

BLACKWATER & DENGIE YOUTH

FOOTBALL LEAGUE

founded 1976



HANDBOOK

Season 2023-2024

HON. SECRETARY

Mrs. J. Leno

**44 Bramley Way,
Mayland, Chelmsford,
Essex CM3 6ER**

Telephone: 07889 274014

jackielenobodyfl@yahoo.co.uk





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Important Dates for 2023-2024



CHARTER STANDARD
LEAGUE

Special General Meeting

Wednesday 7th February 2024
Witham Town FC—8pm

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 19th June 2024
Witham Town FC—8pm

Results, League Tables and Fixtures available every Monday morning on the FullTime website.

<http://fulltime-league.thefa.com/index.do?league=625214>

If you have any queries regarding the Results or League Tables or have any comments on the site please call Ed Brooker a call on:

Tel: 07794 233418 or email

[: edbrooker1976@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:edbrooker1976@hotmail.co.uk)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The **HOME & AWAY** club are required to **TEXT** the
match result to **FULL TIME**

Before 5:00pm

on the day the match is played

See Rule 21(b)

NOTES for CLUB OFFICIALS and MANAGERS

1. Please make sure you read the rules thoroughly. Each Manager is expected to have access to the online handbook with them on match days.
2. Always assume you have a fixture every week unless notified otherwise.
3. Fixture lists are just a guidance and may be amended
4. If you have a bye in a cup competition or are eliminated you will have a league fixture
5. Please study the fixtures and if you have a problem in that you have too many fixtures at home on any weekend please inform the Fixture Secretary as soon as possible. Do not wait until the week the matches are to be played.
6. Amendments to fixtures will be advised on the League website.
7. If you find it necessary to postpone a match make sure all the procedures set out in the handbook are followed.
- 8.(A) (i) Read the rules on the registration of players. Make sure you ALWAYS have your copy of WGS registered players photos with you and that you give them to the opposing Manager BEFORE the start of the match and get them back AFTER the match before you go home.
8. (ii) Please ensure if you, as a Manager are playing another eligible player in your side, that you remember to take that player's WGS registered photo to the game. It follows that you must remember to give it back to his Manager afterwards.
9. Make sure you know the cup rules on eligibility of players. An ineligible player will almost certainly mean you will be disqualified from taking part in the competition.
10. Notify your opponents of the kick-off time and the location of the match in good time.
11. Check before the match to avoid a clash of shirt colours. The HOME team must change if there is a clash and you must have your change kit readily available.
12. If weather conditions force a club to cancel a match after your opponents have left for the ground, you MUST ensure that someone with authority is there to meet and explain the circumstances.
13. Make sure you have a ball fit for play (in accordance with Rule 18(C)) and that nets, are adequately secured. It is also the responsibility of the home club to ensure that the pitch is adequately marked out.

14. On match days ensure that someone is present to welcome your opponents, the Referee and Assistant Referees and show them to the changing accommodation, also make sure Referees and Assistant Referees are paid immediately after the match.

If your club has appointed the Referee, you must advise the opposition before the game commences. The Referee is in charge of the game and both Assistant Referees are to carry out the duties as instructed/required by him

15. Make Sure your Match Result is reported electronically to the Registration Secretary immediately after the match. When playing at home or in any outside competition, please phone through your result on the Sunday of the match up to 5.00pm to the appointed officer receiving results.

16. The League Officials are here to HELP you. If you have any queries or there is anything you do not understand please contact one of them BEFORE the match day.

17. Managers and Club Officials are expected to be familiar with the League Rules. If you regularly consult your handbook there should be no excuse for not knowing them.

18. Always carry spare boot laces and shin pads with you. Referees will NOT ALLOW any player to take part who is not wearing approved shin pads.

19. Make sure that you have a good first aid kit. Both St. John's and the Red Cross often hold basic first-aid courses and the League recommends that the Manager or Trainer should undergo such a course.

20. Always encourage your players, spectators and officials to respect the referee and his decisions and your opponents. Remember that the FA and the County FA hold each club responsible for the actions of spectators, players and officials.

21. DO NOT GET INVOLVED IN CONTROVERSY. Walk away. There is a proper procedure for making a complaint or protest and that is the best way of making your point if you need to do so.

22. Rule 20(C) states that the Home Club must give notice of the kick-off time to the opposing club at least five clear days prior to playing of the match. If the opposing club does not receive a call at least five clear days before the match it does NOT give that club the right to postpone the match. The cause of action is for the opposing club to make contact with the manager of the Home team, failing this the Fixture Secretary if the Club has one or the Club Secretary and if this is not achievable then the matter should be reported to the Fixture Secretary who will first of all make contact with the Home club to gain a kick-off time. Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine of £10.

Any Club postponing a match due to not being notified of a kick-off time shall be charged for not fulfilling a fixture resulting in a fine of £25.

23. Players must be registered with the League by midnight on Thursday to be eligible to play the following Sunday, Players U/7's – U/9's to allow unlimited transfers to encourage development.

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OFFICERS FOR SEASON 2023/2024

PRESIDENT

Mr J. Warriner

HON LIFE VICE-PRESIDENT(S)

Mrs M Wakeling

VICE PRESIDENTS

Mr A Marshall

CHAIRPERSON

Mr Mick Wood

Tel: 01621 817963

michaeljbwood@gmail.com

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Mr Malcolm Shaw

Tel: 01621 772848

malcolm.shaw3@btinternet.com

HONORARY SECRETARY

Mrs Jackie Leno

44 Bramley Way, Mayland, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 6ER Tel: 07889 274014

jackielenobodyfl@yahoo.co.uk

HONORARY TREASURER

Mrs Rachael Bennett

Tel: 07548 457902(M)

rachael.bdyf@gmail.com

HONORARY DISCIPLINARY SECRETARY

Mr Mick Wood

Tel: 01621 817963

bdyfdiscipline@gmail.com

HONORARY REFEREES' APPOINTMENT SECRETARY

Mr Matt Jarvis

Tel: 07837 881609(M) mattsjarvis@hotmail.co.uk

HONORARY MINUTES SECRETARY

Mr Stephen Vieira

stephenvieira@hotmail.com

HONORARY FIXTURE SECRETARIES

U7-U187

Mr Ed Booker

Tel: 07794 233418

edbooker1976@hotmail.co.uk

OFFICERS (Continued)

HONORARY REGISTRATION SECRETARIES

UNDER 7 & 8 AGE GROUP

Mr Malcolm Shaw
Tel: 01621 772848(H)

UNDER 9 & 10 AGE GROUPS

Mrs Jackie Leno
Tel: 07889 274014(M)

UNDER 11 & 12 AGE GROUP

Mr Matt Jarvis
Tel: 07837 881609 (M)

UNDER 13 & 14 AGE GROUPS

Mr Jim Toth
Tel: 01376 501298(H), 07867 990118(M)

UNDER 15 AGE GROUP

Mr Alistair Patient
Tel: 07979 648626(M)

UNDER 16, 17 & 18 AGE GROUPS

Mr Paul Eldridge
Tel: 01376 342832(H), 07510 378966(M)

ENGLAND ACCREDITED OFFICER

Mrs Debbie Hill Email: debbiebdyfl@yahoo.com

PRESS OFFICER

TBA

TROPHY SECRETARY

Mrs Marion Wakeling Tel 01621 892610, Email: wakeymumbdyfl@gmail.com

WELFARE OFFICER

Mrs Angie Owen Tel: 07803 909105, Email: bdylwelfareofficer@gmail.com

COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Mr Mark Hill Email: bdyflcompliance@yahoo.com

REFEREES MENTOR

Mr David Stacey Email: david.stacey903@gmail.com
COMMITTEE MEMBER - Stuart Emmerson

OFFICERS (Continued)

THIS LEAGUE AFFILIATION NUMBER WITH ECFA IS Z-ESS0354

PLAYING SEASON 2023/2024
AS AGREED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THE PLAYING SEASON WILL BE:

FOR YOUTH & MINI-SOCCER
SUNDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2022 TO FRIDAY 31st MAY 2024

The Management Committee's wish is that we all have a successful and enjoyable season and ask that clubs ensure their officers AND team managers are familiar with the rules, particularly those relating to their specific role in club administration and that they are adhered to. It is hoped that there is an improvement on last season in discipline by BOTH players and supporters.

GOOD LUCK TO YOU ALL

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NOTES FOR CLUB SECRETARIES

Rule 2(K) - Clubs/Teams are not permitted to participate in any other Competition during the playing season July 1st to 31st May, with the exception of FA and ECFA Competitions, without the written consent of the Competition. A club tour or festival which includes football fixtures is deemed to be part of this rule.

Rule 8(D)(G) & Rule 9 - All clubs must be represented and both club delegates, must sign the attendance Register.

No delegate is permitted to sign on behalf of another club delegate.

Rule 20(A) - Kick Off Time -The Management Committee request that where clubs/teams have to travel more than 10 miles to a scheduled fixture, that the kick off time should not be before 10.00 a.m.

Rule 20(A)(C) - All clubs/teams when advising their opponents of the fixture, must advise if the fixture is to played on a grass pitch, Artificial Grass Pitch or All Weather Pitch, and any restrictions to players footwear.

Presentation Event - All qualifying Clubs/teams must be represented at the Presentation Event by Club Officers and all available registered players wearing team kits or shirt and tie.

Sportsmanship Awards

All clubs/teams must complete the Sportsmanship Marks as required by the Competition on the Result Sheet electronically reported.

Payments

All payments by cheque to the Competition must have the payee as
“**BLACKWATER AND DENGIE YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE**”

The following Dates there will be no fixtures for Season 2023-2024

Sunday 24th December 2023

Sunday 31st December 2023

Sunday 31st March 2024

Sunday 07th April 2024

PRESENTATION EVENT

**VENUE for 2023/2024SEASON: Maltings Academy, Spinks Lane
Witham, Essex CM8, 1EP**

Date: Sunday 23rd June 2024

Time: TBC

The Competition will take any necessary action against clubs if they in their opinion are in breach of Competition Rules or instructions of the Management Committee.

BLACKWATER and DENGIE YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

STANDARD CODE OF RULES

AS APPROVED BY ESSEX COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

DEFINITIONS

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 [Blackwater & Dengie Youth 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, as set out at Schedule A.

“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, as set out at Schedule A.

“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” shall have the same meaning as set out in the rules of The FA from time to time.

“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 Essex County Football Association Limited.

“Scholarship” means a Scholarship as defined in The FA rules.

“Season” means the period of time between an AGM and the subsequent 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, including where a Club provides more than one team in the Competition in accordance with the Rules.

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

“The FA” means The Football Association Limited.

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

electronic form or otherwise.

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

- (B) Unless stated otherwise, terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

GOVERNANCE RULES

COMPETITION NAME AND CONSTITUTION

2. (A) The Competition will be known as **Blackwater & Dengie Youth Football League** (or such other name as the Competition may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A Club which ceases to exist, or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall thereupon automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.
- (B) This Competition shall consist of not more than **70** Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority.
- (C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be **the County of Essex**.
- (D) The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Competition acting (save where otherwise specifically mentioned herein) through the Management Committee in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of The FA.
- (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 thereto, subject to the provisions of Rule 7.
- (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.
- (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 Sanctioning Authority and the constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped in divisions.

- (H) Inclusion and Non-discrimination
- (i) The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusion and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (to include those contained in the Equality Act 2010).
- (ii) This Competition and each Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise.
- (iii) Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.
- (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.
- (J) All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The FA from time to time.
- (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.

- (L) At the AGM or an 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.

CLUB NAME

3. Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority and from the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

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

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

- (B) The annual subscription shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Team and shall be payable on or before 14th July in each year.
- (C) A Deposit of £50 shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Club and shall be payable on or before 14th July in each year. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the entry fee, annual subscription and Deposit (if required) have been paid.
- (E) If requested by the Competition, Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 14th July 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, its Officers and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Clubs must immediately advise the Secretary in writing of any changes to their particulars as shown in the "Directory of Clubs" sections of the Competition Handbook together with the date from which the changes are effective, failing which they shall be fined.

- (F) An all-female team can apply to the Competition to play an age group down in a mixed gender competition, subject to rule 8(A)(iii) & (iv) and provided the team has obtained approval from its Sanctioning Authority.
- (G) All Clubs winning trophies must, if requested by the Management Committee, return trophies to be presented at the Presentation Event. Defaulting Clubs will be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

Those Clubs whose teams were Winners or Runners-up in the League Championship Divisions must be represented, at the appropriate time(s), at the Presentation Event, and their representative, a Club Officer, must, on arrival together with all available registered players of those teams, report to the Competition Management Committee member organising the event. Any Club failing to be represented will be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

5. (A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and up to six members who shall all be elected at the AGM.

The Officers of the Competition shall be the President, Vice-Presidents, Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, Registration Secretaries, Referees Appointment Secretary, Fixture Secretary, Trophy Secretary, Disciplinary Secretary, Press Officer, Welfare Officer, Minute Secretary and Charter

Standard Co-ordinator to be elected annually at the AGM. (N.B. Auditors/Verifiers are not Officers).

- (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 **30th April** in each year.

All other candidates for election as Officers of the Competition or members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the secretaries of two 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 in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the AGM.

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

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

- (D) Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.
- (E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Officers and sent to the Secretary.

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

Telephone communications to League Officers must be made before 9.30 p.m. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

6. (A) The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all sub-committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of The FA or Affiliated Association.
- (B) Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each Season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any club which may have withdrawn during the Season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the Season.
- (C) Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee meetings and have one vote thereat, but no member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such member or to the Club so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest. (This shall also apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).

In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the **Chairperson** of the Management Committee shall have a second or casting vote.

- (D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition. Any action by the Competition must be taken within 28 days of the Competition being notified.

With the exception of Rules 6(I), 8(H) and 9, for all alleged breaches of a 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:-

- (i) Accept the charge and submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
- (ii) Accept the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or
- (iii) Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management

- Committee on the papers; or
- (iv) Deny the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case at a hearing before the Management Committee.

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

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

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

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

No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

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

- (E) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7.

Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 7 days.

- (F) 30% of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any sub-committee thereof.
- (G) The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill, in an acting capacity, any vacancies that may occur amongst their number.
- (H) A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (I) Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges must be paid within 14 days of the date 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 fine within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.

- (J) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or Competition Match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition. A maximum of 35p per mile may be claimed at any time during the season from the Treasurer on production of the relevant accounts/receipts.

All Management Committee Members shall be entitled to claim for all telephone and postage expenses and for other approved expenses incurred on League business. A maximum of 35p per mile may be claimed by a Management Committee Member making delegated journeys on League business. Expenses may be claimed at any time during the season from the Treasurer upon production of the relevant accounts/receipts.

- (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.
- (L) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

7. (A) (i) All questions of eligibility, qualification of Players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee.
- (ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the Competition Match.
- (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 with the Secretary within **seven** 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 complaint is being determined.
- (C) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the inquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.
- (D) All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.
- (i) All parties must have received **seven** days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.
- (ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should forward a deposit of **£0.00** and indicate such when forwarding the written response.
- (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.
- (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 of **£35.00**, which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. A copy of the appeal must also be sent to the Secretary. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority, in such respect the Sanctioning Authority may (but is not obliged to):
- (i) invite submissions by the parties involved; or
- (ii) convene a hearing to hear the appeal; or
- (iii) permit new evidence; or
- (iv) impose deadlines as are appropriate.
- Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee.
- (G) No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

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 **10** members are present and entitled to vote:-
- (i) To receive and confirm the minutes of the preceding AGM.
- (ii) To receive and adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts.
- (iii) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
- (iv) Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Season.
- (v) Election of Officers of the Competition and the Management Committee members.
- (vi) Appointment of auditors/verifiers.
- (vii) Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14).
- (viii) Fix the date for the commencement of the Playing Season.
- (ix) Fix the date for the end of the Playing Season.
- (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an AGM.

- (B) A copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet, statement of accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 14 days prior to the meeting together with any proposed Rule changes.
- (C) A signed copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet and statement of accounts shall be sent to the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of its adoption by the AGM.
- (D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Fourteen days' notice shall be given of any AGM.
- (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.
- (F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairperson so decides.
- (G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Club.
- (H) Any continuing Club must be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (I) Officers of the Competition 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)).
- (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.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- 9. (A) Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call an SGM.
- (B) The Management Committee may call an SGM at any time.
- (C) At least seven (7) days' notice shall be given of a meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.
- (D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.
- (E) Any Club failing to be represented at an SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (F) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a club (See Rule 9 (D))
- (G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Club.

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

- 10. 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, [name] of [address] (Chairman/Director) and [name] of [address] (Secretary/Director) of [] Football Club (Limited) have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the **Blackwater & Dengie Youth 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 by the Club Chairman and secretary (where a Club is an unincorporated association) or two directors of the Club (where a Club is an incorporated entity)

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

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

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

11. (A) Any Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a Team from the Competition must do so at least 60 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.
- (B) The Management Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a Team being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season, including but not limited to, issuing a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (C) Notwithstanding the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 6(l), 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.

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 by direction of the Management Committee, 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 the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.
- (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, which must be supported by more than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.
- (C) Any Officer or member of a Club proved guilty of either a breach of Rule, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a Player or Players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of clauses (A) and/or (B) of this Rule.

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 Chairman and Secretary of [] FC(Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of [] cup or trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the cup or trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before []. 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.”

The agreement must be returned to the Trophy Secretary within 14 days of the posting of the agreement.

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

(i) All trophies must be returned by the date stated on the Trophy Agreement form. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(ii) At the discretion of the Management Committee the League and Sportsmanship Trophies may be engraved prior to being given to winning Clubs. Should it be decided that engraving will be the responsibility of the Clubs the conditions in (i) shall apply and any costs shall be borne by, or recovered

from, the Club.

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

ALTERATION TO RULES

14. Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, 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 these Rules shall not take effect until the following Playing Season except in exceptional circumstances and approved by Sanctioning Authority and The FA.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by 15th March in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 28th March and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 14th April. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

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

FINANCE

15. (A) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.
- (B) All expenditure in excess of £100.00 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.
- (C) The financial year of the Competition will end on 30th April.
- (D) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be audited annually by a suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.
- (E) Honoraria, if paid, must be agreed at the AGM and relate to the Playing Season just concluded. The Management Committee shall recommend which Officers may receive honoraria and the level of payment. All the above to be detailed on the AGM paperwork under "Any other business" (Rule 8(A)(x)).

INSURANCE

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

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

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.
- (B) In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.
- (C) The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:

- (i) Any surplus assets, save for a trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or Essex County Football Association or the Essex County 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 Essex County Football Association.
- (ii) If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the Essex County Football Association may decide.

MATCH RELATED RULES

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

18. (A) A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:-
- (i) registered through the FA Player Registration System and received approval from the Competition.
 - or
 - (ii) Not in use

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)(ii) registration forms will be provided in a format to be determined by the Competition. For Clubs registering Players via the Player Registration System Clubs must access the Player Registration System in order to complete the registration process. The registration document must incorporate a current passport-size photograph of the Player seeking registration together with confirmation that the Player's proof of date of birth has been checked by the Club and is accurate.

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

- (B) (i) Contract Players are not permitted in this Competition with the exception of those Players who are registered under contract with the same Club who have a Team operating at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System.

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

- (ii) A Player registered with a Premier League or 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 an 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.
- (iii) Each Team must have the following number of Players registered before **25th August** of each Playing Season:
 - 5v5 format: 5 players
 - 7v7 format: 7 players
 - 9v9 format: 9 players
 - 11v11 format: 11 players

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

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

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

Notwithstanding the above, a child is permitted to play up in the age group above his or her chronological age group, irrespective of any changes of format or competition structure, save that a child who attains the age of 6 after 31 August is permitted to play only in the Under 7 age group, and may not play in the Under 8 age group, for that Playing Season. Girls in all female teams may also be permitted to play an age group down in accordance with Rule 4(F).

The age groups that children are eligible to play in are set out in the table below, subject to Rule 4(F), 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	Eligible Age Groups	Maximum Permitted Format	Minimum Pitch Size		Maximum Pitch Size		Goal Size	Ball Size
			yards	metres	yards	metres	feet	
6	Under 7	5v5	30 x 20	27.45 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12x6	3
	Under 8	5v5	30 x 20	27.45 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12x6	3
7	Under 8	5v5	30 x 20	27.45 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12x6	3
	Under 9	7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12x6	3
8	Under 9	7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12x6	3
	Under 10	7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12x6	3
9	Under 10	7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12x6	3
	Under 11	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16x7	4
10	Under 11	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16x7	4
	Under 12	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16x7	4
11	Under 12	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16x7	4
	Under 13	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
12	Under 13	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
	Under 14	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
13	Under 14	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
	Under 15	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
14	Under 15	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
	Under 16	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
15	Under 16	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
	Under 17	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5
	Under 18	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5
16	Under 17	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5
	Under 18	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5
	Open Age	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5

- (D) A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered, if applicable.
- (E) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes taking into account the following.
- (i) A Player shall not be permitted to register for more than one Club subject to the exceptions set out in Rule 18 (E)(iii) below.
 - (ii) 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)(iii) below.
 - (iii) A Player is only permitted to register for more than one Club provided that:
 - (a) The Teams in which the Player plays are not in the same age group; or

(b) Except for the purpose of a transfer;
and the Player meets the requirements in Rule 18(C).

- (F) It shall be a breach of these Rules for a Player to:-
- (i) Play for more than one Team in the same age group in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.
 - (ii) Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season, except if the provisions set out in Rule 18 (E)(iii) apply or where the Competition adopts Rule 18(P).
 - (iii) Submit a signed registration form or submit a registration through the Player Registration System for registration that the Player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

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

- (G) (i) The Management Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rule 18(G)(ii) and (iii) below.
- (ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player, the exercise of such power being without prejudice to the Management Committee's ability to fine a Club at its discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) that has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 7).
- (iii) The Management Committee shall 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. 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 for further information.
Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition.
- (iv) For a Player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18(G)(iii) but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the Player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition would be empowered to consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

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

- (H) Subject to compliance with FA Rule C when a Club wishes to register a player who is already registered with another club it shall submit a transfer form (in a format as determined by the Competition) to the Competition accompanied by a fee as set out in the Fees Tariff. Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to the club for which the player is registered. Should this club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the player concerned within 3 days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the Club's 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 seven days after receipt of such transfer.

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

- (I) A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 14th March except by special permission of the Management Committee.
- (J) A Club shall keep a list of the Players it registers and a record of all matches in which those Players have played for the Club and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee.

In the event a Club has more than one Team in an age group, each Team must be clearly identifiable but not designated 'A' or 'B' or 1st or 2nd. In such cases, Players will be registered for one Team only. A Player so registered will be allowed to play for their Club in a younger or older age group within the

provisions of Rule 18(C).

In this Competition, where a Club has more than one Team in an age group each Team shall be designated with a different name. (e.g. Maldon Town Youth Phoenix, Maldon Town Youth Hawks).

Where a Club has two or more teams in the same age group, a player may not move between teams without first being transferred.

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

In the event of a Non-Contract Player changing 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)(i).

- (L) A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding Competition Match (as specified in Rule 22(A)) unless the Player has played one League Competition Match for that Team in the current Playing Season.
- (M) A Team shall not include more than 1 Player who has taken part in any one or more senior Competition Matches during the current Playing Season unless a period of 21 days has elapsed since they last played.

For the purpose of this Rule a senior competition is any other Sunday Youth Competition.

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

- (N) (i) Subject to Rule 18(N)(ii), any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a Competition 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.
- (ii) The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18(N)(i) only in circumstances where the ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate or where the ineligibility is related to the Player's status.
- (iii) Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 18(N)(i) above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion:
- Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed;
 - Levy penalty points against the Club in default; and/or
 - Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).

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

- (O) (i) Priority must be given at all times to the activities of schools and school organisations. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (ii) The availability of children must be cleared with their head teacher (except for Sunday league competitions).
- (iii) A child under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31 August in the relevant Playing Season, shall not be permitted to play in a Competition Match during that Playing Season where any other Player is older or younger than that child by two years or more.
- (P) If a Club wishes to cancel a Player's registration within the Competition, it must make a request via The FA's electronic player registration system giving the reasons for the request. The Competition may either approve or decline the request.

If a Player's registration is cancelled they will not be eligible to re-register in the Competition for a period of [7] days from the date of cancellation.

- (R) Team Managers must have with them at any game under the management of the League the Player

Registration System Squad List. Team Managers must exchange the Squad Lists prior to the fixture beginning, which are to be checked and returned up to 10 minutes after the game has ended.

Any Player found not to be on the authorised sheet must give their name to the opposition Manager who will report back to the relevant Registration Secretary after the match to verify the player's registration. Clubs failing to carry out this part of the Rule shall be liable to a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) and any further action deemed necessary by the Management Committee.

CLUB COLOURS

19. Every Team must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 14th July who shall decide as to their suitability.

Any Team wishing to change its colours during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the Management Committee.

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

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

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

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.

Shirts must all be numbered differently, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Names of Youth Players shall not appear on the shirts, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

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 Competition 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 Competition Matches and to order the Club concerned to play its Competition Matches 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 a FIFA accredited test institute) every three 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 with the laws of the game.

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 Competition Match, and in any event shall be of equal halves. Competition Matches for age groups from U7 to U10 can be played in either quarters or 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.

Under 7 and Under 8:

Duration of play per quarter: 5-10 minutes (mini-soccer only)

Duration of play per half: 10-20 minutes

Max playing time per day (organised development fixtures): 40 minutes

Max playing time per day (tournaments, trophy events/festivals): 60 minutes

Structure: Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 2-week periods (6 weeks)

In this Competition the duration of play shall be 40 minutes (20 minutes each half).

Under 9 and Under 10:

Duration of play per quarter: 10-12.5 minutes (mini-soccer only)

Duration of play per half: 20-25 minutes

Max playing time per day (organised development fixtures): 60 minutes

Max playing time per day (tournaments, trophy events/festivals): 90 minutes

Structure: Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 4-week periods (12 weeks)

In this Competition the duration of play shall be 50 minutes (25 minutes each half).

Under 11:

Duration of play per half: 20-30 minutes

Max playing time per day (organised development fixtures): 80 minutes

Max playing time per day (tournaments, trophy events/festivals): 120 minutes

Structure: Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 6-week periods (18 weeks)

In this Competition the duration of play shall be 60 minutes (30 minutes each half).

Under 12:

Duration of play per half: 20-30 minutes

Max playing time per day (organised development fixtures): 80 minutes (if applicable)

Max playing time per day (tournaments, trophy events/festivals): 120 minutes

Structure: Any varieties including one season long league table

In this Competition the duration of play shall be 60 minutes (30 minutes each half).

Under 13 and Under 14:

Duration of play per half: 25-35 minutes

Max playing time per day (organised development fixtures): 100 minutes

Max playing time per day (tournaments, trophy events/festivals): 150 minutes

Structure: Any varieties including one season long league table

In this Competition the duration of play shall be 70 minutes (35 minutes each half).

Under 15 and Under 16:

Duration of play per half: 25-40 minutes

Max playing time per day (organised development fixtures): 100 minutes
Max playing time per day (tournaments, trophy events/festivals): 150 minutes
Structure: Any varieties including one season long league table

In this Competition the duration of play shall be 80 minutes (40 minutes each half).

Under 17 and Under 18:

Duration of play per half: 25-45 minutes
Max playing time per day (organised development fixtures): 120 minutes
Max playing time per day (tournaments, trophy events/festivals): 180 minutes
Structure: Any varieties including one season long league table

In this Competition the duration of play shall be 90 minutes (45 minutes each half).

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

For trophy events, the Competition may award mementos.

The times of kick-off shall be fixed by the Management Committee. **The home team shall have preference of time of kick-off and the away team shall comply with this but no morning kick-off shall be earlier than 9.30 a.m.**

Referees must order Competition 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 the footballs are unsuitable. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (B) Except by permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a Competition Match with the consent of the **Fixtures** Secretary. 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 Competition Match (unless otherwise mutually agreed).

If mutually arranged at a meeting a list of fixtures must be forwarded to the **Fixtures** Secretary within seven days of the meeting. Fixtures are deemed to be accepted unless objections are received by the **Fixtures** Secretary within fourteen days of their issue. Any Club failing to be represented at a fixture meeting or otherwise infringing this Rule shall be liable for a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff and the Management Committee or the **Fixtures** Secretary shall arrange that Club's fixtures.

In this Competition only one match per day applies and double-headers may not be played.

The Fixture Secretary shall have full authority to arrange and re-arrange all fixture dates at his own discretion until 9:30 p.m. on the Tuesday preceding the relevant Sunday. In these circumstances the notice requirements in Rule 20(C) shall be carried out no later than 9:30 p.m. on the Wednesday before the match.

Permission to postpone a match will only be given by the Management Committee if the postponement is because of school or school organisations activities. To obtain this permission, Clubs must submit, in writing to the Secretary, supporting evidence issued by the school at least 14 days before the date of the match. Fixtures will be scheduled for the first Sunday of the October and February half-terms unless 14 days written notice is given to the Fixture Secretary.

- (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 **five** clear days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. If not so provided, the away Club and Match Officials

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.

- (D) The minimum number of Players that will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is as follows:
5v5 format: 4 players
7v7 format: 5 players
9v9 format: 6 players
11v11 format: 7 players

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

- (E) (i) In competitions where points are awarded, home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have the power to impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff), deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the Competition Match in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals. Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a Competition Match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent's Ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.
- (ii) Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a Competition Match has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the Fixtures Secretary, the Competition Referees Appointments Secretary, 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.
When this occurs the Club in confirmation must, within three days of the match being postponed, submit an Electronic Postponement Form to the Registration Secretary for the correct age group.
- (iii) In the event of a Competition Match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Fixtures Secretary within fourteen days the Management Committee shall have the power to order the Competition Match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and the Clubs involved agree, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand.
- (iv) The Management Committee shall review all Competition Matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a Competition 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 Competition Match to the opponent. In cases where a Competition 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 Competition Match and it shall not be replayed. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned Competition Match.
- (v) The Management Committee shall review any Competition 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(N)(i) above. Where both Teams were under suspension the Competition Match must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.
- (F) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use substitute Players in any Competition Match.

For Under 11s - Under 18s – a Club may use up to 5 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 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 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 and the substitute Players not later than **two** minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a Player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match.

A Player who has named as a substitute before the start of that 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.

- (G) The half time interval shall be of five minutes' duration, but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.
- (H) The Teams taking part in Under 7s to Under 11 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 his/her teammates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Each home club shall make arrangements for the provision of designated areas for spectators. This area can be marked by an additional painted line, the use of cones, a roped off area or use of a temporary spectator barrier. The area for spectators should start two metres from the touchline on both sides of the pitch. Each area should run the full length of the pitch. It is recognised, however, that the alignment of some public pitches does not allow for this arrangement in which case other appropriate arrangements should be made.

REPORTING RESULTS

21. (A) The **Fixture** Secretary must receive within **three** days of the date played, the result of each Competition Match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the Team Players (in block letters) and also the referee markings required by Rule 23, or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

The prescribed manner is by using the **FA Full Time System**. The other information required is the name of the goalscorers and the names of all players cautioned or sent off.

Sportsmanship marks shall be awarded from **1 to 10**. If a score of under **5** is awarded to a Club a written explanation must be sent to the **League Secretary** within four days of the match being played. Clubs failing to comply shall be fined.

- (B) **Both Clubs** shall use **SMS/FA Full Time** to notify the result of each Competition Match to the **FA Full Time website** by **5 p.m. (9pm for evening fixtures) on the day of the match**. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Results of all County Cup matches **SHALL** be submitted by **SMS** to the **FA Full Time website** by the "Home" Club in matches between **B&DYFL** opponents, and by the **B&DYFL** member Club whether they are "home" or "away" when their opponents are members of another Competition.

- (C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by an Officer of the Club, or as prescribed by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (D) The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect but **NOT** publish results or any grading tables for fixtures involving Under 7s, Under 8s, Under 9s, Under 10s, and Under 11s. Any Competition failing to abide by this Rule will be dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and any Club failing to abide by this Rule will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff). The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect and publish results for trophy events.

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 Competition Match. The Teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the end of the Playing Season shall be adjudged the winners. Competition 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 may be determined by a deciding match or matches played under conditions determined by the Management Committee, or the position shared.

- (B) Automatic promotion shall be applied for the first two Teams and automatic relegation shall be applied for the last **two** Teams in each division except as provided for hereunder, subject to the provisions of Rule 2(L).
- (i) 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.
 - (ii) 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
 - (iii) Not in use.
 - (iv) Not in use.
 - (v) Not in use.
- (C) Not in use (play off rule).
- (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 been awarded by the Management Committee.

Where a team withdraws having completed 75% of its fixtures the points for any unplayed games shall be awarded to the defaulting team's opponents.

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.
- (B) In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that Competition Match, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any open age competition and individuals under the age of 14 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any Competition Match. 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.
- For the purpose of this Rule, the home Team shall have first choice of referee, failing this the away Team shall have choice of referee.**
- On the day of the match, the home Team manager must inform the away Team manager whether or not the referee has been appointed by the League and each Team's Result Sheet (BDRS) must be signed by the opposing manager before the game starts to agree on the referee. Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).**
- (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) being imposed on the defaulting Club.
- (D) The appointed referee shall have 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.
- (E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Authority, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid their fees and expenses accordance with the Fees Tariff.

Match Officials will be paid their fees and/or expenses by the home Club before/immediately after the Competition Match, unless otherwise ordered by the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (F) In the event of a Competition Match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to **half fee plus expenses**. Where a Competition 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 and expenses. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (G) A referee not keeping his or her engagement and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Affiliated Association with which he or she is registered.
- (H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The FA, award marks to the referee for each Competition 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.

A Club awarding a mark of less than 60 shall send a written explanation to the League or Competition with the result sheet. Clubs failing to comply shall be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).
- (I) The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided by the prescribed date each Season, shall submit a summary to The FA/County FA.
- (J) Not in use.
- (K) Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.
- (L) Match Officials shall have undertaken a RESPECT briefing offered by The FA/County FA or the Competition.

Approved ECFA 12.7.2023 Including Competition amendments June 2023.

SCHEDULE A

FEES TARIFF

RULE	DESCRIPTION	FEE
4 (A)	Entry Fee	£10.00
4 (B)	Annual Subscription: U/12–U/18 U/10–U/11 U/7–U/9	£60.00 £35.00 £27.50
4 (C)	Deposit	£50.00
7 (C)	Protest Fee	£15.00
18 (D)	Player Registration Fee	£0.00
18 (H)	Transfer Fee	£5.00
23 (E)	REFEREE FEES Mini-soccer (max.£18 inclusive) Under 11 & 12 (max.£30 inclusive) Under 13 & 14 (max.£35 inclusive) Under 15 & 16 (max.£40 inclusive) Under 18 (max.£45 inclusive) Travel expenses	£18.00 £30.00 £35.00 £40.00 £45.00 0p /mile
23 (E)	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES Mini-soccer (max.£14 inclusive) Under 11 & 12 (max.£20 inclusive) Under 13 & 14 (max.£25 inclusive) Under 15 & 16 (max.£25 inclusive) Under 18 (max.£35 inclusive) Travel expenses	£0.00 £20.00 £25.00 £25.00 £35.00 0p /mile

FINES TARIFF

RULE	DESCRIPTION	MAX. FINE
2 (G)	Failure to affiliate	£ 25
2 (I)	Failure to comply with FA initiatives	£ 25
2 (K)	Unauthorised entry of teams into competitions	£ 25
3	Failure to obtain consent for change of Club name	£ 10
4 (C)	Failure to pay deposit	£ 50
4 (E)	Failure to provide affiliation number/details form	£ 10
4 (G)	Failure to attend Presentation event	£ 40
5 (E)	Communications conducted by persons other than nominated officers	£ 10
5 (E)	Communications made after specified time	£ 20
6 (H)	Failure to comply with an instruction of the Management Committee	£ 50
6 (I)	Failure to pay fine within required time frame	£ Fine doubled £ 50 max.
8 (H)	Failure to be represented at AGM	£ 40
9	Failure to be represented at SGM	£ 40
10	Failure to submit written agreement or to notify changes to signatories	£ 10
11 (A)	Failure to provide notice of intended withdrawal before deadline	£ 10
11 (B)	Failure to commence/ complete fixtures	£ 100
13 (A)	Failure to submit the required trophy agreement	£ 25
13 (A)(i)	Failure to return trophies	£ 25
16 (A)	Failure to have the required public liability insurance	£ 20
16 (B)	Failure to have the required personal accident insurance	£ 20
18 (A)	Failure to correctly register a player	£ 10
18 (B)(iii)	Failure to have the required number of registered players by date	£ 15
18 (F)	Registering or playing for multiple clubs, or inaccurate completion of a registration form	£ 10
18 (G)(ii)	Registration irregularities	£ 10
18 (M)	Fielding more than the permitted number of players who have participated in Senior Competition matches	£ 100.

18 (N)(i)	Playing an ineligible player	£ 50
18 (O)(i)	Failure to give priority to school activities	£ 15
18 (R)	Failing to exchange registration forms at a match	£ 25 min.
19	Delaying kick off by not having a change of colours	£ 10
19	Failing to number shirts	£ 10
20 (A)	Late kick off	£ 30
20 (A)	Failing to provide goal nets, corner flags, suitable footballs	£ 10
20 (B)	Failure to play matches on the date fixed	£ 50
20 (C)	Failure to provide details of a fixture	£ 10
20 (D)	Playing match with less than the required number of players	£ 10
20 (E)(i)	Failure to keep engagement	£ 50
20 (E)(ii)	Failure to notify postponement	£ 50 max
20 (H)	Failing to identify a team captain	£ 10
21 (A)	Late result sheet	£ 10
21 (B)	Failure to provide result	£ 10
21 (C)	Incorrect result sheet	£ 10
21 (D)	Publishing results/tables	£ 50
23 (B)	Failure to confirm agreed referee	£ 10
23 (C)	Failure to provide Club assistant referee	£ 20
23 (E)	Failure to provide match officials' fees and expenses	£ 10
23 (F)	Failure to pay match officials where a match is not played	£ 10
23 (H)	Failure to provide referee mark	£ 10
23 (H)	Failure to provide written explanation for low mark	£ 15

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH RULES

- R1. All players must be registered with the Blackwater and Dengie Youth Football League.
- R2. All players and club officials must abide by the request of the Representative Team Manager, who will arrange to have ID cards produced to comply with the competition requirements.
- R3. A team may cancel their domestic Competition fixture should they have one or more players in a representative match.
- R4. All representative teams will have a maximum of a sixteen man squad.
- R5. Only sixteen keepsake trophies will be awarded to each representative squad.
- R6. Keepsake trophies will consist of plaques or medals for all age groups.
- R7. Expenses for transportation to the away matches and the Referee's fees for home matches will be borne by the Competition.
- R8. No match will be re-arranged or replayed without first consulting the Fixture Secretary.
- R9. All players, managers and officials, when representing the Competition, will at all times present themselves in a gentlemanly manner on and off the field of play.

Special Thanks

The League Management Committee of the Blackwater and Dengie Youth Football League would like to take this opportunity to say a

Special Thank You

to

Burnham Ramblers F.C.

&

Witham Town F.C.

for making their grounds available to us for hire for our Cup Finals for the 2023/2024 season and the tremendous hospitality we received.



Respect

This is to certify that

Blackwater & Dengie Youth & Mini Soccer League

is an FA Respect League

This means that the league and its clubs recognise that Respect is the collective responsibility of everyone involved in football to create a fair, safe and enjoyable environment in which the game can take place. A Respect League values the contribution of match officials and ensures that they are treated with courtesy and fairness by players, club officials and spectators. The league and its clubs will seek to play fixtures in a fair, competitive but not antagonistic environment. To achieve this, the league and its clubs will work towards implementing the Respect measures as identified by the Football Association.

Lord David Triesman
FA Chairman

The FA Respect Programme to be utilised in all Matches

The FA Respect Programme was introduced by The FA for season 2008/9 to help raise standards and address abusive behaviour in the game. The Respect Programme is a key aspect of the FA's Vision for the next 4 years and The FA hopes that, as well as improving behaviour in the game at all levels, it helps with the recruitment and retention of referees.

As part of the Respect Programme, for all FA and Essex FA Competitions it has been decided to introduce both the initiative that involves the referee ***working with the team captain*** on the day to manage the players and the game effectively and the ***pre-match fair play handshake initiative***.

The FA would like your help in implementing these two protocols in this competition.

We have therefore introduced the following guidelines as an **AIDE MEMOIRE** for referees.

Working with the Team Captain

1. The referee will work with the team captain in order to manage the players and the game effectively. Note the IFAB Guidelines for Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials which state that the captain has **no special status or privileges** under the Laws of the Game **but he has a degree of responsibility for the behaviour of his team**.
2. The referee must control the game by applying the Laws of the Game, and deal firmly with any open show of dissent by layers (e.g. not move away from the incident, but stay and deal with it).
3. The referee should use a stepped approach where appropriate to managing players e.g. 1) free kick, 2) free kick with quiet word, 3) free kick with public admonishment (**this is the time referees should consider using the captain to more visibly get the message across**), 4) yellow card.
4. The stepped approach does not negate the fact that the referee has the authority within the Laws of the Game to issue disciplinary sanctions without recourse to the captain.
5. Whilst recognising that players may on occasions make an appeal for a decision (e.g. a throw in, corner or goal kick), It is important that the referee distinguishes these from an act of dissent which should be punished with a caution.
6. Even if the captain is some way away from an incident when the referee feels he needs him involved in a discussion with a player, the referee will call the captain over rather than using any other senior player. This will ensure that the captain remains the point of contact for the referee.
7. These guidelines should be seen as an additional preventative/supportive tool in order for referees to manage the game effectively. The key to the above is using the captains in a more visible way, where appropriate.

Fair Play Handshake Protocol: See next page

Fair Play Handshake Protocol

The following protocol should be applied where possible:

- 1.** The **starting eleven** from both teams together with the three match officials (excluding fourth official) should take part in the handshake.
- 2.** Each team should line up on the same side of the half-way line that they enter the field of play, with the match officials in the middle.
- 3.** The **Home** team, led by their captain, then walks to shake hands with the match officials, and then the away team's players (see 1 below). Once each Home team player has finished shaking hands with the last away team player they disperse to their favoured end to kick-in.
- 4.** Once the last home team player has completed the handshake, the Away team then follow their Captain passing in front of the match officials to shake hands (see 2 below) before dispersing to the opposite end of the pitch from the home team.
- 5.** Once the handshakes have been completed the match officials then proceed to the centre circle for the coin toss. Whilst we understand that it may be difficult to implement this protocol in every case, we would ask that referees do what they reasonably can to ensure its implementation.

NB. C=Captain

Referees will need to play a leading role in the implementation of the Programme at all levels of the game to ensure that it is a success **and the authority and respect for match officials is reinforced.**

HANDSHAKE FORMATION

AWAY TEAM

HOME TEAM



CUP COMPETITION : RULES

The following rules are to be read in conjunction with the rules as set out for the Blackwater and Dengie Youth Football League.

All clubs who are members of these League MUST participate in the Cup Competitions of the Leagues.

- C1.(i) No player shall play in a cup game prior to the Semi-Finals unless they have been registered with the Competition to play for that team in accordance with Rule 18(a) or played at least one League game for that team if that is not the team for which they are registered.
- (ii) No player shall play in a Semi-Final or Final unless they have been registered with the Competition for at least twenty eight days or alternatively played at least three League games for that team.
- (iii) Where a Cup Competition commences on a group League basis these games shall be regarded as league games for the purposes of a player's eligibility in (i) and (ii) above.
- (iv) Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players shall be fined £50.00 and in addition, irrespective of whether the game is on a group league basis or knock-out basis, the team will be struck out of the Cup Competition. If the Cup Competition is that of a group league basis the defaulting Clubs will have its results expunged there from and if the Cup Competition is on a knock-out basis the match shall be awarded to their opponents.
- (v) A player playing up or down an age group must have played at least 3 league games for that team before a semi-final or final in each relevant competition
- C2. No player may play for more than one team in the same cup competition in the same season.
- C3. If the Cup competition is on a knockout basis, all matches will be subject to extra time.
- The duration of extra time shall be a maximum of 10 minutes (5 minutes each half) for Under 10 age group, 20 minutes (10 minutes each half) for Under 11 to Under 16 age groups and 30 minutes (15 minutes each half) for Under17 & Under 18 age groups. For Under 10's to Under 18's if the scores are still level, the taking of penalties from the penalty spot shall decide the winner.
- C4.(i) Where a Cup competition is in part played on a League basis, Rule 22(d) shall apply to any team not completing its fixtures in the League part of the competition.
- C5. All Cup competitions will be subject to the conditions in Rule 10 except that at Cup Finals the half-time interval shall not exceed 15 minutes and its duration may only be altered with the consent of the Referee.
- C6. All Cup dates will be observed. If any game is cancelled by inclement weather a sanctioned postponement or a drawn match, a new date will be arranged by the Fixture Secretary.
- C7. All officials' fees (See Rule 13(e)) at each Semi-Final or play off shall be shared equally by the two clubs involved and paid immediately after the match on the day of the match. Clubs failing to comply with this rule will be fined £10.00.
- C8. Any clash of colours, the HOME side will change their colours but where matches are played on neutral grounds, both teams will change their colours. (bibs are not allowed)
- C9. Clubs in Finals will play on grounds nominated by the Competition Management Committee and Clubs must report the Result of the match in the prescribed manner to the appropriate Registration Secretary. (see also Rule 11). Shirts in Cup Finals must be numbered.

- C10. At Cup Finals, if the scores at the end of normal time are level, extra time will be played, The duration of extra time shall be a maximum of 10 minutes (5 minutes each half) for Under 10 age group, 20 minutes (10 minutes each half) for Under 11 to Under 16 age groups and 30 minutes (15 minutes each half) for Under17 & Under 18 age groups. For Under 10's to Under 18's if the scores are still level, the taking of penalties from the penalty spot shall decide the winner.
- C11. Teams reaching Cup Finals must each present two balls, fit for play, to the Referee prior to the kick-off for inspection. The Referee will select the ball to be used and keep the second ball in reserve. (See Rule 10(b)).
- C12. Home clubs/teams reaching cup Semi-Finals will have Referees and Assistant Referees, if available, appointed by the Competition. Details of the match must be given as soon as possible, but not less than five days prior to the match, to the Referees Appointment Secretary, who will as soon as possible inform the Club of any appointments made. The home club must immediately provide details of the match to all the match officials appointed. Clubs failing to provide this information will be fined £10.00.

R.I.P.

Martin Leno

1946—2022



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of a great stalwart of the Blackwater & Dengie Youth Football League.

Martin had been on the League committee for many years, in Roles including Referees Appointment Secretary, Fixture Secretary, Press Officer, League CWO, and Co-ordinator of the England Football Accredited League (formally Charter Standard).

He managed teams in the League for many seasons, represented the League at numerous meetings with Essex FA and other Leagues. He also had connections with Disability Football in Essex.

It was Martin who organised the venues for our Cup Finals, and could always be heard making team announcements on Cup Final days.

Martin was Chairman of Burnham Ramblers Senior Club, whilst being an important member of the Youth Section Committee, and was often to be found at the ground.

A person with a great sense of humour, always ready to share a comment or two with you, and to try to help if you needed it. Martin will be sadly missed not only by his family and this League but by many, many people in the Football Community.

CHILD PROTECTION

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

The NON-LEAGUE Paper

Let's join together to end abuse

The Non-League Paper is proud to be the melting pot for football outside the top four divisions. Every week we record dazzling victories and gutsy defeats.

We applaud the overworked chairmen and the underpaid volunteers who keep the great game going.

But more and more over the past months have come disturbing stories of verbal abuse of fans and players and physical abuse of referees.

There is more dissent over decisions and more attempts to gain advantages by cheating. Diving is coming into the Non-League game, imported by the foreign stars of the premiership.

Now, as any journalist will tell you, a bit of spice sells newspapers. Good news can be boring. So the occasional flashpoint, a spurt of passion can enliven the dreariest of games.

Maybe not a Cantona drop kick or a Wayne Rooney full frontal, but a contentious incident can stir the blood.

Trouble is, incessant bad behaviour becomes boorish and dull. Players constantly carping at referees, fans' incessant foul-mouthed abuse and managers ranting on the touchlines are reduced to the commonplace and irksome.

Women, who have become such an important part of the modern football audience, will begin to turn their backs on the game and with them will go the family ethos and the support of their children.

This is not the way for Non-League to prosper or progress. So we at The NLP are saying - Enough is enough. Let's join together to bring a better environment for the game at our level and set an example which we must hope will be replicated by the stars on TV.

That way the message will get through to the people who really matter, the youngsters coming into the game who need role models with morals.

Sir Trevor Brooking, whose position as director of football development at the Football Association, thrusts him into the forefront of any debate about schoolboy and youth football says he is concerned about the way bad behaviour is "spiralling out of control."

As he rightly says, this remains a problem for society, obvious on street corners and in kebab shops across the country.

But football as the national sport can lead the way for a revival of standards, the kind that saw great players like Bobby Charlton and Gary Lineker never cautioned throughout their career.

Standards which saw a manager like Brian Clough, who provided more column inches than any other football man of his generation, live by a code of honour for opponents and officials.

That's what we think. Now we want to know what you think. Write or e-mail your views.

We will make sure they are heard where they matter.

SEND YOUR VIEWS TO: **FANS' FORUM,
THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER,
TUITION HOUSE,
ST GEORGE'S ROAD,
WIMBLEDON SW19 4DS**

or e-mail: nlp@greenwaysmedia.co.uk

This article is written with the permission of The Non-League Paper

BLACKWATER and DENGIE YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

5-v-5

for

UNDER 7 & 8

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION LAWS FOR 5 v 5 SOCCER.
FOR PLAYERS

(BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS OVER THE AGE OF 6 AND UNDER 8)

Except where other provision in these Laws are made, the Laws of Association Football apply. Each Law is numbered to correspond with the appropriate Law of the Game. These Laws are mandatory unless special permission is granted by the Football Association.

LAW 1 Playing Area

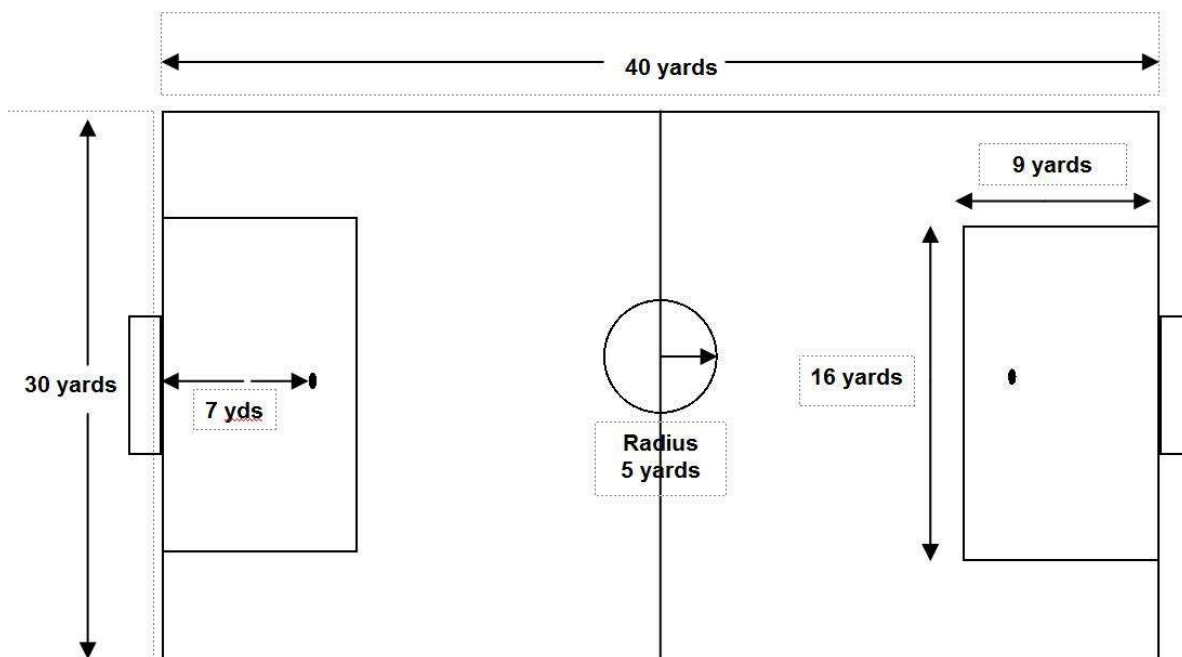
- FA recommended pitch size 40 yards by 30 yards
- Goal Size: 12 feet by 6 feet

LAW 3 Number of Players

- A team consisting of no more than 5 players.
- Each team must not have a squad greater than 10 players
- Up to a maximum of 5 substitutes may be used in any match
- At goal kicks the opposing team must retreat to the half way line.
- At throw-ins children can roll the ball in underarm with one or both hands or take a normal throw-in - the children have the option to choose.

All other **Laws** as per Mini Soccer

Recommended Pitch Size and Dimensions



**BLACKWATER and DENGIE
YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

MINI SOCCER 7-A-SIDE

for

UNDER 9 & 10

LAWS

for

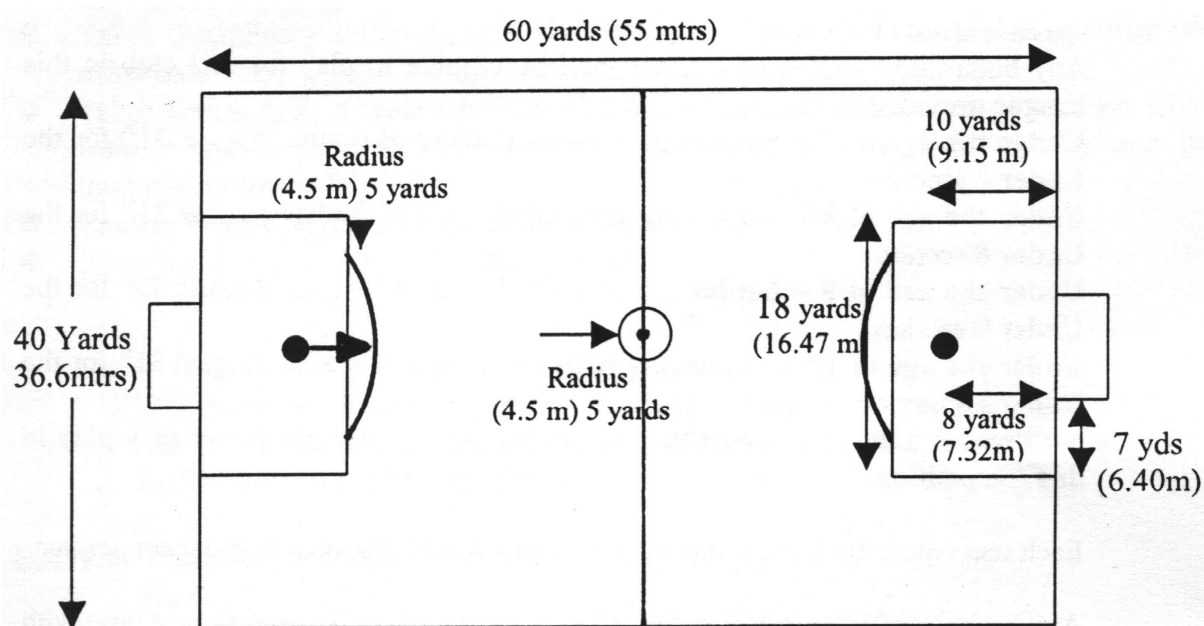
MINI SOCCER

**THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION LAWS FOR MINI_SOCCER.
FOR PLAYERS
(BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS OVER THE AGE OF 8 AND UNDER 10)**

Except where other provision in these Laws are made, the Laws of Association Football apply. Each Law is numbered to correspond with the appropriate Law of the Game. These Laws are mandatory unless special permission is granted by the Football Association.

LAW 1 Playing Area

- Length 60 yards (55 mtrs)
- Width 40 yards (36.6 mtrs)
- Goal 4 yards (3.6 mtrs) by 2 yards (1.8 mtrs)



Penalty Area

Length 9.15m – 10 yards. Width 16.47m – 18 yards

Penalty Mark

The penalty mark is 7.32m (8 yards) from the Goal Line opposite the Centre of the Goal.

Halfway Line

The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The centre mark is indicated at the mid-point of the halfway line.

Goal Size

The distance between the posts is 3.6m (12 feet) and the distance between the lower edge of the cross bar and the ground is 1.88m (6 ft)

Warning

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

LAW 2 The Ball

The ball size should be 3 for Under 7's, 8's, 9's and Under 10's. It should be safe and made of leather or another suitable material.

See Rule 10(b).

LAW 3 Number of Players

Up to 7 play. Players over the age of 7 as at 31st August must play with and against players only from their own age range – within a two year age band. Players should not be allowed to begin to play until the Season of their 7th birthday.

Qualification of Players

Any bona-fide member of a Club shall be eligible to play for that club in this League provided he/she is:

Under the age of 7 – but having reached the age of 6 after August 31st for the Under 7 section.

Under the age of 8 – but having reached the age of 6 after August 31st for the Under 8 section.

Under the age of 9 – but having reached the age of 8 after August 31st for the Under 9 section.

Under the age of 10 – but having reached the age of 8 after August 31st for the Under 10 section.

No Premier League or Football League Academy registered player may play in this competition.

Each team must not have a squad greater than double the size of the team per age.

Any number of substitutes, without being named, may be used at any time with the permission of the referee or game leader. Entry into the field of play will only be allowed during a stoppage in play. A player who has been replaced may return to the playing area as a substitute for another player.

LAW 4 Playing Equipments

Players **MUST** wear shin guards and goalkeepers must wear a distinguishing playing strip.

Shin guards must be covered entirely by the stockings.

LAW 5 Referees

The Authority of the Referee

Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the match to which they have been appointed.

Powers and Duties

The Referee

- Enforces the Laws of the Game
- Controls the match in co-operation with the assistant referees / time keeper
- Ensures that the ball meets the requirements of Law 2
- Ensures that the player's equipment meets the requirements of Law 4
- Stops, suspends or terminates the match, at their discretion, for any infringements of the Laws

- Stops, suspends or terminates the match because of outside interference of any kind
- Stops the match if, in their opinion, a player is seriously injured and ensures that they are removed from the field of play
- Ensures that any player bleeding from a wound leaves the field of play
- Allows play to continue when the team against which an offence has been committed will benefit from such an advantage and penalises the original offence if the anticipated advantage does not ensue at that time
- Takes disciplinary action against players guilty of cautionable and / or sending off offences
- Takes action against team officials who fail to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and may, at their discretion, expel them from the field of play and its immediate surrounds
- Ensures that no unauthorised persons enter the field of play
- Restarts the match after it has been stopped

Decisions of the Referee

The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play are final.

The referee may only change a decision on realising that it is incorrect or at his/her discretion provided that play has not restarted.

LAW 6 Timekeeper/Scorer/Assistant Referee

Duties

A person may be nominated to assist the referee to:-

- Record goals scored
- Act as timekeeper and signify to the referee by an agreed signal when the time of each half has expired.
- Suspend time on an instruction from the referee for all stoppages and add that time to the end of each half.
- Supervise the use of rolling substitutes
- Carry out any other duties as prescribed by the referee.

If an independent timekeeper/scorer is not nominated, these duties are the responsibility of the referee.

LAW 7 Duration of the Game

In any one day, no player shall play more than the stipulated period outlined below. Within this maximum the recommended duration of games is provided.

U7/8 20 minutes each way

U9/10 25 minutes each way

Each League / Competition will determine its own playing time within the maximum time permitted. The half time interval must not exceed 5 minutes.

LAW 8 Start and the Restart of Play

Procedure

A kick-off is taken at the centre of the playing area to start the game and after a goal has been scored. Opponents must be 4.5m (5 yards) away from the ball, and in their own half of the field. The ball must be played forward. In Mini Soccer a goal cannot be scored directly from a start or restart of play.

Special Circumstances

A dropped ball to restart the match after play has been temporarily stopped inside the penalty area takes place on the penalty line parallel to the goal line at that point nearest to where the ball was located when the play stopped.

LAW 9 Ball in and out of Play

Ball out of Play

The ball is out of play when:

- It has wholly crossed the goal line or touch line whether on the ground or in the air
- Play has been stopped by the referee

Ball in Play

The ball is in play at all other times, including when:

- It rebounds from a goal post, crossbar or corner flag post and remains in the field of play
- It rebounds from either the referee or an assistant referee when they are on the field of play

LAW 10 Method of Scoring

Goal Scored

A goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, between the goal posts and under the cross bar, provided that no infringement of the Laws of the game has been committed previously by the team scoring the goal.

Winning Team

The team scoring the greater number of goals during a match is the winner. If both score an equal number of goals, or if no goals are scored, the match is drawn.

Competition Rules

For matches ending in a draw, competition rules may state provisions involving extra time, or other procedures approved by the International FA Board to determine the winner in a match.

Please note that this must be included within the maximum participation time.

LAW 11 Offside

There is no offside.

LAW 12 Fouls and Misconduct

In Mini-Soccer all free kicks are direct.

A free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following offences in a manner considered to be careless, reckless or using excessive force:

- Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
- Trips or attempts to trip an opponent
- Jumps at an opponent
- Charges an opponent
- Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
- Pushes an opponent

A free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following offences:

- Tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball, making contact with the opponent before touching the ball
- Holds an opponent
- Spits at an opponent
- Handles the ball deliberately (except for the goalkeeper within his / her own penalty area)
- Plays in a dangerous manner
- Impedes the progress of an opponent
- Prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his / her hands
- Commits any other offence, not previously mentioned in Law 12, for which play is stopped to caution or dismiss a player

Penalty Kick

A penalty kick is awarded if any of the above offences is committed by a player inside his / her own penalty area, irrespective of the position of the ball, provided it is in play.

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

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

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

Cautionable Offences

A player is cautioned and shown the yellow card if he / she commits any of the following seven offences:

1. Is guilty of unsporting behaviour
2. Shows dissent by word or action
3. Persistently infringes the Laws of the Game
4. Delays the restart of play
5. Fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick or free kick
6. Enters or re-enters the field of play without the referee's permission
7. Deliberately leaves the field of play without the referee's permission

Sending Off Offences

A player is sent off and shown the red card if he / she commits any of the following seven offences:

1. Is guilty of serious foul play
2. Is guilty of violent misconduct
3. Spits at an opponent or any other person
4. Denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his / her own penalty area)
5. Denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick
6. Uses offensive or insulting or abusive language and / or gestures
7. Receives a second caution in the same match

LAW 13 Free Kicks

For all free kicks opponents must be 4.5m (5 yards) from the ball.

LAW 14 Penalty Kicks

A penalty kick is awarded for offences, as described in Law 12.

Position of the Ball and the Players

All players except defending goalkeeper and kicker must be outside the penalty area and at least 4.5m (5 yards) from the penalty mark

The ball must be kicked forward.

Infringement / Sanctions

If a player or players commit an offence at the taking of a penalty kick his / her team shall not be allowed to gain an advantage (i.e. the kick is retaken or the goal is disallowed depending on which team offended).

If a player of both the defending and the attacking teams offend, the kick shall be retaken.

LAW 15 Throw-In

A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in.

A throw-in is awarded:

- When the whole of the ball passes over the touch line, either on the ground or in the air
- From the point where it crossed the touch line
- To the opponents of the player who last touched the ball

Procedure

At the moment of delivering the ball, the thrower:

- Faces the field of play
- Has part of each foot either on the touch line or on the ground outside the touch line
- Uses both hands
- The throw-in is awarded to the opposing team if any of these requirements are not carried out
- Delivers the ball from behind and over their head
- For Under 7's and Under 8's children can roll the ball in underarm with one or both hands or take a normal throw-in - the children have the option to choose.

The thrower may not touch the ball again until it has touched another player. If he / she does, a free kick will be awarded against them. The ball is in play immediately it enters the field of play.

LAW 16 Goal Kick

Procedure

For defending team free kicks in their penalty area, the ball is in play once it is kicked and clearly moves, it does not have to leave the penalty area.

A player of the defending team kicks the ball from any point within the penalty area.

The halfway line acts as a retreat line on goal kicks. The opponents must drop off to the halfway line to help the goalkeeper learn to play out from the back. However, if they want to play quickly they can do. The ball is in play as soon as it is kicked and clearly moves.

LAW 17 Corner Kicks

The opposing player must remain at least 4.5m (5 yards) from the ball until it is in play.

The kicker may not touch the ball again until it has touched another player. If he / she does, a free kick is awarded against them.

The ball is in play immediately it enters the field of play.

BLACKWATER and DENGIE YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

9-v-9

for

UNDER 11 & Under 12

**THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION LAWS FOR 9 v 9 SOCCER.
FOR PLAYERS
(BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS OVER THE AGE OF 9 AND UNDER 12)**

Except where other provision in these Laws are made, the Laws of Association Football apply. Each Law is numbered to correspond with the appropriate Law of the Game. These Laws are mandatory unless special permission is granted by the Football Association.

LAW 1 Playing Area

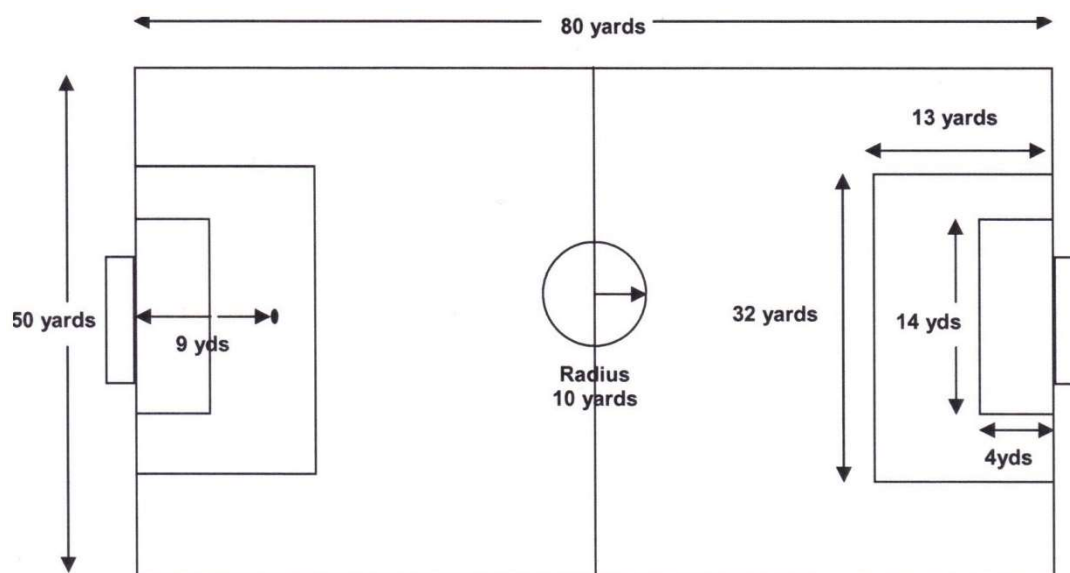
- Length: Maximum 80 yards, Minimum 70yards
- Width: Maximum 50 yards, Minimum 40 yards
- FA recommended pitch size 80 yards by 50 yards
- Goal Size: 16 feet by 7 feet

LAW 3 Number of Players

- A team consisting of no more than 9 players.
- Each team must not have a squad greater than 14 players
- Up to a maximum of 5 substitutes may be used in any match

All other **Laws** as per 11-a-Side

Recommended Pitch Size and Dimensions



MATCHES AGAINST FOREIGN TEAMS

Affiliated Associations, Competitions or Clubs wishing to play a match or series of matches against members of another National Association must apply on the prescribed forms to the Association at least 60 days before the date of the intended match or the first of a series of matches.

Approval must also be given by the County Football Association to which the Club is affiliated and by the Competition of which the Club is a member. Initially permission MUST be obtained from our League.

The Association has in its discretion the power to consent or refuse an application.

When written consent has been given, the Association will inform the other National Associations concerned..

An application to participate in a match or series of matches against members of another National Association involving players of school age shall be required to demonstrate that all such players have received the necessary permission from their head teacher before the association will give consent.

Approval from the League would normally be given at a Management Committee meeting, usually held on the second Thursday of the month.

The Football Association,

Wembley Stadium, P.O. Box 1966, London SW1P 9EQ (Tel: 08449 808200)

In view of the timescale involved in obtaining approvals, would clubs please seek clearance as early as possible.

RULES OF THE ESSEX COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

We would again refer to Rule 11 of the Essex County Football Association and draw to the attention of all the clubs, their obligations to the Association. Certain of our member clubs found themselves subject to action by the County last season and we hope this can be avoided in the future.

The Management Committee would endorse the statement made at the Annual General Meeting last June, that clubs must tighten up the discipline of their players, supporters and spectators, this can only be of benefit to US ALL. All affiliated clubs and competitions are also bound by the rules of the ECFA and in particular, attention is drawn to Rule 11 of the Association.

For your information, part of the Rule is reproduced as follows:

ECFA RULE 11

11. Responsibility of Clubs, Misconduct by Members “Attendance at and participation in Matches”

Every Club and Competition is responsible for the administration, efficiency of its organisation and must at all times give prompt attention to the correspondence of the Association and must comply with all orders and instructions of the association. In the event of the failure to comply with this Rule to the satisfaction of the Council the club and any official or officials responsible may be deemed to have committed a misdemeanour and may be dealt with in such manner as may be deemed appropriate by council.

The Memorandum of Procedures Parts 1 & 2 for dealing with Field Offences committed by players of a club dealt with by the County Association shall form part of these rules.

Attendance at and Participation in Matches

19. An individual may take part in or attend at a Match only on condition that such individual observes the Rules, and each Affiliated Association, Competition and Club is required to observe and enforce such Rules.
20. Each Affiliated Association, Competition and Club shall be responsible for ensuring:

- (a) that its directors, spectators, officials, employees, servants, representatives, spectators, and all persons purporting to be its supporters or followers, conduct themselves in an orderly fashion and refrain from any one or combination of the following: racist, violent, threatening, abusive, obscene or provocative behaviour, conduct or language whilst attending at or taking part in a Match in which it is involved, whether on its own ground or elsewhere; and
- (b) that no spectators or unauthorised persons are permitted to encroach onto the pitch area, save for reasons of crowd safety, or to throw missiles, bottles or other potentially harmful or dangerous objects at or on to the pitch.

- 21 Each Club is expected to provide a private way from the playing area to dressing room wherever this is practicable.
- 22 Any Affiliated Association, Competition or Club which fails effectively to discharge its said responsibility in any respect whatsoever shall be guilty of misconduct, save that it shall be a defence if it can show that all events, incidents or occurrences complained of were the result of circumstances over which it had no control, or for reasons of crowd safety, and that its responsible officers or agents had used all due diligence to ensure that its said responsibility was discharged.
- 23 Any individual referred to in paragraph one above may be removed from any ground and such force used as may be necessary for the purpose of effecting such removal.
- 24 Each Club shall have bills printed and posted in their grounds, threatening with expulsion anyone responsible for any insulting or improper conduct towards a match official.

Every club and competition is responsible for the administrative efficiency of its organisation and must at all times give prompt attention to the correspondence of the Association and must comply with all orders and instructions of the Association. In the event of failure to comply with this Rule to the satisfaction of the Council the club and any official or officials responsible may be deemed to have committed a misdemeanor and may be dealt with in such a manner as may be deemed appropriate by the Council.

Re: Discipline in Youth Football

The Essex County FA have been made aware of the ongoing concern from various Youth leagues as to how the discipline procedure can support Referees, particularly those who are under 18, in Youth Football. We are aware for some referees there will, unfortunately, be some distressing incidents which can have a detrimental impact on their refereeing careers.

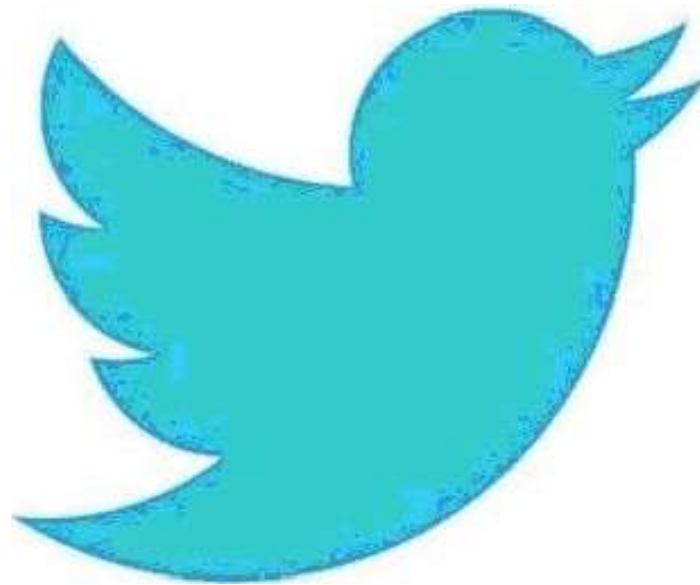
Following a review of the current process, I would like to advise you of the following changes which will be introduced from 1st July 2013:-

Club Official – if a medium or high level case is proven, the discipline panel will automatically start from the point of issuing the sanction instructing the official to attend a Safeguarding Children Workshop, particularly in cases where the Referee is under 18 or the poor behaviour is directed towards or in front of under 18 player(s).

The Commission has the flexibility to increase/mitigate the sanction. For example should this be the third low level case found proven involving the same individual, the discipline panel can consider increasing the penalty due to the aggravating circumstances in the case. This system also allows the panel to consider mitigating circumstances.

ECFA will continue to work with our Referees by offering them support via mentors. However, we feel this will send a stronger message to club officials that poor behaviour, especially towards an under 18 referee, will be dealt with appropriately.

For season 2013-2014 there is going to be a change in the charging processes which will explain low/medium/high levels of cases. Information when available will be highlighted on the website, and hopefully the County FA handbook.



@DengeYouth

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REFEREES REQUIRED

Throughout the country, local football depends on the services of keen, dedicated, willing persons, who are pleased to contribute to the game as referees in order that players may more easily enjoy their matches.

If you have enjoyed playing the game at any level you know how important it is to have a qualified referee available.

Can You Help?

If you are physically fit, with good eyesight, at least 14 years of age, and willing to attend a short course of instruction, held locally, in preparation for a straightforward examination.

Why Be a Referee?

There is a real shortage of referees' within the county of Essex, with over 50% of games being played without a registered referee.

If you were to attend a referees' course and become a qualified referee, you would be able to assist in reducing the number of games not covered by a registered referee.

It is also a very worthwhile and enjoyable hobby. The courses are organised by the Essex County Football Association and are staffed by The Football Association trained instructors.

Will You Help?

If you are interested in accepting the challenge of refereeing local football matches, then please contact:

There's always plenty of opportunities to enrol on a Referees' Course across the County, so why not contact **Lukas Wood** at the County Office for details of the next Course near you?

Phone Lukas on (01245) 393076
or E-Mail Lukas.wood@essexfa.com

BLACKWATER AND DENGIE YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Proposal for Member Clubs sending people on Referees course.

Cost of Referees course including Safeguarding Children Course
Persons over 14 years of age £135

To qualify as a Registered Referee you need to Pass the Course and Referee six games (11-a-Side) then attend New Referees Workshop
Each Member Club is given the opportunity to send up to two people on a referee's course, League Committee will consider if more than two wanting to go on the course.

Those taking the course will be reimbursed £50 when added to the above League referees list, the completion of the course and refereed sixteen matches for the above League.
Reimbursement of a further £50 when a further 10 games have been refereed for the above League.

They can apply direct to **Lukas Wood** at **ECFA** for a form Tel: **01245 393076** or email **lukas.wood@essexfa.com** or George Lowe Tel: 01245 393097 or apply online at **www.essexfa.com**.
If a form has been applied for it is to be completed and returned to Lukas Wood.

When an individual has applied to go on the Referees Course, to qualify for the above sponsorship they must inform **Matt Jarvis** Tel: **07837 881609** or email **mattsjarvis@hotmail.co.uk**

When the form has been completed and delivered to ECFA they inform Matt Jarvis of names of individuals and Member Clubs they represent who have applied to go on a course.

Matt Jarvis will then confirm with Lukas Wood that those names given are on the list at ECFA for the course

When course starts Lukas Wood will confirm those that have turned up for the course.

Those attending the course will be contacted to go on the B&DYFL referees list.

When course is complete Lukas Wood will confirm with Matt Jarvis those that have completed the course and those that have been successful.

Member Clubs or individuals will then be refunded the fees for the course as outlined above.



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GUIDELINES FOR TEAMS IN CUP FINALS

- Teams appearing in Cup Finals will be required to forward the following information to the relevant age Fixture Secretary for the match programme:
- Full first name and second name of all players in squad
- Numbers on shirts each player will be wearing on the day
- One line A5 page width Player Profile
- Captains name
- Managers Name
- Assistants Name if you have one
- Mascots name if you have one (maximum 2)
- Team Sponsors name if you have one
- Managers report of no more than 250 words
- There will be an entry fee to the Cup Final (as set by the League Management Committee) for each adult but free for children under 18 years of age
- Current Entry fee is £3.50 for all adults per final
- There is no charge for the Manager, One Assistant and the team players
- 14 Individual trophies will be awarded for Mini-Soccer and 9 v 9.
- 16 Individual trophies will be awarded for Youth Football - 11-a-Side
- If any team requires additional trophies, you must order these through the trophy secretary well in advance of the final
- Teams should not arrive earlier than an hour before kick-off
- Teams will be shown to their dressing rooms as soon as they become available
- Each team will be required to produce two match balls and complete a match result sheet
- Registration Cards must be exchanged before kick-off and retained duration of match
- Teams may enter the field of play for warm ups after the presentations to the previous final are completed
- Teams will be required to return to their dressing rooms 10 minutes before kick-off
- Referee will call both teams to line up in tunnel to enter the field of play together with the match officials
- All substitutes to remain in dugouts during the match
- Manager and Coach to remain within the technical area in front of the dugouts
- No Manager, Assistant or Parent will be allowed on the opposite touch line or behind the goals
- Celebrations after the match NOT to be conducted within the dressing rooms ie no champagne or fizzy drinks to be shaken and then released in the dressing rooms.
- At least two adults, preferably to include the Team Manager to be present in dressing room at all times before kick off and again after the match until dressing room is completely vacated.
- Dressing rooms to be vacated as soon as possible after the completion of your match, so that they may be swept and cleaned ready for the next team.
- No valuables to be left in the dressing rooms. The Blackwater and Dengie Youth Football League and the Football Club hosting the Cup Finals will not accept responsibility for any loss

***On behalf of the Management Committee of the
Blackwater & Dengie Youth Football League
we hope you enjoy your day.***

USEFUL GUIDELINES for ADULTS INVOLVED In YOUTH FOOTBALL

The following is a list of useful guidelines for adults who are involved in youth football which appeared in the York RA magazine Extra Time and if these ground rules were instilled at an early age, perhaps the game would return to the ideals we all dream about.

“Children as you know, develop differently and at different rates, they react differently to the same pressures”.

- (1) Children should not be forced to participate in soccer, they are not playing to satisfy **your** ambitions.
- (2) Children and young people are involved in soccer for their enjoyment – not yours.
- (3) Always encourage your child to play by the rules.
- (4) Teach your child that effort and teamwork are as important as victory, so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
- (5) Never ridicule or shout at your child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- (6) Children learn best by example. Applaud good play by your team and by members of the opposing team.
- (7) Do not publicly question any officials decisions and **never** doubt his or her honesty.
- (8) Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children’s soccer.
- (9) Recognise the value and importance of coaches. They give their time and efforts to help your child.
- (10) Set an example by being friendly to the parents of the opposition.
- (11) Emphasize enjoyment and fun.
- (12) Praise effort as well as improvement.

ROLL OF HONOUR – SEASON 2021/2022

Under 11's

Division 1 League Cup
Blackwater & Dengie L/C

Winners
Runners-Up

- **SWF. United Lions**
- Writtle Minors Greens

Division 2 League Cup
Blackwater & Dengie L/C

Winners
Runners-Up

- **Gt. Notley Yth Hawks**
- Baddow Spartak Panthers

Division 3 League Cup
Blackwater & Dengie L/C

Winners
Runners-Up

- **Tillingham Tigers**
- Dunmow Utd. Sharks

Division 4 League Cup
Blackwater & Dengie L/C

Winners
Runners-Up

- **SWF. United**
- All Stars Community Reds

Division 5 League Cup
Blackwater & Dengie L/C

Winners
Runners-Up

- **Sporting 77 Leopards**
- Heybridge Swifts

Under 12's

Division 1

Winners
Runners-Up

- **Braintree Yth Hornets**
- Uplands Rangers Blues

Division 2

Winners
Jt. Runners-Up

- **Valley Green Thunder**
- Wilvale Rangers Spartans

Division 3

Winners
Runners-Up

- **Heybridge Swifts Pheonix**
- SWF United Swifts

Division 4

Winners
Runners-Up

- **Galleywood Yth Kestrels**
- Hatfield Peverel Lions

Division 1 League Cup
Burnham Ramblers Boys Cup

Winners
Runners-Up

- **Braintree Youth Hornets**
- Uplands Rangers Blues

Division 2 League Cup
Blackwater & Dengie L/C

Winners
Runners-Up

- **Wilvale Rangers Spartans**
- Tiptree Heath

Division 3 League Cup
Blackwater & Dengie L/C

Winners
Runners-Up

- **Heybridge Swifts Pheonix**
- SWF United Swifts

Division 4 League Cup
Blackwater & Dengie L/C

Winners
Runners-Up

- **Galleywood Yth Kestrels**
- Wilvale Rangers Warriors

Under 13's

Division 1

Winners
Runners-Up

- **Sporting 77 Falcons**
- Hatfield Peverel Sharks

Division 2

Jt. Winners

- **Galleywood Yth Falcons**
- **Writtle Minors Green**

Division 1 League Cup
Burnham Ramblers Boys Cup

Winners
Runners-Up

- **Hatfield Peverel Sharks**
- Writtle Minors Whites

Division 2 League Cup
Blackwater & Dengie L/C

Winners
Runners-Up

- **Writtle Minors Greens**
- Galleywood Yth Falcons

ROLL OF HONOUR – SEASON 2021/2022

Under 14's

<u>Division 1</u>	Winners	- Gt. Leighs
	Runners-Up	- Braintree Yth Hornets
<u>Division 2</u>	Winners	- Sporting 77 Piranhas
	Runners-Up	- Rayne Yth Eagles
<u>Division 3</u>	Winners	- Witham Town Reds
	Runners-Up	- Danbury & Bicknacre Blues
<u>Division 4</u>	Winners	- Writtle Minors Blues
	Runners-Up	- Maldon Saints Whites
<u>Division 1 League Cup</u> Blackwater Building Services	Winners	- Heybridge Swifts Tigers
	Runners-Up	- Gt. Leighs
<u>Division 2 League Cup</u> Blackwater Building Services	Winners	- Galleywood Yth Hawks
	Runners-Up	- Dunmow Utd
<u>Division 3 League Cup</u> Blackwater Building Services	Winners	- Witham Town Reds
	Runners-Up	- Ravens Yth Gliders
<u>Division 4 League Cup</u> Blackwater Building Services	Winners	- Maldon Saints Whites
	Runners-Up	- Writtle Minors Blues

Under 15's

<u>Division 1</u>	Winners	- Coggeshall Town
	Runners-Up	- Writtle Minors Whites
<u>Division 2</u>	Winners	- Feering Falcons
	Runners-Up	- SWF United Leopards
<u>Division 3</u>	Winners	- Heybridge Swifts Eagles
	Runners-Up	- Allstar Community
<u>Division 1 League Cup</u> Anglian Awards Trophy	Winners	- Coggeshall Town
	Runners-Up	- Gt. Notley Hawks
<u>Division 2 League Cup</u> Groupbridge Limited	Winners	- Feering Falcons
	Runners-Up	- SWF United Leopards
<u>Division 3 League Cup</u> Groupbridge Limited	Winners	- Heybridge Swifts Eagles
	Runners-Up	- Wilvale Rangers

ROLL OF HONOUR – SEASON 2021/2022

Under 16's

Division 1

Winners - Hannakins Farm Blacks
Runners-Up - Witham Town Yellows

Division 2

Winners - Rayne Yth
Runners-Up - Notley Yth

Division 3

Winners - Springfield Yth Whites
Runners-Up - Writtle Minors Whites

Division 1 League Cup Blackwater & Dengie L/C

Winners - Hannakins Farm Blacks
Runners-Up - Witham Town Yellows

Division 2 League Cup Blackwater & Dengie L/C

Winners - Rayne Yth
Runners-Up - Baddow Spartak Panthers

Division 3 League Cup Blackwater & Dengie L/C

Winners - Danbury & Bicknacre
Runners-Up - Springfield Yth Whites

Under 17's

Division 1

Winners - Valley Green
Runners-Up - Springfield Yth Blues

Division 1 League Cup Blackwater & Dengie L/C

Winners - Witham Town Yellows
Runners-Up - Valley Green Hammers

Under 18's

Division 1

Winners - Coggeshall Town
Runners-Up - Hannakins Farm Whites

Division 1 League Cup Blackwater & Dengie L/C

Winners - Springfield Yth blues
Runners-Up - Coggeshall Town

ROLL OF HONOUR – SEASON 2021/2022

Sportsmanship Trophy

Under 7's Blackwater Division	Winners	-	Danbury & Bicknacre Blues
	Runners-Up	-	Maldon Saints Panthers
Under 7's Dengie Division	Winners	-	Tiptree Jobserve Blues
	Runners-Up	-	Wilvale Rangers Knights
Under 7's Crouch Division	Winners	-	Tiptree Jobserve Whites
	Runners-Up	-	Danbury & Bicknacre Royals
Under 7's Northey Division	Winners	-	Valley Green Titans
	Runners-Up	-	Galleywood Yth Eagles
Under 8's Blackwater Division	Winners	-	South Woodham Ferrers Utd Leopards
	Runners-Up	-	Wilvale Rangers Warriors
Under 8's Dengie Division	Winners	-	Thaxted Rangers
	Runners-Up	-	Hatfield Peverel Raptors
Under 8's Crouch Division	Winners	-	Witham Town Whites
	Runners-Up	-	Writtle Minors Whites
Under 8's Northey Division	Winners	-	Danbury & Bicknacre Royals
	Runners-Up	-	Notley Yth Hawks
Under 8's Osea Division	Winners	-	Broomfield Yth Jaguars
	Runners-Up	-	Sporting 77 Tigers
Under 8's Southey Division	Winners	-	Silver End Yth
	Runners-Up	-	Wilvale Rangers Spartans
Under 9's Blackwater Division	Winners	-	Dunmow Rovers Tigers
	Runners-Up	-	Maldon & Tiptree Pumas
Under 9's Dengie Division	Winners	-	Woodham Radars Crusaders
	Runners-Up	-	Dunmow Utd Hawks
Under 9's Crouch Division	Winners	-	South Woodham Ferrers Utd Eagles
	Runners-Up	-	Notley Yth Eagles
Under 9's Northey Division	Winners	-	Galleywood Yth Hawks
	Runners-Up	-	Tiptree Jobserve Whites
Under 9's Osea Division	Winners	-	Allstar Community
	Runners-Up	-	Gt. Bradfords Swifts
Under 10's Blackwater Division	Winners	-	Uplands Rangers
	Runners-Up	-	South Woodham Ferrers Utd Reds
Under 10's Dengie Division	Winners	-	Tiptree Jobserve Blues
	Runners-Up	-	Baddow Spartak Pumas
Under 10's Crouch Division	Winners	-	Writtle Minors Greens
	Runners-Up	-	Danbury & Bicknacre Blues
Under 10's Northey Division	Winners	-	South Woodham Ferrers Utd Whites
	Runners-Up	-	Braintree yth Irons
Under 10's Osea Division	Winners	-	Writtle Minors Yellows
	Runners-Up	-	White Notley

ROLL OF HONOUR – SEASON 2021/2022

Sportsmanship Trophy

Under 11's Division 1	Winners	-	Tiptree Jobserve
	Runners-Up	-	Writtle Minors Greens
Under 11's Division 2	Winners	-	Gt. Notley Dragons
	Runners-Up	-	Uplands Rangers
Under 11's Division 3	Winners	-	Wilvale Rangers Spartans
	Runners-Up	-	Writtle Minors Whites
Under 11's Division 4	Winners	-	Thaxted Rangers Blues
	Runners-Up	-	Hatfield Peverel Hurricanes
Under 11's Division 5	Winners	-	Wilvale Rangers Warriors
	Runners	-	Writtle Minors Blues
Under 12's Division 1	Winners	-	Writtle Minors Whites
	Runners-Up	-	Danbury & Bicknacre Blues
Under 12's Division 2	Winners	-	Writtle Minors Greens
	Runners-Up	-	Uplands Rangers Royals
Under 12's Division 3	Winners	-	Valley Green Vikings
	Runners-Up	-	Danbury & Bicknacre Royals
Under 12's Division 4	Winners	-	Galleywood Yth Kestrels
	Runners-Up	-	Wilvale Rangers Warriors
Under 13's Division 1	Winners	-	Silver End
	Runners-Up	-	Maldon & Tiptree Panthers
Under 13's Division 2	Winners	-	Torquespeed Yth Cobras
	Runners-Up	-	Wilvale Rangers Warriors
Under 14's Division 1	Winners	-	Gt. Leighs
	Runners-Up	-	Galleywood Yth Eagles
Under 14's Division 2	Winners	-	Tiptree Jobserve
	Runners-Up	-	Valley Green Hotspurs
Under 14's Division 3	Winners	-	Witham town Reds
	Runners-Up	-	Heybridge Swifts Falcons
Under 14's Division 4	Winners	-	South Woodham Ferrers Utd Vipers
	Runners-Up	-	Galleywood Youth Hawks
Under 15's Division 1	Winners	-	Hatfield Peverel Harriers
	Runners-Up	-	Coggeshall Town
Under 15's Division 2	Winners	-	Rayne Youth
	Runners-Up	-	Broomfield Yth Warriors
Under 15's Division 3	Winners	-	Maldon Saints Whites
	Runners-Up	-	Writtle Minors Greens
Under 16's Division 1	Winners	-	Dunmow United
	Runners-Up	-	Galleywood Youth Eagles
Under 16's Division 2	Winners	-	Tollesbury Juniors
	Runners-Up	-	Broomfield Yth Kings
Under 16's Division 3	Winners	-	Writtle Minors Whites
	Runners-Up	-	Danbury & Bicknacre Royals
Under 17's Division 1	Winners	-	Tiptree Jobserve
	Runners-Up	-	Hedinghams United
Under 18's Division 1	Winners	-	Thaxted Rangers Pheonix
	Runners-Up	-	Hannakins Farm Whites

GOAL POST SAFETY

Tragically there have been nine children killed in England since 1991 as a result of accidents with soccer goalposts. The Figure in the United States is 26 deaths since 1979. Deaths have also been recorded in Ireland and Malta

SAFETY IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE SO EVERYBODY SHOULD TAKE NOTE. MOBILE GOALPOSTS ARE INHERENTLY UNSTABLE AS THEY ARE OPEN AT THE FRONT. THE CROSS BARS ARE HEAVY AND CAN CAUSE FATAL INJURIES IF THEY LAND ON SOMEONE'S HEAD.

WHAT CAN YOU DO ?

- ü **CHECK THEM**
- ü **SECURE THEM**
- ü **TEST THEM**
- ü **RESPECT THEM**

CHECK

Inspect them before they are erected for any cracks missing bolts etc

Make sure they are properly maintained

Sharp cup hooks for nets should be eliminated. Use tape or Velcro strips to secure nets.

SECURE THEM

Goals should be erected in accordance with the manufacturers instructions.

Sufficient anchor pins and or weights should be used as per the manufacturers recommendations.

Care needs to be taken on wet days. Constant use of the same anchor points for pins could make anchors slack. Sufficient weights would need to be used to augment these anchors. Similarly on artificial pitches it is essential that the required weights are used at all times.

After use the mobile goals should not be left in position. They should removed and chained and locked in a safe position so that no youngster is tempted to play with them.

TEST

Test by pulling/pushing on goal posts.

They must be tested before the match and at halftime. They should also be tested after any player should swing on bar or after there is an incident involving the goals.

HOME MADE GOAL POSTS SHOULD NOT BE USED

ALTERED GOAL POSTS SHOULD NOT BE USED

If buying goals make sure they have a recognised BS/CEN or PAS standard mark.

RESPECT

Ensure those who erect goals have proper instructions and know what they are doing.

Give them a copy of this leaflet.

Never allow children to erect them.

Never allow children to play with them unsupervised. On no account should players swing from the bars or climb on goal posts.

Never allow children to carry the parts of the goals or help with the storage. There have been a number of incidents where cross bars have fallen on to children in storage sheds.

Heavy items are best stored at ground level with clear access to enable easy and safe storage and removal.

GOAL POST SAFETY
MAKE IT YOUR GOAL

Anglian Awards

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