

NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

1 (A) The Competition shall be known as the Pioneer Youth League and shall consist of no more than 150 clubs who shall be full members.

Member clubs must be affiliated to an affiliated County Football Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on the Form "D" to the Devon County Football Association..

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Devon Football Association and the Constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding 14 in number.

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

(N.B. This Rule refers to entry into another Sunday Competition only. A Tournament or Festival is classed as a "competition".)

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

(B) At the Annual General Meeting, or a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the compilation of the divisions at their discretion. When necessary this rule shall take precedence over Rule 12.

(C) The Mini-Soccer Competition shall be divided into two competitions, pre Christmas and post Christmas. The formation of the Competition shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting or subsequent Special General Meeting called for such purpose.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

2. A) Applications by existing Clubs, or by new Clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of an additional team (s) in the next season, must be made in writing to the Secretary by 15th May in each year ,and must be accompanied by an annual subscription of £50.00 per team entered. The subscription will be returned in the event of non-election to the League, or in the event of the League being unable to provide football for the team (s) . At the discretion of a majority of the accredited voting members present applications, (of which notice has been given), may be received at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting. The Annual Subscription shall apply.

(B) For teams entering the Mini Soccer Competition, the Annual subscription referred to in the preceding paragraph will be reduced to £30.00.

(C) A Club shall not participate in the competition until the Annual Subscription has been paid for every team it has entered.

D) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 20th August of its Devon County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming season, failing which they shall be fined £8.00. Clubs must advise the secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, officers and any other information required by the competition.

Officers

3. The Officers of the Competition shall be the President, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Registration Secretary, Fixtures Secretary, Referees' Secretary, Cup Secretary and Press Officer to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. N.B. Auditors are not Officers).

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

4. (A) The Competition shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association by a management Committee comprising of the officers and up to

seven members who shall be elected at the Annual general Meeting.

(B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination. All other candidates for election as Officers or Members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two Member Clubs, not later than 31st May in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual general Meeting. In the event of there being no nominations in accordance with the foregoing of any Office, nominations may be received at the Annual general Meeting.

C) The Management Committee shall meet as often as is necessary to deal with business as it arises. On receiving a requisition signed by two –thirds of the Members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Committee.

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

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

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

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

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

C) Each Member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee Meetings and have one vote each, but no Member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such Member or to the club that Member represents. In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.
(This paragraph shall also apply to the procedure of any sub- Committee).

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

E) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal to the Board of appeal in accordance with Rule 16. Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 14 days.

(F) 5 Members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee and 3 Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by any sub– committee of the Competition.

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

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

(I) All fines and charges shall be paid within 14 days of the date of posting of the written notification. Clubs, Officials, or individuals committing a breach of this rule will incur such penalties as the Management Committee may impose.

(J) A member of the Management Committee appointed to attend a meeting or match may have any expenses incurred refunded by the competition.

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

(L) The Management Committee shall from time to time authorise the payment of remuneration or honoraria to Officers. Any such payments authorised will be reported to the Member Clubs, either at the next League meeting, or by letter to Club Secretaries.

(M) Where they consider that it is appropriate, the Management Committee may suspend, in whole or in part, any fine or other sanction imposed upon a Club or individual, for such period of time as they see fit. In the event that the Club or individual is subsequently found guilty of a further breach of rule which was committed during the stated period of time, the Committee may direct that the suspended fine or sanction may be activated, in addition to any punishment imposed for the further breach of rule.

(N) No fine shall be imposed upon any person who is under 18 years of age.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6. (A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 30th June in each year. At this Meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least 75% of Members are present and entitled to vote.

To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual general Meeting.

To consider any business arising there from.

To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance sheet and statement of Accounts.

Election of clubs to fill vacancies (as recommended by the Management Committee).

Constitution of the Competition for ensuing season.

Election of Officers and Management committee.

Appointment of Auditors.

Alteration to rules, if any (of which notice has been given).

Fix the date of the commencement and conclusion of playing season.

Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.

(B) A copy of the duly verified Balance sheet, Statement of Accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 7 days prior to the meeting, and to the Devon County Football Association.

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

(D) Each full Member club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Not less than 7 days notice shall be given of any Meeting.

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

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

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

(H) Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at the Annual general Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £25.00.

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

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

7. The chairperson and the Secretary of each club shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the competition together with the Application of Membership for the coming season, or upon indicating that the Club intends to compete. WE A _____ of _____ Chairman and B _____ of (Secretary) of the _____ Football Club have been provided with a copy of the rules and regulations of the Pioneer Youth League Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of said club to if elected or accepted into Membership, to conform to those rules and regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16 Failing to comply with the returning of agreement Form Clubs will be fined £10.00 Any alteration of the Chairman and or Secretary on the above Agreement must be notified to the Devon Football Association (S) to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary of the Competition.

(Note: Insert the signatures and addresses of Officers and members).

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

8. (A) Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules, are not permitted in this Competition. Players who are, for the time being, attached to, or signed up for, a School of Excellence or similar Training Academy run by, or attached to, a Professional Football Club are not permitted to sign for a Club in this Competition and are not eligible to play in any League or Cup match in this Competition. A registered playing member of a Club is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:-

1. Signed a fully and correctly completed official Club Player Registration form, in ink, as issued by the Competition; and who has been registered for the Club by the League Registration Secretary at least two clear days prior to playing. Every player who registers for a Club must be in possession of an Identity Card issued by the Devon County Football Association, or other affiliated County Football Association, (subject to Paragraph 3 below). or,
2. Signed a Retained List form issued by the Registration Secretary, where the use of such a system has been approved by the Management Committee. In such case the Committee may also direct that the form be countersigned, by the Parent or Guardian of the player, as well as, by the player himself.
3. A player may be temporarily registered (pending his obtaining an F.A. Certificate) by fully completing and signing the League Temporary Registration form and submitting it, together with a passport-style photograph and birth certificate to the League Registration Secretary. The Registration Secretary will issue a temporary Card valid for a period of 14 days, and register the player as a member of the Club. A second or subsequent such Temporary Registration will not be issued to that player in

the season. A stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed for the return of the Card and documents."

4. To be eligible to play in any match, a player must have his County F.A. Identity Card, or a valid Temporary Registration Card, available for inspection prior to the match commencing. The Match Official (or any other person authorised by the Management Committee to do so) may check the cards of any or all players at any time before, during, or after the match, or if asked to do so by an official of the opposing team. Any player who does not have a valid Card available for inspection shall not take part in the match; or, if he has already taken part before the inspection is requested, may be treated as being an ineligible player within the meaning of Rule 8 (Q) or Cup Rule 23 (H)

The qualification dates for the Competition shall be as follows:-#

MINI SOCCER

Under 7 – the player must have attained the age of 6 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season but must be under the age of 7 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 8–the player must be under the age of 8 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

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

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

Under 11– the player must be under the age of eleven as at midnight on 31st August in the playing

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

YOUTH FOOTBALL

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

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

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

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

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

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

Under 18 the player must be under the age of 18 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing Season

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

(B) A player who is registered for a Club may, subject to the provisions of Rule 8 (P), play for any team of the Club for which he qualifies in accordance with the age qualifying rules. However, where a Club has two or more teams entered in the Competition in the same age group, then he will be considered to be a member of the team in that age group for which he first plays in the current season. He will not be

eligible to play for a different Team in the same age group (in either a League, or Cup or Plate match) without firstly having obtained a transfer in accordance with Rule 8 (K). After the transfer he will only be eligible to play in the team (in that age group) to which he has been transferred.

(C) A player is not eligible to play in this Competition who receives any form of payment for playing, other than expenses as per clauses 1,2 and 3 of Article 2 of the FIFA Regulations Governing the status and Transfer of Players. Clubs upon election must sign a declaration that will conform to the said clauses and players of such Clubs are required to sign a declaration upon registrations that they are eligible under, and will abide by, FIFA clauses which are as follows:

Player who have never received any remuneration other than for the actual expenses incurred during the course of their participation in or for any activity connected with association football shall be regarded as amateur. Travel and hotel expenses incurred through involvement in a match and the costs of a player's equipment, insurance and training may be reimbursed without jeopardising a player's amateur status

Any player who has ever received remuneration in excess of the amount stated under clause 2 in respect of participation in or an activity connected with association football shall be regarded a non-amateur unless he has reacquired amateur status under the terms of Art.25. A team shall not include more than 2 players who have taken part in any 5 or more senior competition matches during the current season unless a period 7 days has elapsed since they played. For the purpose of the competition a senior competition is any adult league.

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

(F) An administration fee of £2.00 shall be paid for each player registered, or deemed to be registered by virtue of having been entered on a retained list. Registration forms shall be printed on the website for downloading. The Registration cards will be returned on the completion of Registration, by the Registration Secretary.

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

H) It shall be deemed misconduct for a player to:-

1. Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same season without first being transferred, or to play for more than one team of the same Club in an age group without having first obtained a transfer.
2. Having signed for the club in the competition, sign for another Club in the Competition in that season except for the purpose of a transfer.
3. Submit a signed registration form for registration that the player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

J) 1. The Management Committee shall at their discretion, have power to refuse to register, cancel the registration of, or fine, any player proved guilty of registration irregularities. (Subject to Rule 16)

2. The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, suspend or cancel the registration of any player found guilty of undesirable conduct and to disqualify the player in question from participating in any or all games in the Competition (Subject to Rule 16)

(Note) Action under clause (2) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct on the field of play until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate County Football Association, and then only in cases of the player bringing the

competition into disrepute.

(K) Subject to The Football Association Rules dealing with players without a written contract when a player desires a transfer, the club the player wishes to transfer to shall submit a transfer form to the Registration Secretary accompanied by £5.00. Such transfer shall be referred by the Registration Secretary to the club for which the player is registered. Should this club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Registrations Secretary and to the player concerned within seven days of receipt of the transfer form. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objections within seven days, the Registrations 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. In the event of an objection to a transfer the matter shall be referred to the Management Committee for a decision. A Club making a frivolous or unjustified objection to transfer may be dealt with as the Management Committee sees fit. N.B. All references to "Club" in Rule 8 (K) shall be deemed to include reference to "Team" where the transfer is made between two teams of the same Club, pursuant to Rule 8 (B) above.

L) Except where the Management Committee expressly permit, only one player per 28 days may be transferred from a Club, to the same receiving Club; and, no player may transfer again until a period of 28 days has elapsed since his previous transfer. The Management Committee may block a requested transfer if it is applied for after the last day in February and they believe it is not in the best interests of the Competition to allow it. In such case, all parties must be given the opportunity to make representations before the final decision is made by the Committee.

(M) A Club shall keep a list of the players it registers and a record of the games in which they have played, and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee. In the event a club has more than one team in an age group, each team must be clearly designated (by a name, number, or letter). In such cases, players will be registered for one team only. A player so registered will be allowed to play for his club in a younger or older age group within the provisions of rule 8 (B).

(N) A register containing the names of all players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Registration Secretary and be open to the inspection of any duly appointed Member Club representative at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually agreed.

(O) A player shall not be eligible to play for a team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding match (as specified in Rule 12 (A) unless the player has played 2 games for that team in the Competition in question, in the current season.

P) A player who has played for a team in any one division 10 times or more shall not in that season be eligible to play in a lower age group Division, except by permission of the Management Committee.

Q) (1) Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players shall have the points gained in the match deducted from its total and may be fined and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee

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

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

(The following clause applies to Competitions involving players in full-time secondary education.

- R) (1) Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities.
2) The availability of children must be cleared with the Head Teachers (except for Sunday Leagues).
(3) Children under 14 shall not play in a team involving who are more than two years older.
(note: For players under the age of 18 the provisions contained in Football Association Rules will apply.)

CLUB COLOURS, CLUB NAME

9 (A) Every Club must register the colours of its shirts, shorts and socks with the secretary by 30th June who shall decide as to their suitability.
Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from other players and the referee.
No player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.
Any team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify the colours in which they will play to its opponents at least 4 days before the match.
If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the away team shall make the change. Any team not having a change of colours or delaying the kick-off time by not having a change shall be fined £5.00.
The Secretary of the Competition may request shirts to be submitted if complaints are received as to lack of distinguishing colours, and the Management Committee may refuse to permit any shirts, shorts and socks as they think fit. Shirts must be numbered.

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

PLAYING SEASON, CONDITIONS OF PLAY, TIMES OF KICK-OFF POSTPONEMENTS, SUBSTITUTES

10 (A) The Annual General Meeting shall determine the commencing and concluding dates for the ensuing season which shall be in accordance with Football Association Rules. No Club shall be compelled to play after the concluding date. Original fixtures arranged by the Fixtures Secretary, or at a meeting specially convened for that purpose, to be held no later than 31st August, must not be arranged for a date later than seven days preceding the concluding date determined by the Annual General Meeting.

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 of £25.00 and the Management Committee or the fixtures Secretary shall arrange the Club's fixtures which shall be binding for the season.

B) All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board.

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

No club shall declare its pitch to be unfit for play. This decision must only be made by the Local Authority, or by the owner of the ground; or by a Referee. Any pitch inspection made by a Referee should normally be carried out not earlier than 24 hours prior to the scheduled kick-off. If a club postpones a match because of alleged unfitness of the pitch otherwise than as stated in this Rule, it may be dealt with by the Management Committee as being a failure to fulfil the fixture.

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

All matches shall have a duration as set out below unless a shorter time is mutually arranged by the two managers in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match. A match shall not be shortened

to less than the minimum stated below and in any event shall be of equal halves.

For Mini-Soccer— The duration of play shall be as follows:

For Under 7 and under 8 age groups, 15 minutes each half (Minimum 10 minutes each half)

For Under 9 and under 10 age groups, 20 minutes each half (Minimum 15 minutes each half)

For Under 11 age group, 25 minutes each half. (Minimum 20 minutes each half)

For youth Football — The duration of play shall be as follows unless it is mutually agreed by all parties to reduce the time. The match shall in any event be played as equal halves.

For Under 12, 30 minutes each half (Minimum 25 minutes)

For Under 13 and 14, 35 minutes each half (Minimum 30 minutes)

For Under 15 and 16 , 40 minutes each half (Minimum 35 minutes)

For Under 17 and 18, 45 minutes each half (Minimum 35 minutes)

No player under the age of 17 as at midnight on 31st August in any season shall be permitted to play more than one game or, in the event the Competition allows the playing of a double-header , i.e. two separate matches, 100 minutes per day in this Competition

Clubs must inform the Fixture Secretary of the normal time of kick off for home matches for all teams entered in the League. Any variation from the notified time for any individual match, must be advised to the Fixture Secretary, and the Referees Secretary, as soon as it is known. Any club failing to kick off at the appointed time, or failing to advise of a change of kick—off time may be fined £10.00 or otherwise be dealt with by the Management Committee. Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition.

The home team must provide at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the competition if the footballs are unsuitable. The size of football to be used shall be:

For Mini-Soccer:

Size 3 for players in the Under 7 and Under 8 age categories.

Size 4 for players in the under 9, and Under 10 and Under 11 age categories

For Youth Football

Size 4 for those playing in Under 12, Under 13 and Under 14 age groups

Size 5 for all other age groups

Goal nets must be used.

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

D) The Secretary 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 Secretary of the opposing club at least four clear days prior to the playing of the match. The away club shall seek and acknowledge receipt of such particulars. Any Club failing to comply with this rule shall be liable to a fine of £10.00.

((E) Every club shall play its best available qualified team or teams in all matches in the Competition.

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

A minimum of 8 players will constitute a team for a Competition match in the 11 a side League or Cup and Plate matches, while a minimum of 5 players will comprise a min-soccer team in League, Cup, or Plate matches.

(F) Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have power to inflict a fine, deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals. Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall

have power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent's ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

Any Club with more than one team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence;- First Team, Reserve Team, A Team.

Clubs in breach of this requirement shall be fined a sum not exceeding £10.00 or otherwise dealt with by the Management Committee.

Once fixtures have been made by the Fixtures Secretary and distributed to Clubs, they must be adhered to except as follows.

Notice of Postponement of fixtures must be given to the fixtures secretary, the Referees Appointments Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing club, and the match Official (s) not less than 14 days prior to the fixture. Teams shall be allowed to postpone one fixture during the playing season without being penalised however if a club postpones more than once in the playing season the Management Committee may at its discretion award the points to the opposition and/or impose a fine not exceeding £25.00.

In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Fixtures Secretary within 14 days the Management Committee shall have power to order the match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date.

The Management Committee shall review all abandoned matches and in a case where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one team or its Club member (s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the match to the opponents and or take what other action they may deem necessary. In cases where a match is abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams or their Club members, the Management Committee shall take such action as they consider appropriate. Such action is subject to any disciplinary action taken by the appropriate County Association.

(G) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use 5 substitutes players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from 5 players to be nominated to the Referee prior to the commencement of the match. Under 11s full sided fixtures may use up to sixteen players in any one game under this Rule.

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

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

The Referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than 10 minutes before the start of the match.

A player who has been selected, appointed or named as a substitute before the start of the match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a player in that game within the meaning of rule 8 of this Competition. His/her name must not be included on the result sheet .

(H) The half time interval shall be of 5 minutes duration, but it shall not exceed fifteen minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

REPORTING RESULTS

11. (A) The Registration/ Fixtures Secretary must receive within 3 days of the date played, a fully and correctly completed Report sheet as supplied by the League. This means by Wednesday for matches played on Sunday. The details on this form must include: Date and details of the match, the result of the match, the full Forename and Surname, (in Block letters) and the Registration Numbers of all players and substitutes; the marks awarded to the Referee; and all other information required by the Competition and for which space is provided on the sheet. The Home team must, keep safely, a legible carbon copy of the result sheet for inspection by the League if required.

B) The Home Club shall telephone the result of each match to the age group co-ordinator by 6.30p.m. on the day of the match, or within one hour of the end of the match, whichever is later. If the fixture is postponed this shall be indicated to the age group co-ordinator in the normal way. Any team failing to report the result or postponement in accordance with this Rule will be fined £10.

(C) The team which wins the match will be responsible for the posting (by First Class Post) of the Result Sheet. If the match is drawn then the home Team will be responsible for its posting.

(D) If the sheet is not received within the period stipulated in rule 11a above, then the team responsible for posting it will be fined £10.00. The postmark may be taken into account when assessing whether the sheet was sent in god time. Any team which fails to fully complete the sheet and/or to sign it will be fined £10.00 .

(E) Failure to submit the sheet at all will result in a fine of at least £20.00 and in addition may be dealt with in any manner which the Management Committee considers to be appropriate. To deliberately falsify, or enter wrong information on the match report sheet, will be deemed serious misconduct for which the Management Committee may take such action as it sees fit.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIPS

12 (A) Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with 3 points to be awarded for a win and 1 point for a drawn game. The teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective Divisions at the conclusion shall be adjudged the winners. Matches must not be played for double points.

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

Play Off match. For deciding matches, in the event of the scores in a special championship match played under conditions determined by the Management Committee being level at the end of the game, 20 minutes extra time shall be played in two equal periods of 10 minutes, If no goal is scored during extra time, the winners will be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the International Board Decision contained in the laws of Association Football.

(B) In the event of a team not completing 3 or more of its fixtures for the season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting team shall be expunged from the Competition table.

REFEREES

13. (A) Registered Referees and Assistant Referees for all matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the sanctioning Associations.

(B) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed Referee the appointed Senior Assistant Referee shall take charge and a substitute Assistant Referee appointed by the competing Teams. In cases where there are no officially appointed Assistant Referees, the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee.

Preference must be given to a Registered Referee who is present and willing to officiate and, except in emergency, the referee agreed upon shall referee the whole match. A Referee thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee

(C) The Management Committee may, if they consider it desirable, or upon application by the two competing Clubs, appoint Assistant Referees, if available, to any match. Where Assistant Referees are not appointed, each Team shall provide a competent Club Assistant Referee. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £5.00 being imposed on the defaulting Team.

D) The appointed Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and the decision shall be final subject to either in the case of a ground of a local

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

(E) Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be entitled to the following match fees:- Referee's fee £20 Assistant's Fee £14, subject to any limits laid down by the sanctioning Association (s).

Fees are deemed to include any expenses.

The home club must offer the Match Official/s the fee before the match but shall in any case pay the fee within ten minutes after the match ends.

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

(G) A Referee not keeping his engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to his non- appearance, and if it is proved to being in default shall have his /her name removed from the list of Referees and the fact reported to the Association with which he/she is registered.

(H) Each club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by the Football Association, award marks to the Referee for each match and the name of the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed form provided. Marking shall be from 0 to 100. Any team marking 50 or less must write a letter of explanation to the Referees' Secretary who shall forward same to the County Football Association. Any team failing to submit a mark, or, if required, a letter of explanation, shall be fined £10 for each offence. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.

(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 Football Association/County Association

(J) The Referee shall sign a fully completed report form, which should be received no later than 15 minutes after the game giving full details of the Fixture. The referee shall return Match report form to the Home Team Manager.

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

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

14 (A) After 31st December in the current season a Club intending or having a provisional intention to withdraw a team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the Secretary in writing by 31st March each Season or be liable to a fine not exceeding £30.00.

All clubs shall be deemed as wishing to remain in membership of the Competition for the following Season if no written declaration is received by the League Secretary by 5th April in each season

(B) A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its teams from the Competition after the arrangement of fixtures for the Season. Any club infringing this Rule shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £75.00 per team and shall also be liable for its share of any call which may be made under Rule 5 (B).

(C) The Membership of the coming season having been decided at a Special General Meeting held for that purpose not earlier than 23rd May not later than 30th June or at the Annual General Meeting held no later than 30th June the Competition shall have the right, irrespective of other provisions in this Rule, to refuse to permit a club to withdraw its team(s)

in order to join another Competition and may hold a Club to its engagements.

D) In the event of a Member Club which is an un-incorporated association withdrawing and/or disbanding it shall be immediately liable to discharge all its financial and other obligations to the Competition. In the event that any such obligation remaining unpaid after a period of twenty one (21) days then such obligations shall be met by the then current Club Members, excluding those under the statutory school leaving age. Until a Member's pro rata obligations is discharged in full the member shall not be allowed to participate in the Competition, which may apply to the Club's Parent County Association for a suspension order.

PROTESTS AND APPEALS

15 (A) All questions of eligibility, qualification of players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee. Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts, or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match. Any Club lodging such protest and not proceeding with it shall be deemed guilty of a breach of the Rule and shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.

(B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protest and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged in duplicate with the Secretary within 7 days (excluding Sundays) of the match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A Member of the Management Committee who is a member of any club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his/her Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

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

D) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum of £25.00. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Committee 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 enquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

E) All parties to a protest or complaint must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement when the protest or complaint is being heard and must have received 7 days notice of the hearing, together with a copy of the submissions. When dealing with a protest or complaint the Management Committee shall take into consideration the possession by the protesting or complaining Club of any information which, if properly used, might have avoided the protest or complaint.

BOARD OF APPEAL

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

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

17. (A) At the Annual General Meeting, or Special General Meeting called for the purpose, Notice of Motion having been duly circulated on the Agenda, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude any club or team from further membership upon a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast. 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.

(B) At the Annual General Meeting, or at a Special general Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provision of Rule 19, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been Undesirable upon a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting

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

(D) Any Club or team failing to complete 3 of its fixtures in any season shall (unless the conditions are beyond their control, or the accredited delegates present at the Annual general Meeting or a Special General Meeting decide otherwise by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast) be debarred from membership the following season.

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

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

The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the cup or Trophy:-
"We A _____ and B _____ the Chairman and Secretary of _____ FC, members of and representing the club, having been declared winners of _____ Cup or trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the cup or trophy to the Competition Secretary

CHILD PROTECTION

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.

In these regulations the expressions "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 on or before 31st March. If the Cup or Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair. Any Club which fails to return a Cup or Trophy by 31st March will be fined £25. If the Cup or Trophy remains unreturned by 14th April, the Management Committee may impose a further fine at such level as they deem appropriate.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

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

The Management Committee may call a Special General Meeting at any time. At least 7 days notice shall be given of either meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting. Each full Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Associate Member Clubs may be represented at all Special General Meetings in the proportions of one representative for each six or part of six associate Member Clubs and such representatives shall exercise the powers given and rights of full Members at such meetings. Any continuing Member club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £25.00. Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all Special General Meetings.

ALTERATIONS TO RULES

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

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary one month prior to the set date of the Annual General Meeting. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the clubs two weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting. And any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary two weeks before the Annual General Meeting. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rule to be considered at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the sanctioning Football Association 7 days prior to the date of the meeting.

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

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

FINANCE

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

(B) All expenditure in excess of £250 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the league Management Committee.

(C) The financial year of the Competition will end on the 30th April.

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

CUP, FESTIVAL PLATE RULES

23. (A) All teams must enter the Cup Competition appropriate to its section. Any team failing to play a match after the draw has been done will be fined £10.00.

(B) Sixteen (16) individual awards will be presented to Cup and Plate winners and runners up for eleven aside competition Finals, and fourteen (14) awards for Mini-Soccer.

(C) To qualify for a Cup, Plate, or Festival Competition a player must be registered for the Team concerned 14 days prior to the cup, Plate or Festival fixture, except for Semi-final and Final fixture when the player shall have been registered for the club concerned 28 days prior to the fixture date. A player may play for his or her club u7, U8, U9, U10, U11, U12, U13, U14, U15, U16. Cup or Plate Competition.

note : League rules 8(A) and 8(B) Mini Soccer, and youth football applies.

(D) The League Management Committee, will draw each round accordingly the Team drawn first in the tie will play at home except for the Final where the match is to be played to neutral ground. The team drawn first will have choice of colours.

(E) The Final tie will be played on a neutral ground with neutral Match Officials, where available. Matches must be played on the dates arranged by the League Management Committee. Teams unable to play on arranged date will forfeit the tie, unless otherwise decided by the Management Committee.

(F) Each team will be required to provide two match stewards for the Cup Final of their section Cup, and be responsible for the payment of Assistant Referees up to the Final tie.

(G) A player may play for one Team only in any cup, Plate, or Festival Competition, in any season.

(H) Any Team which plays a player in any Cup, Plate or Festival match who is not eligible to play in

that Cup, Plate, or Festival Competition shall be disqualified from that Competition, and may also be fined by the Management Committee. The opponents in the match shall proceed to the next round, or be awarded the match if it is the final tie.

The period of any 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 of any Offence is decided or brought to any end.

Where an order is imposed on an individual under regulations 3 above, the Association shall bring and conclude any proceedings under the Rules of the Association against the person relating to the matter as soon as reasonably practicable

Where a person is convicted, or is made the subject of a caution in respect of any 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

For the purposes of these Regulations, The Associations shall act through its Council or any committee or sub-committee therefore, including the Board.

Notification in writing of an order referred to above shall be given to the person concerned and/or

any club with which he/she is associated as soon as reasonably practicable

SCHEDULE ONE FINES THAT MAY BE IMPOSED BY THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Rule 2 (B) Late payment of Subscriptions

£25.00

Rule 5 (I) Non payment of fines within 14 days .

£10.00

Rule 6 (H) Non attendance of the Annual General Meeting.

£10.00

Rule 8 (B) Playing unregistered players Per player

£25.00

Rule 8 (F) Less than eleven players registered prior to a team's first match

£10.00

Rule 8 (H) (ii) Player signed for more than one club .

£10.00

Rule 8 (H) (iii) Wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete a registration form .

£10.00

Rule 8 (Q) (i) Playing an unregistered player.

£25.00

Rule 9 Away team unable to change colours

£ 5.00

Rule 10 (B) Match requirements.

Home clubs not providing (a) Goal nets, (b) Regulation corner flags.

(c) Two match balls, (d) Two assistant referees flags (f) an adequate

First Aid Kit per offence

£10.00

Rule 10 (B) Late Kick Offs Up to 10 minutes late

£25.00

Over 10 minutes late At the discretion of the Management Committee not exceeding

£25.00

Rule 10 (C) Non notification of a priority fixture to the League Fixture Secretary or Referees appointment Secretary

£ 5.00

Rule 10 (D) Non notification of a fixture to opponents.

£10.00

Rule 10 (F) Unfulfilled fixtures

£10.00

Non notification of a postponement of a match to the fixtures secretary

£10.00.

Rule 11 Result sheet not with Registration/Fixtures Secretary within 4 days of the date played Home club

£ 5.00

Incomplete or incorrect result sheet

£ 5.00

Rule 13 (C) Unable to supply an assistant referee

£10.00

Rule 14 (A) Withdrawal from the League without notification. Not exceeding

£50.00

Rule 18 Trophies returned after 31st March per day thereafter. £

5.00

A club failing to satisfactorily attend to the business and/or correspondence of the league within 14 days from the date of the communication shall be fined £10.00 and dealt with at the discretion of the Management committee.

A fine of £10.00 will also be imposed upon a club whose administration has failed due to non observance

of circulated League Minutes and notices.

All fines and expense claims must be paid to the league Treasurer within fourteen days of the date of the invoice . No receipt will be issued unless payment accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope. Unless so paid action taken under Rule 15 or 16, the Club will be fined a further £10.00 and reported at the next meeting of the League Management Committee.

Should the total amount then not be paid within another fourteen days the club will be suspended forthwith. Clubs may also be reported to the Devon County Football Association.

For general suspension.

shall be disqualified from that Competition, and may also be fined by the Management Committee.

The opponents in the match shall proceed to the next round, or be awarded the match if it is the final tie.

H) Any Club which plays a player in any Cup, Plate or Festival match who is not eligible to play in

that Cup, Plate, or Festival Competition shall be disqualified from that Competition, and may also be fined by the Management Committee. The opponents in the match shall proceed to the next round, or be awarded the match if it is the final tie.

(I) The time to be played in any Cup Plate, or Festival match, shall be the same as the time applicable to a League match for the age group. If scores are level at the end of normal time, a result will be obtained by playing two equal periods of extra time. In mini-soccer this will be five minutes each way, and in all 11 a side competitions ten minutes each way. If scores are still level the result will be decided by kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with FIFA instructions, except for the Festival Final where the trophy will be shared.

(J) The League Management Committee reserve the right to make a ruling in the event of any circumstances which may occur that have not been covered by the foregoing rules for cup, Plate or Festival Competitions.

(K) The provisions of Rule 9 (A), and of Rule 11, shall apply to all Cup, Plate, or Festival match, and

in all other rules any reference to a match shall include any Cup, Plate, or festival match.

RULES BINDING THE CLUBS

Each club shall be deemed to have given its assent to the forgoing rules and agreed to abide by the league Committee subject to Rule 16