



RULES AND REGULATIONS

SEASON 2007 – 2008

Issue 15 August 2007

RULES AND REGULATIONS

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STANDARD CODE OF RULES

FOR YOUTH COMPETITIONS

This document contains the Standard Code of Rules developed by The Football Association and additions, for Youth Competitions. Youth Competitions may add to the core of the Standard Code, which is mandatory, as they see fit. The mandatory element is printed in roman text and the optional elements of the Standard Code in *italics*.

This Standard Code of Rules is mandatory for all sanctioned Youth Competitions as from Season 2003-2004. Competitions seeking sanction must draft their Rules in conformity with the code putting them in the correctly numbered Rule and showing the standard heading.

**ESSEX COUNTY GIRLS FOOTBALL LEAGUE
RULES AND REGULATIONS**

SEASON 2007-2008

ISSUE 15 - AUGUST 2007

NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

The Headquarters of the Competition shall be at:- 27 Ascot Close,
Bishops Stortford, Herts. CM23 5BP

1. (A) This Competition shall be designated the Essex County Girls Football League and shall consist of not more than 60 Clubs who shall be Full Member Clubs and not more than 10 Clubs who shall be Associate Member Clubs.

All such Member Clubs must be affiliated to an affiliated County Football Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on the Form "D" to the Essex County Football Association. The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be the County of Essex and as otherwise agreed at a General Meeting.

It shall be a condition of membership of this Competition that each team shall compete in the Challenge Cup competition.

Membership of the Competition shall entitle that club to receive one copy of the Competition Handbook per team.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Essex County Football Association and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions.

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

The competition will provide 11-a-side football for players who have attained the age of 10 as at midnight 31st August in a playing season and Mini-Soccer for players who have attained the age of 6 years but not the age of 10 years as at midnight on 31st August in a playing season in accordance with the table contained in this Handbook.

Insurance – It is recommended that Clubs arrange comprehensive insurance cover, including personal injury, for their teams and individual players. In the cases of Clubs affiliated to Counties other than Essex it is mandatory that Public Liability insurance cover be arranged and a copy of the appropriate Certificate be submitted to the Competition with the Membership Application Form.

(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.

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

2. (A) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of an additional team(s) must be made in writing to the Secretary and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee of £5.00 per team which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

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

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

(B) The Annual Subscription shall be £50.00 per Team payable on or before the 1st June in each year. The Annual Subscription includes the Players Registration Fees for the season. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of £10.00.

(C) Each Club shall, within 14 days of election, pay a Deposit of £50.00 which shall be returnable to Clubs on leaving the Competition provided they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all orders of the Management Committee.

(D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the Entry Fee, Annual Subscription, Deposit and Registration fees have been paid.

(E) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 15th July (or as otherwise agreed by the Management Committee) of its County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming Season, failing which they shall be fined £15.00. 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 and must immediately notify the Secretary of any relevant change during the season.

The Competition Treasurer shall keep comprehensive records of all payments and funds, especially deposits and other 'returnable' sums, and such records shall be open to inspection by any Officer or Management Committee member on request.

OFFICERS

- 3. The Officers of the Competition shall be the President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Registration Secretary, Referees Secretary, Disciplinary Secretary and others as required 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 comprised of the Officers 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 30th April in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting

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

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

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

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

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

5. (A) The Management Committee may appoint such other sub-committees as they may consider necessary and may delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary to such committees. The decisions of all such committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification.
- (B) Subject to the permission of the Essex 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 thereat, but no Member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such Member or to the Club so represented. (This shall apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).
- In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.
- (D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition, including any not provided for in the Rules. Except where these Rules provide for the imposition of a set penalty any Club, Official or Player alleged to be in breach of a Competition Rule must be formally charged in writing and given the opportunity to present their case before the Management Committee. All breaches of the Laws of the Game, Rules and Regulations of The Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance with F.A. Rules.
- (E) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal to the Board of Appeal in accordance with Rule 16.
- Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 14 days.
- (F) One third of the Members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee and one third of the 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.
- The Management Committee may co-opt one or more persons to assist in any particular, Or all activities, as it deems fit.
- (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 not be allowed to play or take part in the business of the Competition until the order has been complied with, and a reason for the delay has been furnished to the Competition Secretary who shall submit it to the Management Committee for its adjudication; and in addition the Club 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 by the Competition to attend a meeting or match may have any expenses incurred refunded by the Competition. Expenses shall be claimed at second class day rail or coach fare or in cases where no public transport is reasonably available and own transport is used, 25p per mile may be charged

(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 or Special General Meeting called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Competition season.

A register of all present, and indicating the voting representative of each club, shall be maintained at all Annual and Special General Meetings.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 6. (A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held after the season has been completed but not later than 30th June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least 51% of the Members are present and entitled to vote:-**
- (i) To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.**
 - (ii) To consider any business arising there from.**
 - (iii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.**
 - (iv) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies (as recommended by the Management Committee).**
 - (v) Constitution of the Competition for ensuing season.**
 - (vi) Election of Officers and Management Committee.**
 - (vii) Appointment of Auditors.**
 - (viii) Alteration of Rules, if any (of which notice has been given).**
 - (ix) Fix the date for the commencement and conclusion of playing season.**
 - (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.**
 - (xi) To adopt the Standing Orders as detailed in the League Handbook**

New Standing Orders:

- 1 Officers, Committee Members and Delegates attending any meeting shall sign the attendance register**
- 2 All voting to be by show of hands, unless in the opinion of the Chairman or the majority of the meeting a ballot shall be taken**
- 3 In the case of equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a second casting vote**
- 4 That the proposer of a motion be allowed a maximum of five (5) minutes for his speech and the seconder and all succeeding speakers be allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes**
- 5 Any member seconding a motion or amendment without remark shall not be considered to have spoken**
- 6 That the decision of the Chairman on any point shall be binding upon the meeting, but upon notice being given at such meeting it may be called in question at the next meeting and rescinded by two thirds of those present and voting**
- 7 The Chairman shall at his discretion or upon request submit to the meeting any question as to the eligibility of delegates to vote upon or be present at the discussion of any matter with which they personally or their clubs are concerned**
- 8 That no member be permitted to speak more than once on the same proposition, except the proposer who shall have the right to reply. Upon the Chairman rising to speak all other members must resume their seats**
- 9 That any question may be closed by the resolution "That the question be now put" being moved, seconded and carried, such resolution be submitted without debate**

- 10 Any standing order may be suspended upon motion to that effect, provided such motion be duly seconded and carried by two thirds of those present and voting
- 11 A resolution shall not be rescinded at the meeting of the Council at which it is passed, unless such rescission is carried by three fourths (3/4) of those present and voting
- 12 A resolution adopted at any meeting may be rescinded by a majority of those present and voting at any subsequent meeting during the current season

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

(C) A signed copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Essex 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 14 days' notice shall be given of any Meeting.

Associate Member Clubs may be represented at an Annual General Meeting but are not entitled to vote.

(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.

(F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least 51% 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 £30.00.

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

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

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

"We, A, _____ of _____ (Chairman) and
 B _____ of _____ (Secretary) of the
 _____ Football Club have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Essex County Girls 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 16."

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

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

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

8. (A) Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules, are not permitted in this Competition.

No player registered with a F.A. Premier League or Football League Academy will be permitted to play in this competition. A Player registered with a Centre of Excellence may only play in this Competition subject to the Regulations of the Programme for Excellence.

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

(i) Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by her parent or guardian and by an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the Registrations Secretary no later than 5.00pm on Monday prior to the match and whose completed registration counterfoil has been received by the Club prior to playing.

(ii) Each club must, when registering a player, submit to the Registration Secretary, two recent, identical, passport-size photographs of the player (one of these photographs to be signed on the back by the player) and include these photographs un-affixed, with the Registration Form fully completed in ink. The Registration Secretary will return to the Club one Registration card for each player, carrying the photograph affixed

(iii) If a player is to be registered for more than one team for her Club (in accordance with rules 8B and 8K) four passport-size photographs are to be provided to enable separate Registration Cards to be produced for each age group.

(iv) Each Team shall have a minimum of nine players registered with the Competition on or before the League Registration Day to be held in July of each year. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of £15.00.

(v) In all cases where Registration Forms are submitted, an appropriately stamped and addressed envelope must be included for the return of the cards.

(vi) The Registration cards of all players must be available at all matches for inspection by the opposing team Manager prior to the commencement of the match. All Managers must carry out an inspection of the Registration cards of the players of the opposing team. Any Club failing to produce the cards or carry out an inspection will be dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(vii) Members of the Management Committee may also, at their discretion, request sight of player Registration cards at any match.

The registration document must incorporate any known serious medical conditions of the player and emergency contact details of the players parents or guardians. These details must be available at matches and training events the player attends within the management of the Club or Competition.

If a player's age is required for registration purposes a Competition must accept an original birth certificate or a photocopy. In cases where the birth certificate is not available a Competition is required to accept a photocopy of the player's passport or other official document issued by a Government Agency attesting to the player's date of birth.

Registration Disputes – In the event of a protest being lodged concerning a player’s age, the player concerned must produce her actual Birth Certificate (not a photocopy) for inspection by the Registration Secretary. If there is any doubt in the mind of the Registration Secretary, the matter is to be brought to the attention of the Management Committee for adjudication.

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 31st August in the playing season.

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

Youth Football

Under 11 – the player must have attained the age of 10 but must be under the age of 11 by midnight 31st August in the playing season.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(D) 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.

Registration forms shall be obtained from the Registrations Secretary.

(F) 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 (Registrations) Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

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

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

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

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

(H) (i) The Management Committee shall have power to accept the registration of any player. The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player or may fine any player at their discretion who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities. (Subject to Rule 16).

(ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse or cancel the registration of any player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (Subject to Rule 16). Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident or repeated conduct which may deter a participant from being involved in this competition.

(Note: Action under Clause (ii) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct on the field of play until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute.)

(I) 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 (Registrations) Secretary accompanied by a fee of £4.00. Such transfer shall be referred by the (Registrations) 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 objection 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 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.

Players shall be permitted one transfer per season. Players wishing more than this shall apply to the Registration Secretary giving full reasons in writing. The transfer cannot proceed until the application has been approved by the Registration Secretary.

(J) A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 1st March except by special permission of the Management Committee.

(K) 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.

Failure in this respect will result in a fine of £10.00.

In the event a Club has more than one team in an age group, each team must be clearly designated "A" and "B" etc. In such cases, players will be registered for one team only. A players so registered will be allowed to play for his Club in a younger or older age group within the provisions of Rule 8 (B).

Registrations are valid for one season only.

(L) 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 any duly appointed Member Club representative at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged.

(M) 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 at least three games for that team in this Competition in the current season.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CLUB COLOURS. CLUB NAME

- 9. (A)** Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary with its membership application who shall decide as to their suitability.

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

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

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

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the away team shall make the change. Any team not having a change of colours or delaying the kick-off 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 or shorts as they think fit.

(B) Any Club wishing to change its name must seek permission in writing from its affiliated County Football Association during the close season. Any Club wishing to change its colours must seek permission in writing 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 six days prior to the date of the fixture, must not be arranged for a date later than seven days preceding the concluding date determined by the Annual General Meeting.

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

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

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

All matches shall have a duration as set out in the table contained in this handbook, and in any event shall be of equal halves.

For Mini-Soccer – The recommended duration of play shall be as follows: for under 7 and under 8 age groups, 10 minutes each way and for under 9 and under 10, 15 minutes each way. The maximum playing time in any one day for under 7 and under 8 age groups is 45 minutes and for under 9 and under 10 age groups is 60 minutes.

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

The minimum time for any game will not be less than 20 minutes each half for players in the under 14 age group and below and 25 minutes each half for all other age groups.

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

The kick-off time should be arranged by the home team who must take into consideration travelling difficulties of their opponents. Kick-off times must not be earlier than 10.00am and not later than 3.00pm. In cases of dispute the matter must be referred to the Fixture Secretary.

The times of kick-off shall be agreed by the Managers of the competing teams. Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time may be fined a sum not exceeding £5.00 or be otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine.

Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts 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 recommended size of football to be used: For Mini-Soccer, size 3 for players in the under 7 and 8 age categories; size 4 for under 9's and 10s. For youth football – size 4 for those playing under 11, 12, 13 and 14 age groups; size 5 for all other age groups. Goal nets must be used

The home team shall ensure that the goal nets are in a good condition and shall also provide a set of corner flags, and, if possible, flags to mark the centre line of the pitch (placed 1m outside the pitch).

Every club must register its pitch size(s) with the Competition prior to its first match.

The Competition will be run on incremental lines in accordance with the table contained within this handbook.

In special circumstances the Management Committee or the Fixtures Secretary may order two games (double-header) to be played together – the total duration to be equal to the normal match duration plus any extra time as allowed in a cup match for that division, divided into four. The first two and the last two sections treated as a match with the normal half-time break, and the matches separated by a break not exceeding 10 minutes.

(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. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of the (Fixtures) Secretary.

A club not wishing to play on a given date must give at least twenty-eight days written notice to the Fixtures Secretary for his/her approval. This is limited to no more than two occasions in one season.

(D) The Secretary of the home Club must give notice in writing of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the match officials and the Secretary of the opposing Club at least seven clear days prior to the playing of the match. 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.)

In the event of a Club playing in any match with less than the number of players set out in the table contained in this handbook they may be fined at the discretion of the Management Committee.

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

(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 £20.00 or otherwise dealt with by the Management Committee.

Notice of postponement of any match must be given without delay by the postponing Club. Such notice must be given 48 (hours) by the Club to the (Fixtures) Secretary, the Competition Referees Appointments Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the match officials. Any Club failing to comply shall be dealt with by the Management Committee who may inflict any penalty it may deem suitable.

In the event of a match being postponed for any reason other than pitch condition due to bad weather, the defaulting club may be ordered by the Management Committee to pay the relevant expenses in respect of pitch, referee and/or travel.

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 seven days the Management Committee shall have power to order the match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date.

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

(G) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use three substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from its squad in accordance with the table contained in this handbook

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

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 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.

(H) The half time interval shall be of ten 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 appropriate Age Group Co-ordinator 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 13, the home and away team names, fixture date, age group, specify league or Cup match, final score, goalscorers, details and signature of home and away club officials, Referee's name, Referee's County of affiliation, Referee's affiliation number and details of any disciplinary action taken by the Referee.

Failure to do so will incur a fine of £5.00 (first offence) with additional £5.00 for each additional offence (ie. £5.00; £10.00; £15.00 et seq.) and the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide.

(B) The Home Club shall telephone the result of each match to the Fixture Secretary by 6.00pm the same day (in the event of a match being played on a day other than a Sunday, no later than 9.00pm the same day). Failure to do so will incur a fine of £5.00 (first offence) with additional £5.00 for each additional offence (ie. £5.00; £10.00; £15.00 et seq.) and the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decides.

(C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of the Club. The Management Committee shall have power to take such action as they deem suitable against a Club which submits an incomplete form or incorrect information.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

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

In the event of two or more teams being equal on points for winners and runners-up positions (or in possible relegation positions) in the League Table, play-off match(es) to be arranged (preferably on predetermined dates) by the Fixture Secretary. In such cases the Competition will stand the ground costs and will appoint officials as appropriate.

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 in Under 16's - Under 13's matches or 10 minutes extra time (two equal periods of 5 minutes) in Under 12's matches and under. Should one of the teams score a goal during the period of extra time the match will be considered as finished and the team scoring the goal declared the winner. If no goal is scored during extra time, the winners will be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the International Board Decision contained in the Laws of Association Football.

(B) Where appropriate automatic promotion and relegation shall be applied for the first two and last two teams in each Division except where withdrawals or additional new clubs make other arrangements necessary. Generally, new clubs should enter into the lowest division in each age group, unless proven records suggest otherwise, subject to the provisions of Rule 1(b).

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

In the case of teams which have completed 75% of their fixtures, the points for outstanding games shall be awarded to their opponents.

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 Association(s). If the home team is unable to do so, they shall at the earliest opportunity advise the visiting team who shall be given the opportunity to provide a registered referee. If this is impossible, the teams must agree on an unqualified referee, with the visiting side having first option.

(B) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed Referee, in cases where there are no officially appointed Assistant Referees, or where the competition has been unable to appoint a Referee, the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee. A Referee thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee.

(C) The Management Committee may, if they consider it desirable, or upon application by the two competing Clubs, appoint Assistant Referees, if available, to any match. Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £10.00 being imposed on the defaulting Club.

(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 offered a fee, inclusive of travelling expenses, as follows:-

	League Fee	Maximum ECFA Fee
Under 11 and all mini soccer matches	£14.00	£18.00
Under 12 and Under 13	£16.00	£18.00
Under 14 and Under 15	£21.00	£23.00
Under 16 and older	£23.00	£26.00

The Home Club shall pay the Officials their fees immediately before the match.

(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 charge standard class public transport expenses or private car expenses of 25 pence per mile. 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/her non-appearance, may be 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 Referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed Form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.

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 Football Association.

(I) If required by the Management Committee the Referee shall submit a report Form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the match, the number of players in each team and the time of kick-off to the (Registration) Secretary within two days of the match.

(J) If appointed by the Competition, 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 £20.00.

All Clubs wishing to remain in membership of the Competition for the following Season must confirm their intention to do so, in writing, to the Secretary by 30th April.

(B) A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its teams from the Competition after the Annual General Meeting for the following Season. Any Club infringing this Rule shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £20.00 per team and shall also be liable for its share of any call which may be made under Rule 5(B).

(C) The Membership for the coming season having been decided at the Annual General Meeting held not 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 the 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 remains un-discharged after a period of twenty-one (21) days then such obligation shall be met by the then current Club Members, excluding those under the statutory school leaving age. Until a Member's pro rata obligation is discharged in full the Member shall not be allowed to participate in the Competition, which may apply to the Club's Parent County Association for a suspension order.

PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS

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

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

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

(C) 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 £10.00. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay 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

seven days notice of the hearing, together with a copy of the submission. When dealing with a protest or complaint the Management Committee shall take into consideration the possession by the protesting or complaining Club of any information which, if properly used, might have avoided the protest or complaint

BOARD OF APPEAL

- 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 Essex County Football Association, including a fee as detailed in the current Essex County FA Handbook, for adjudication of a Board of Appeal. The grounds of appeal shall be in accordance with FA Rules. The Board of Appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited and shall decide by whom the costs of the appeal shall be borne. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned.**

No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an Annual 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 in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, Notice of Motion having been duly circulated on the Agenda, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude any Club or Team from further membership which must be supported by (more than) two-thirds (⅔) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot.**

(B) At the Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club or team of a Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by (more than) two-thirds (2/3rds) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

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

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

18. If a Competition be discontinued for any reason a trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the Donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the sanctioning Association may decide. At the close of each Competition awards shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

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

"We A _____ and B _____, the Chairman and Secretary of _____ FC, members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of _____ Cup or Trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the Cup or Trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before 1st March. 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."

"We also agree to pay a fine of £5.00 per week or part thereof if the trophy is not returned by the due date".

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 14 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 Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Not less than 14 days' notice shall be given of any Meeting.

Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £30.00. In addition any Club failing to be represented at three successive meetings shall be dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

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

ALTERATION 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 alteration 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 by 1st February in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 15th February and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 28th February. 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 Rules to be considered at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the sanctioning Football Association 14 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.

RULES BINDING ON CLUBS

21. Each Member Club shall be deemed to have given its assent to the foregoing Rules and agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee subject to Rule 16. Each Member Club must abide by 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 £50.00 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 31st May.

(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 at the Annual General Meeting.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

23. (A) Clubs may join this Competition (subject to the approval of the Management Committee and later ratification of the Council) at any time during the season and for the remainder of the season, under the class of 'Associate Membership'. This will entitle such Clubs to receive one copy of the Competition Handbook and Club Directory and will facilitate the arrangement of "Friendly" matches, encouraging such clubs to become full members the following season.

(B) Associate Member Clubs are not entitled to a vote at General or AGM or SGM, but the Chairman and Management Committee can take any views expressed into account when considering policy decisions.

- (C) When applying for such membership, clubs shall send the Affiliation Number from their County Association and submit a subscription fee of £10.00.
- (D) Full member clubs should be aware that clubs in Associate Membership may not yet have full insurance as stipulated in Rule 1.
- (E) The Competition will have no direct control over the behaviour of clubs in Associate Membership but any difficulties which may arise will be taken into consideration in the event of that club applying for Full Membership of the Competition.

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 at 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.

TABLE OF CONDITIONS OF PLAY

Age	Players	Squad	Style	Timing	Pitch size	Ball
U11	7-a-side	min 6 max 10	mini soccer	30 min ew	mini soccer	4
U12	9-a-side	min 7 max 14	offside applies	30 min ew	80m x 50m*	4
U13	9-a-side	min 7 max 14	offside applies	35 min ew	80m x 50m*	4
U14	11-a-side	min 7 max 16	offside applies	35 min ew	80m x 50m*	4
U14	9-a-side	min 7 max 14	offside applies	35 min ew	80m x 50m*	4
U15	11-a-side	min 7 max 16	offside applies	40 min ew	Full size	5
U16	11-a-side	min 7 max 16	offside applies	40 min ew	Full size	5
U17	11-a-side	min 7 max 16	offside applies	45 min ew	Full size	5

1. All substitutes may be used on a roll-on roll-off basis
2. The referees' permission must be obtained for each substitution at all age groups
3. For mini soccer pitches, goals must be 4 yards x 6 feet (Mini soccer standard)
4. For 80m x 50m* or otherwise approved, goals should be 7 yards x 7 feet (but 8 x 8 are acceptable)
5. For Full size pitches, the goals should be 8 yards x 8 feet (but 7 x 7 are acceptable)
6. Referees and Assistant Referees are required for all matches for Under 12 and over - but no assistants required for Mini soccer

AGE GROUP PARAMETERS FOR SEASON 2007-2008

AGE GROUP	EARLIEST DOB	LATEST DOB	SCHOOL YEAR
Under 11	1.9.1996	31.8.1998	5 and 6
Under 12	1.9.1995	31.8.1997	6 and 7
Under 13	1.9.1994	31.8.1996	7 and 8
Under 14	1.9.1993	31.8.1995	8 and 9
Under 15	1.9.1992	31.8.1994	9 and 10
Under 16	1.9.1991	31.8.1993	10 and 11
Under 17	1.9.1990	31.8.1992	11 and 12

Each girl may register to play for more than one team within her club, providing she qualifies, age-wise. She will need a separate ID card for each team she is registered to play for. Please note, however, the intention is that each girl can only play one game in one day for her club.

If a transfer is required to any other club, the registration transfer system must be followed. Each player may be transferred only once during the season.

#Subject to demand of available players, the Committee may amend these dates when the divisions are formed before the beginning of the season

CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION

Nomenclature and Constitution

- 1.1** The competition shall be called the Essex County Girls Football League Challenge Cup.
- 1.2** The competition shall be competed for each season and all Competition Member teams shall participate

Rules of Play

- 2** Rule 10 applies to all Cup matches, unless otherwise decided by the Management Committee

Management

- 3** The competition shall be managed by the Management Committee of the Essex County Girls Football League

Draw, Match Dates

- 4.1** The draw for this competition shall be made by the Management Committee
- 4.2** The competition shall be played on a straight 'Knock Out' basis unless, in the opinion of the Management Committee, a 'Group System' would be preferable. In this event, group games shall be played as 'matches' under the same conditions as games in the League Competition itself
- 4.3** Fixture dates for each round of the competition shall be arranged by the Fixtures Secretary
- 4.4** If special circumstances apply, the Management Committee may agree special arrangements for a specific cup competition
- 4.5** Any team failing to keep an engagement through being unable to field a team on a published scheduled or re-scheduled cup fixture shall be deemed absent, struck from the Cup competition and the tie awarded to their opponents. Cup matches shall take precedence over League matches

Qualification of Players

- 5.1** No player shall be eligible to play in a semi-final or Final tie unless she has played in at least three League or Cup matches for that team during the current season
- 5.2** No player shall play for more than the one team in this competition during the season
- 5.3** In the case of a postponed or replayed match, only those players shall be allowed to play who are still eligible to play
- 5.4** A player who has been suspended may, if otherwise qualified, play in a postponed match or replay, provided her term of suspension has ended
- 5.5** Any Club fielding an ineligible player will be struck out of the competition and the match awarded to the opposition. The defaulting club may also be dealt with by the Management Committee

Grounds for Ties

- 6.1** The first club drawn shall, for ties before the semi-finals, be deemed to be the home team and the match shall be played on their ground. In the event of the 'Group System' being used, the Management Committee shall determine which team shall be deemed the home team in each match
- 6.2** In special circumstances and subject to the consent of the Management Committee, matches may be played at another venue
- 6.3** Semi-finals shall be played as a one-leg match at a neutral venue or as otherwise decided by the Management Committee.
- 6.4** The Final tie shall be played at a neutral venue

Duration of Play, Drawn Matches, Replays

- 7 Playing time shall be in accordance with the Competition Rules except in the following circumstances, which apply to all games. Where the tie is drawn, extra time of 20 minutes (10 minutes each way) shall be played in Under 16's - Under 13's matches or 10 minutes (5 minutes each way) for Under 12's and under. If at the end of extra time the score remains level, 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.

Semi-finals and Finals

- 8 If at the end of normal playing time scores are equal, extra time shall be played in accordance with rule 7. If at the end of extra time the score remains level, 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

Referees

- 9 The Referee and Assistant Referees for the semi-final and Final ties shall be appointed by the Management Committee (which may, if it wishes, request each club to provide Assistant Referees for the semi-finals). For all matches before the semi-finals, the Referees shall be appointed by the home team in accordance with the Rules of the Competition (Rule 13 applies)

Mementos

- 10.1 A trophy shall be presented to the winning team by the Essex County Girls Football League
- 10.2 If Competition funds allow, medals or small individual trophies shall be awarded to the members of both teams competing in the Final and to the match officials

Semi-finals and Finals

Division of Receipts and Expenditure

- 11.1 All expenditure for Final ties shall be met by the Essex County Girls Football League
- 11.2 All receipts from the semi-finals and Final shall be credited to the Competition

DATES FOR CUP ROUNDS IF CUP COMPETITION PROCEEDS AS REQUIRED:

1ST ROUND	14TH OCTOBER 2007
2ND ROUND	25TH NOVEMBER 2007
3RD ROUND	27TH JANUARY 2008
SEMI FINALS	16TH MARCH 2008
FINAL	18TH MAY 2008 (AT MALDON TOWN FC)

APPENDIX A

GUIDE TO MARKING OF REFEREES

The mark awarded by a club must be based on the referee's overall performance. It is most important that the mark is awarded fairly and not based upon isolated incidents or previous games. The referee's performance should be determined by the table below, which should act as a guide for the overall mark, which should fall within the range for each standard of performance.

Mark Range	Comment
91-100	The referee was extremely accurate in decision making and very successfully controlled the game using management and communication skills to create an environment of fair play, adding real value to the game.
81-90	The referee was extremely accurate in decision making and very successfully controlled the game using management and communication skills to create an environment of fair play.
71-80	The referee was extremely accurate in decision making and controlled the game well, communicating with the players, making a positive contribution towards fair play.
61-70	The referee was reasonably accurate in decision making, controlled the game quite well and communicated with players, establishing a reasonable degree of fair play.
51-60	The referee has some short comings in the level of accuracy of decision making and control, with only the limited success in communicating with the players resulting in variable fair play.
50	The referee has significant shortcomings in the level of accuracy of decision making and control with poor communication with the players which resulted in low levels of fair play.

Notes

Using a scale of up to 100 allows greater flexibility for clubs to distinguish between different refereeing performances more accurately.

A mark within each mark range can be given to reflect the referee's performance e.g. a mark of 79 indicates a somewhat better performance than a mark of 71.

A mark between 71 and 80 represents the standard of refereeing expected.

When a mark of 50 or less is awarded, an explanation must be provided to the League or Competition. It must include comments which could help improve the referee's future performances. Even where a referee has significant shortcomings, there will have been some positive aspects, which should be given credit.

Extremely low mark (below 20) should be very rare.

HOW TO DECIDE ON THE REFEREE'S MARK

The following questions focus on the key areas of referee's performance. They are intended as an 'aide memoir' and are not necessarily comprehensive. It is, however, worth considering before committing yourself to marking the referee.

CONTROL AND DECISION MAKING

- . How well did the referee control the game?
- . Were the players' actions recognised correctly?
- . Were the Laws applied correctly?
- . Were all incidents dealt with efficiently/effectively?
- . Were all the appropriate sanctions applied correctly?
- . Was the referee always within reasonable distance to incidents?
- . Was the referee well positioned to make critical conditions, especially in and around the penalty area?
- . Did the referee understand the players' positional intentions and keep out of the way accordingly?
- . Did the referee demonstrate alertness and concentration throughout the game?
- . Did the referee apply the use of the advantage to suit the mood and temperature of the game?
- . Was the referee aware of the players' attitude to advantage?
- . Did the referee use the assistants effectively?
- . Did the officials (where assistants are appointed) work as a team and did the referee lead and manage them to the benefit of the game?

COMMUNICATION AND PLAYER MANAGEMENT

- . How well did the referee communicate with the players during the game?
- . Did the referee's level of involvement/profile suit this particular game?
- . Did the referee understand the players' problems on the day – e.g. difficult ground/weather conditions?
- . Did the referee respond to the changing pattern of play/mood of the players?
- . Did the referee demonstrate empathy for the game, allowing it to develop in accordance with the tempo of the game?
- . Was the referee pro-active in controlling the game?
- . Was the referee's authority asserted firmly without being officious?
- . Was the referee confident and quick thinking?
- . Did the referee permit undue questioning of decisions?
- . Did the referee appear unflustered and unhurried when making critical decisions?
- . Did the referee deal effectively with players crowding around after decisions/incidents?
- . Was effective player management in evidence?
- . Was the referee's body language confident and open at all times?

Final Thoughts

- . Always try to be objective when marking. You may not obtain the most objective view by marking immediately after the game.
- . Judge the performance over the whole game. Do not be influenced by one particular incident.
- . Don't mark the referee down unfairly because your team was unlucky and lost the game or some disciplinary action was taken against your player/s.

HINTS TO REFEREES

Referees are requested to note the following:-

- 1 They should make themselves fully acquainted with the details of Rule 13.
- 2 When weather conditions, although not bad enough to make the possibility of play doubtful, the referees are asked to arrive at grounds, giving themselves enough time to inspect the pitch and appearances. Early inspections and decisions are desirable in the interest of all concerned.
- 3 Referees must send the Referee Result Sheet, fully completed, to the Hon. Referee Secretary within three days of the game being played.
- 4 They must report, without fail, all late starts, postponed or abandoned matches to the Hon. Referee's Secretary as soon as possible.
- 5 The duration of all matches shall be 90 minutes, with an interval of no less than 5 minutes and no more than 15 minutes, at half time. In very exceptional circumstances, only 80 minutes need be played, but it is expected that this option will be used sparingly.
- 6 In order to ensure matches start punctually, ensure both teams are ready to enter the field of play (if they have not already done so), 5 minutes before the appointed kick off time and report every case of delay in the time of kick off also informing the offending team.
- 7 Provided both teams have a minimum of 7 players ready to play the game, the referee shall order the match to commence at the appointed time.

CODE OF CONDUCT

This code of Conduct gives the minimum standard of behaviour expected for all League Clubs and their members.

Football is a game, which should be enjoyed and should be played in a spirit of friendship by players, match officials and spectators alike.

PLAYERS

- . The League expects fair play at all times.
- . Shake hands with match officials and opponents after the game (whatever the result).
- . Do not become involved in disputes with officials, opponents or spectators.
- . Do not use offensive, insulting or abusive language towards officials, opponents or supporters.
- . Let the referee handle incidents in the game. Do not retaliate against opponents.
- . Do not applaud sendings-off or the errors of opponents.
- . Treat the changing rooms and facilities of all Clubs you visit with respect.
- . Teamwork, effort and enjoyment are as important as winning. Learn to win and lose with dignity.
- . Remember, you are representing your Club and the League. Be sensible and enjoy yourselves.

OFFICIALS, (Team Managers, Coaches, Club Officials etc.)

- . Officials, particularly Managers, have a crucial role to play in the game.
- . Encourage your players to play in the correct spirit.
- . Do not abuse your own players or those of the opposition.
- . Handle any unruly behaviour among your spectators before it gets out of hand.
- . Do not use offensive, insulting or abusive language to match officials, players or spectators.
- . Under no circumstances enter the field of play during the course of the match unless expressly requested to do so by the referee.
- . Referees and spectators who are officiating as referees or assistant referees have the full authority of the FA.
It is the responsibility of Club Officials to ensure they are treated with respect.

SPECTATORS/SUPPORTERS

- . Your actions influence the mood of the players and the game.
- . Keep behind any barriers around the pitch at all times.
- . Do not use offensive, insulting or abusive language to match officials however much you disagree with their decision.
- . Encourage all players and applaud their efforts.
- . Do not ridicule opponents for their mistakes.
- . Do not applaud foul play and do not incite your players to foul.
- . Do not use offensive, insulting or abusive language to players or other spectators.
- . Do not use physical violence or threaten anyone.
- . **You must not enter the field of play during a game unless asked to do so by the referee.**
- . Remember, when you are supporting your team you are representing your Club and the League.

APPENDIX B

HONOURS

<u>SEASON</u>	<u>COMPETITION</u>	<u>WINNERS</u>
1993/94	Under-12 League Under-12 Cup Under-14 League Under-14 Cup	TEN-17 EAGLES (Harlow) TEN-17 EAGLES (Harlow) COLCHESTER UTD (later Colchester LFC) BRENTWOOD URSULINE
1994/95	Under-13 League Under-13 Cup Under-15 Cup	WIVENHOE COLCHESTER LADIES STANWAY
1995/96	Under-12 League Under-12 Cup Under-14 League Under-14 Cup Under-16 League Under-16 Cup	TEN-17 EAGLES (Harlow) TEN-17 EAGLES (Harlow) TEN-17 EAGLES (Harlow) IPSWICH TOWN TEN-17 EAGLES (Harlow) SOLE BAY HERONS (Southwold)
1996/97	Under-12 League Under-12 Cup Under-14 League Under-14 Cup	HAVERHILL ROVERS MALDON SAINTS IPSWICH TOWN COLCHESTER LADIES
1997/98	Under-12 League Under-12 Cup Under-14 League Under-14 Cup	CHELMSFORD BOBCATS IPSWICH TOWN IPSWICH TOWN CHELMSFORD PANTHERS
1998/99	Under-11 League Under-11 Cup Under-12 "A" League Under-12 "B" League Under-12 Cup Under-13 League Under-13 Cup Under-14 League Under-14 Cup	HAWKWELL ATHLETIC HAWKWELL ATHLETIC IPSWICH TOWN SAWBO (Harlow) IPSWICH TOWN (2-way) STANWAY/CHELMSFORD BOBCATS CHELMSFORD BOBCATS SOLE BAY HERONS (Southwold) HAVERHILL ROVERS

1999/00	Under-11 League Under-11 Cup Under-12 League Under-12 Cup Under-13 League Under-13 Cup Under-14 League Under-14 Cup Under-16 League(3-way) Under-16 Cup	VALLEY GREEN (Witham) COLCHESTER UNITED FITC BRENTWOOD TOWN IPSWICH TOWN IPSWICH TOWN IPSWICH TOWN HAVERHILL ROVERS HAVERHILL ROVERS CHELMSFORD/HAVERHILL/IPSWICH IPSWICH TOWN
2000/01	Under-11 League Under-12 "A" League Under-12 "B" League Under-13 League Under-14 "A" League Under-14 "B" League Under-16 League (note - all Cup competitions were suspended this season)	COLCHESTER UNITED FITC COLCHESTER UNITED FITC AFC SUDBURY IPSWICH TOWN COLCHESTER UNITED FITC HAVERHILL ROVERS HAVERHILL ROVERS
2001/02	Under-11 League Under-11 Cup Under-12 League Under-12 Cup Under-13 League Under-13 Cup Under-14 League Under-14 Cup Under-15 League Under-15 Cup Under-16 League Under-16 Cup	DUNTON DYNAMOS DAGENHAM GIRLS COLCHESTER UNITED FITC IPSWICH TOWN LEYTON ORIENT GIRLS AFC SUDBURY HAWKWELL ATHLETIC IPSWICH TOWN COLCHESTER UNITED FITC WEST HAM UNITED GIRLS LEYTON ORIENT GIRLS LEYTON ORIENT GIRLS
2002/03	Under-11 League North Under-11 League South Under-12 League Under-13 League North Under-13 League South Under-14 League Under-16 League "A" Under-16 League "B" Under-17 League (note - all Cup competitions were suspended this season)	MALDON TOWN CATHOLIC UNITED MINORS LEYTON ORIENT COLCHESTER UNITED FITC PERRY STREET IPSWICH TOWN IPSWICH TOWN BRENTWOOD TOWN ST. MARGARETSBURY

2003/04	Under-11 League North	BRENTWOOD TOWN
	Under-11 League South	CATHOLIC UNITED LIONS
	Under 11 Cup	CATHOLIC UNITED LIONS
	Under-12 League North	COLCHESTER UNITED FITC
	Under-12 League South	CATHOLIC UNITED
	Under 12 Cup	COLCHESTER UNITED FITC
	Under-13 League North	BUCKHURST HILL
	Under-13 League South	LEYTON ORIENT
	Under 13 Cup	DUNTON DYNAMOS
	Under-14 League North	CHELMSFORD CITY
	Under-14 League South	WEST HAM UTD
	Under 14 Cup	BUCKHURST HILL
	Under-15 League	BRENTWOOD TOWN
	Under-15 Cup	COMPETITION SUSPENDED FOR THIS SEASON
2004/05	Under-11 League North	MALDON TOWN
	Under-11 League South	FOCUS FERRERS PUMAS
	Under 11 Cup	WRITTLE MINORS
	Under-12 League North	ROCKETS
	Under-12 League South	REDBRIDGE
	Under 12 Cup	ROCKETS
	Under-13 A League	WEST HAM UTD
	Under-13 B League	HAVERING
	Under 13 Cup	WEST HAM UTD
	Under-14 League	DUNTON DYNAMOS
	Under-14 Cup	DUNTON DYNAMOS
	Under-15 League	WEST HAM UTD
	Under-15 League	WEST HAM UTD
	Under-16 League	BRENTWOOD TOWN
	Under-16 Cup	BRENTWOOD TOWN
2005/06	Under-11 League North	WRITTLE MINORS
	Under-11 League South	WEST HAM UTD
	Under 11 Cup	WRITTLE MINORS
	Under-12 League North	HAMBRO COLTS
	Under-12 League South	WEST HAM UTD
	Under 12 Cup	WRITTLE MINORS
	Under-13 A League	LEIGH ROCKETS
	Under-13 B League	RAYLEIGH RAIDERS
	Under 13 Cup	CATHOLIC UTD
	Under-14 A League	WEST HAM UTD
	Under-14 B League	MARK HALL
	Under 14 Cup	WEST HAM UTD
	Under-15 League	DUNTON DYNAMOS
	Under-15 Cup	CURIO
	Under-16 League	PERRY STREET
	Under-16 Cup	DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE

2006/07	Under-11 League North	CLACTON UNITED
	Under-11 League South	SENRA B LADIES
	Under 11 Cup	SENRA B LADIES
	Under-12 League North	WRITTLE MINORS
	Under-12 League South	WEST HAM UNITED
	Under 12 Cup	WRITTLE MINORS
	Under-13 A League	FOCUS FERRERS
	Under-13 B League	COLCHESTER TOWN A
	Under 13 C League	LEIGH RAMBLERS
	Under 13 Cup	FOCUS FERRERS
	Under-14 A League	WEST HAM UNITED
	Under-14 B League	CLACTON ATHLETIC
	Under 14 Cup	WEST HAM UNITED
	Under-15 A League	MALDON TOWN
	Under 15 B League	RAYNE CYGNETS
	Under 15 C League	LITTLE THURROCK DYNAMOS
	Under-15 Cup	MALDON TOWN
	Under-16 A League	WEST HAM UNITED
	Under 16 B League	LEYTON GIRLS
	Under-16 Cup	WEST HAM UNITED

CODE OF CONDUCT & PROCEDURE

THESE NOTES ARE ISSUED FOR THE GUIDANCE OF CLUB OFFICIALS. THE LEAGUE ALSO WISHES TO DRAW CLUBS' ATTENTION TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT ISSUED BY ESSEX COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, WHICH SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS PAGE. CONSULT LEAGUE RULES AT EVERY STAGE.

IF YOU ARE PLAYING AT HOME:

THE WEEK BEFORE THE GAME (NO LATER THAN THE SUNDAY EVENING)

Advise the visiting side of all match details including KO time, team colours and ground directions, especially any deviation from the directory.

Appoint a referee and a competent assistant referee (who must be at least 2 years older than the players). **nb Under 17 Age Group will have their referee appointed by the referee's appointment secretary**

PRIOR TO THE GAME

Contact the opposition if you are unable to appoint a referee. See if your opposition can provide a referee in the first instance. If this is still not possible, you must agree which person is going to referee the game.

BAD WEATHER

Keep the visiting side informed. Ask for a latest departure time and/or mobile emergency number.

If possible, make an early decision (the day before if appropriate) to prevent unnecessary travel. Rearrange the fixture if possible, but **ALWAYS IN AGREEMENT WITH THE AGE GROUP CO-ORDINATOR**

IMPORTANT TO BOTH TEAMS:

The home team must provide two match balls.

Ensure players REMOVE all jewellery.

Exchange registration cards with opponents (this is a necessity, not a recommendation; your signature on the Match Result Sheet confirms that you have done it).

Complete your Match Result Sheet. nb Every detail must be included.

Each copy to be posted by the respective manager by First Class post to arrive by Wednesday morning. **Home Team to phone result to the Age Group Co-Ordinator by 6.00 p.m.**

(Be warned - anything contrary to the above may result in a League fine for your Club)

GENERAL CONDUCT

The Team Manager's Match-Day responsibilities are to respect and support your League's emphasis on **FAIR PLAY AND SPORTING BEHAVIOUR**.

Respect and support every decision of the referee, particularly when you may disagree.

Encourage players, officials and supporters to play their part.

MATCH CANCELLATIONS:

No leeway will be permitted outside the cancellation timescale format already in operation:

1. Postponements at least 28 days prior to scheduled fixture date – Age Group Co-Ordinator will proceed with arrangement of new date.
2. Postponements between 7 and 28 days prior to scheduled date will be referred by the Age Group Co-Ordinator to the next League Management Committee for decision.
3. Postponements within 7 days will mean an automatic loss of three points, with the fixture awarded to the opposition.

Should a club feel that mitigating circumstances apply, they must submit written details to the League within three days of the postponement advice.

The Age Group Co-ordinator will have no authority to deviate from the above or to agree to clubs offering a new date rather than taking the points.