management Committee.

Officials will be paid prior to the commencement of the match

In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the appointed Match Officials shall be entitled to their full fee. 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.

### **E. Failure To Attend Fixtures**

A Referee not keeping his engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory Football Association with which he is registered.



#### **F. Referee Marks**

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

A written report on the Referee must be forwarded to the League Secretary if less than **fifty** marks are awarded.

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



## **RULE14: WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB**

### **A. Withdrawal Date**

Unless a team shall have informed the League Secretary, in writing, of its intention of withdrawing from the League by 31<sup>st</sup> March in each year, then that team will have agreed to remain a member of the League for the coming season. Its resignation will not be accepted.

### **B. Not Allowed**

A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its teams from the Competition after the Annual General Meeting. Any Club infringing this Rule shall be liable to a fine and shall also be liable for its share of any call, which may be made under Rule 5.

### **C. Refusal**

The Membership for the coming season having been decided at a Special General Meeting or at the Annual General Meeting of the Competition shall have the right, irrespective of other provisions in this Rule, to refuse to permit a Club to withdraw its team(s) in order to join another Competition and may hold the Club to its engagements.

### **D. Failure to Discharge**

In the event of a Member Club withdrawing and/or disbanding it shall be immediately liable to discharge all its financial and other obligations to the Competition. In the event that any such obligation remains un-discharged after a period of twenty-one (21) days then such obligation shall be met by the then current Club Members. 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.



## **RULE 15: PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS**

### **A. Questions and Objections**

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. Procedure**

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 (and not by e Mail) with the League Secretary within seven days (excluding Sundays) of the match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A Member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

### **C. Disputes**

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. Fee**

No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the League Secretary the protest fee which may be forfeited in whole or in part to the funds of the Competition in the event of the Club losing its case and the League shall have power to order the defaulting Club or Clubs making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the enquiry or to order that the costs be shared by the parties.

### **E. Statement**

All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days prior to the protest or complaint is being heard.

All parties must have received 14 days notice of the hearing, should they be instructed to attend.

Should a Club elect to state its case in person then they should forward a deposit of £25 and indicate such when forwarding the written response.

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.



## **RULE 16: BOARD OF APPEAL**

Within 14 days of the posting of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee or the Competition, a Club, Official or Player against whom action is taken may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars in duplicate with the Secretary of the Derbyshire County Football Association, including a fee of £15.00, for adjudication of a Board of Appeal. The grounds of appeal shall be in accordance with FA Rules. The Board of Appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited and shall decide by whom the costs of the appeal shall be borne. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned.

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



## **RULE 17: MISCONDUCT AND EXCLUSION OF CLUBS**

### **A. Exclusion**

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

### **B. Undesirable**

At the Annual General meeting, or at an Extra Ordinary Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club or team of a Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by (more than) two-thirds (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. Breach of Rule**

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



## **RULE 18: TROPHYS**

### **A. Legal Ownership**

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, held in trust, or otherwise dealt with 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.

### **B. Conditions Of Acceptance, Agreement to be signed**

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

"We;

A \_\_\_\_\_(Chairman)

and

B \_\_\_\_\_(Secretary)

of \_\_\_\_\_Football Club

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 1<sup>st</sup> March. If the Cup or Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair."

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



## **RULE 19: SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

Upon receiving a requisition signed by two thirds of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting.

The Management Committee may call an EGM at any time.

At least seven days notice shall be given of either meeting under this rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.

Each Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Not less than 7 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.

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



## **RULE 20: ALTERATION TO RULES**

Alterations shall be made to these Rules only at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 19.

Any alteration made during the playing season to the Rule relating to the qualification of players shall not take effect until the following season.

Proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the League Secretary by 1<sup>st</sup> May in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the Annual General Meeting.

Proposed alterations to be considered at an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting, shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the EGM.

A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if 51% [a majority] of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the Annual General Meeting or Extra-Ordinary General Meeting shall be submitted to the sanctioning Football Association fourteen 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 shall have been obtained.



## **RULE 21: Finance**

The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.

All expenditure in excess of £200 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.

The Financial year of the Competition will end on May 31st.

The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be verified annually by some suitable person(s) who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.



## **RULE 22: RULES BINDING ON CLUBS**

Each Club shall be deemed to have given its assent to the foregoing Rules and agree to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee subject to Rule 16. Each Member Club must abide by any issued Football Association Code of Conduct.



## **RULE 23: CUP COMPETITION**

- The Under 10 Competition shall be called 'the Ken Oxford Memorial Cup'.
- The Under 9 Competition shall be called 'the Giuseppe Calderone Memorial Cup'.
- There shall be no competition for Under 8 teams.
- The entire control and management of the Competition shall be vested in the Management Committee.
- The Management Committee shall have the power to formulate the Rules Of The Competition and to alter or add to the Rules from time to time as they deem expedient. In any matter not specifically mentioned in these Rules, the Management Committee shall have the power to take such action and impose such penalties as it deems necessary.
- The Trophies are the property of the Derby Mini-Soccer League and shall be returned to the League Secretary no later than 1<sup>st</sup> March of each year. upon request.
- Should the Trophy become damaged whilst under the care of the Club, the Club shall refund to the League the amount of the current insured value, or of thorough repair.
- When a player is ordered from the field of play for misconduct, the player's individual Trophy or Medal, to which he may be entitled, shall be withheld at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- The competition shall be compulsory for, and restricted to, teams who are members of the relevant section of the Derby Mini-Soccer League. The qualification of players shall be as in League Rule 8.
- No player shall be eligible for the Semi-Final or Final Ties unless he/she has been registered with the team at least 30 days prior to these ties.
- Any Club being proved to have played an ineligible player shall have all teams at all age-groups removed from the competition.
- The Home Team shall report on the match as detailed in League Rule 11.
- All protests to be made to the League Secretary in writing, along with accompanying fee, within three days of the match. The fee shall be forfeited if the case not be proven. If the protest is upheld, the game shall be replayed if the Club whose protest is successful was on the losing side.

### **Rules Of Play**

- Matches will be played in accordance with Rule 10.
- In the event that the scores are level at the end of normal time then extra time of 5 minutes each way shall be played.
- The tie will be decided by kicks from the penalty mark.
- Only players on the pitch at the end of extra time shall be eligible to take penalties.
- Three players from each team shall be nominated to take one penalty each. ( Players 1-3)
- If the score is level after three penalties each the penalties will become sudden death, players 4 - 7 (9) shall take these penalties.
- If the result is still not decided sudden death penalties continue starting again with Player 1 from each side until a winner is decided.



### **Appendix One: Key Dates**

The following table is a summary of dates some of which are contained within the rules. The list is for guidance only.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>
Latest Registration Date For Players	1st February
Return Of All Trophies	1st March
Issue of Player Re-registration Summary Form by League	1st March
Club Continuation Notice	31 <sup>st</sup> March
Latest Date For The Withdrawal Of A Team (Following Season)	30 <sup>th</sup> June
End Of Financial Year	31st May
Nomination Of Officers	30th April
Submission Of Proposed New Rules	1st May
Latest Return Of Club Membership/Application Form	1st June
Application For New teams To Join	1 <sup>st</sup> June – 31 <sup>st</sup> July
Players May be Approached	As per FA Rule C2
Annual General Meeting	Last Tuesday in June
Return of Player Re-registration Summary Form	1st July
Minimum Number Of Players Per Team Signed On	16th August

### **Appendix Two: Competition Fees**

Competition Fees are not controlled under the Rules. This table is included here for ease of reference only.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Fee</b>
New Club Entrance Fee	£10.00
Club Fixture Guarantee Deposit	£50.00
FORM A – Development Section Subscription 7 a side all ages	£55.00
FORM A – League Proper Subscription 7 and 9 a-side	£75.00
FORM C – Individual Player Registration (under 9 -11 only)	£2.00
Protest Deposit	£25.00
Board Of Appeal Deposit	£15.00
Referee Match Fee 7 v 7	£10.00
Referee Match Fee 9 v 9	£15.00



### **Appendix Three: Standard Disciplinary Penalties**

Disciplinary Penalties are not controlled under the Rules. This table is included here for ease of reference only.

<b>Rule</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
5	Inattention to correspondence	£50
6	Failure to attend AGM	£20
8	Failure to produce identity cards	£30
8	Playing an ineligible player	£50
9	Not having a change of strip	£10
9	Failure to notify change of Club Secretary	£30
10	Failure to fulfil a fixture	£50
10	Failure to provide appropriate match ball to ref before match	£10
10	Failure to pay match official	£10
10	Refusal to pay match official	£50
10	Insufficient players for game to take place	£50
10	No match ball	£15
10	Late kick off	£10
10	Failure to erect/remove Respect Barrier	£50
10	Failure to erect/remove minisoccer goal	£50
10	Failure to pay pitch hire fee on time	£10
11	Failure to report result	£20
11	Failure to complete match report form	£10
11	Failure To sign match report form	£15
13	Failure to identify/mark referee	£15
14	Withdrawal of team	£75

### **Appendix Four: Player Age Qualifications**

<b>Age - Group</b>	<b>Qualification Dates</b>
Under 7's Minisoccer	The player must be aged 6 but under 7 as at midnight on 31 <sup>st</sup> August in the playing season.
Under 8's Minisoccer	The player must be under 8 as at midnight on 31 <sup>st</sup> August in the playing season.
Under 9's Minisoccer	The player must be aged 8 but under 9 as at midnight on 31 <sup>st</sup> August in the playing season.
Under 10's Minisoccer	The player must be under 10 as at midnight on 31 <sup>st</sup> August in the playing season.
Under 11's Youth Football	The player must be aged 10 but under 11 as at midnight on 31 <sup>st</sup> August in the playing season.

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