



Exeter & District Youth League

Rule Book 2009 - 2010

NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

1. (A) This Competition shall be designated the Exeter & District Youth League and League Knockout Cup and shall consist only of Full Member Clubs.

All such Member Clubs must be affiliated to a 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. The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be the County of Devon and its adjacent Counties.

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 16 teams in number.

The League shall comprise of divisions, i.e. Division 1, Division 2, Division 3 etc. with a system of promotion and relegation.

(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, must be made in writing to the League Secretary before 1st July in each season and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee of £40.00 per team which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

(B) The Annual Subscription shall be £40.00 per team

(C) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the Entry Fee has been paid.

(D) Clubs must advise annually to the League Secretary in writing by 1st July of its County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming Season, failing which they shall be fined £25. Clubs must advise the League Secretary in writing, or by email 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 Chairman, Treasurer, League Secretary, Registrations Officer and Referees Appointments Officer to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

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 and a age group representative of clubs who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The Association from time to time.

(B) 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 or by email, signed by the Secretaries of two Member Clubs, not later than fourteen days prior to the Annual General Meeting in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of 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 League Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Committee.

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

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

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

(B) 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.

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

(D) 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 seven days.

(E) At least three Members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee.

(F) 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.

(G) 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 a fine of £5 or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(H) 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 be fined a further £10 or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(I) 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.

(J) No participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

(K) The Management Committee will have the power to suspend any rule in the event of an emergency or circumstance that are Force Majeure as long as the rule in question does not conflict with the rules of the Devon Football Association.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6. (A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 26th June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least two thirds of Members are present and entitled to vote:-
- (i) To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting and where appropriate Minutes of the preceding Emergency General Meeting.
 - (ii) To consider any business arising therefrom.
 - (iii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
 - (iv) Election of 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.
- (B) A copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least seven days prior to the meeting and to the Devon County Football Association(s).
- (C) A signed copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Devon County Football Association(s) within fourteen days of its adoption by the Annual General Meeting.
- (D) Each 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 seven 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 hands unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or if the Chairman so decides.
- (G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one 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 Chairman and the Secretary of each Club shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the Competition together with the Application for Membership for the coming season, or upon indicating that the Club intends to compete.

"We, A, _____ of _____ (Chairman) and B _____ of _____ (Secretary) of the _____ Football Club have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Exeter & District Youth 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 Devon County Football Association 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 & SQUAD SIZE

8. (A) 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 his/her Team Manager, accompanied by a valid photo and the agreed registration fee and who has been registered with the League Registration Officer prior to playing and whose completed registration notification has been received by the Club via email.

Any registration forms which are illegible damaged or not correctly completed will be destroyed and the Club informed via email.

The qualification dates for the Competition shall be as follows:

Players may only be registered for teams if they fall within the age bands regulated within the FA rules ie. For the under 10 age group, players must be under the age of TEN YEARS and must be over the age of eight years on August 31st of the playing season. A player may play for more than one age group if eligible in their club, the age groups must be stated clearly on the player registration form when submitted.

Players who are contracted or part of any match day squads for any academy or Centre of Excellence **IN THE COMPETITIVE AGE GROUPS, WHICH ARE U11'S OR ABOVE** (i.e. Exeter City, Plymouth Argyle, Torquay United or Yeovil Town) are **NOT eligible** to play in the Exeter & District Youth League.

(B) 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 League Registrations Officer shall notify, via email, the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

(C) 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/manager had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

(D) (i) The Management Committee shall have power to accept the registration of any player.

(ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player or may issue the club a fine if at the management's discretion the club is proved guilty of registration irregularities. (Subject to Rule 16), subject to the right of appeal to the FA or the relevant County Football Association.

(iii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse or cancel the registration of any player found guilty of undesirable conduct and to disqualify the player in question from participating in all games in the Competition. (Subject to Rule 16), subject to the right of appeal to the FA or the relevant County Football Association.

Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated conduct, which may deter a participant from being involved in this Competition. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the player is registered with.

(Note: Action under Clause (iii) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct 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 and will in any case be subject to an Appeal to the Football Association). For the purposes of this Rule, bringing the competition into disrepute can only be considered where the player has received in excess of 112 days suspension, or 10 matches in match based discipline, in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.

(E) Subject to The Football Association Rules dealing with players without a written contract, if a Club wishes to transfer a player, that Club shall submit a transfer form fully completed by the player and both Clubs involved, and a fee of £5.00 to the League Registrations Officer. If the Club holding the player's Registration objects to the transfer then it must state its objections in writing to the League Registrations Officer and to the player concerned within seven days of receipt of the transfer form. Upon receipt of the correct forms and the fee, and if no objection is received within seven days, the Registrations Officer 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.

No player shall be transferred more than twice in the current season.

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

(G) 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.

(H) A register containing the names of all players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the relevant club 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.

(I) 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 **3** games for that team in this Competition in the current season.

(J) (i) Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players shall have any points gained in the match deducted from its total plus the deduction of 1 point and fined £10 per offence and at the discretion of the Management Committee may be dealt with in any further manner which is thought to be fit.

(ii) In addition the team may have 3 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 may, at its discretion, award the points available in the match in question to the opponents, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.

(iv) If the match is a Cup Match, the offending team shall forfeit the match and fined £10 at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(K) (i) County fixtures will be given priority over League and Cup matches after this the E&DYL will take priority.

(Note: Teams participating in County Cup games that are played on Sundays, do so voluntarily and will not be permitted to postpone Saturday games in the event of participation in the County Cup)

(L) The maximum amount of players per team for all 7 V 7 format games is **Eighteen** (18). All teams that play 9 V 9 All teams **Eighteen** (18) and all teams that play 11 v 11 format games have no limit to the size of the squad.

CLUB COLOURS, CLUB NAME

9. (A) Every Club must register the colour of its shirts, shorts and socks with the League Secretary by 30th June, who shall decide as to their suitability.

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

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 2 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 bibs) or delaying the kick-off by not having a change may be fined £5.00.

(B) Any Club wishing to change its name and/or colours must obtain permission from its affiliated County Football 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. The League Secretary will arrange the fixtures prior to the commencement of the season, and in accordance with the clubs match days notified by Clubs when submitting their details at the time of annual registration to the League Secretary.

All fixture adjustments will be rearranged by the home club in consultation with their opponents and advised to the League Secretary failure to do so may result in the arranging team being fined the sum of £15.00

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

Any club postponing a competition match/cup game on account of the apparent state of the ground, shall contact the League Secretary, who may appoint an official to carry out an inspection if deemed necessary. If in the event of the pitch being considered fit to play, the Club responsible will be expected to proceed as per original fixture or face a fine as determined by the Management Committee.

Any club postponing a League Match for any other reason other than the pitch being unplayable must inform the league Secretary as soon as is they know the game will not be able to go ahead. Upon consideration by the Management Committee if the reasons given for the postponement are deemed unacceptable, the team will in the first instance be fined £25.00 and the game will be re-played at the oppositions venue on an agreed date. Any team defaulting for a second time will be fined £50.00 and the game will be replayed at the oppositions venue. Any team defaulting for a 3rd time will be (at the discretion of the management

committee removed from the league with any recorded results being expunged from the tables.

(C) Where a league/cup game is due to be played and the pitch is deemed unplayable on the day of the game the home team must notify the opposition and the League Secretary as soon as possible but no later than 1 – 1.5 hours prior to kick-off.

(C) (i) If the away team have an available pitch that is playable the game is to be switched and played on the same date.

(ii) If neither pitch is playable league games will be re-scheduled mutually between the two managers for a future date. The home team manager should give two dates of choice.

If neither date is acceptable the league Secretary should be informed and a date for the game to be played will be set by the League.

(iii) Where the league is forced to set a date for a league game; if either team are unable to play on that date the game will be declared void with the defaulting team being deducted a minimum of 1 point – up to a maximum of 3 points.

(iv) Where a cup game is postponed and there is no pitch available either at the home venue or the oppositions ground the cup game will be played on the following Saturday, or the following Saturday and so on until the fixture is fulfilled. Any league game due to be played on that date between the two teams (and their opposition) will be rescheduled by mutual agreement between the two managers, if the managers are unable to agree a new date the league will set the date. C(iii) will apply.

Under 11 matches will be played over to halves consisting of **30 minutes per half**.

Under 12,13 & 14s matches shall be played over two halves consisting of thirty five minutes a half.

The games involving Under 8's, 9's and 10's shall be played over two halves of fifteen minutes each half.

The times of kick-off shall be 10.30 for Under 11,12,13,14 games unless otherwise fixed by mutual agreement between Clubs, it is the responsibility of the home team manager to ensure the League Secretary and Referee (where appointed) are aware of any change in kick-off times at least 48 hours prior to the commencement of the match. Any Club failing to commence at the agreed time may be fined a sum of £5.00 or be otherwise dealt with as the 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. Failure to adhere to this rule will incur a £5.00 fine.

(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 League Secretary.

(D) The Secretary/Manager of the home Club must give notice of the location of, and access to the ground and time of kick-off to the match officials and the Secretary/Manager of the opposing Club at least 2 days prior to the playing of the match. The away Club shall seek and acknowledge receipt of such particulars.

A minimum of 8 players will constitute a team for a Competition match in the Under 12,13,14 age groups.

Notice of postponement of any match, must be given without delay by the postponing Club (or notice of a Club being unable to fulfil any match must be given 48 hours prior to the match by the Club) to the League Secretary, The Secretary/Manager 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.

Postponements due to unfit pitches must be notified by a 9.00 am deadline; otherwise a fine of £10 will be imposed.

In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, (force majeure), it shall be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. All matches shall be rearranged within 7 days from the date of the postponement by the two managers (***games do not have to be played in this period, simply a date has to be proposed for the rescheduled game***).

Notification must be made in writing/email on the rearrangement form and sent to the League Secretary. Clubs defaulting will be fined £5.00. Failing such agreement and notification to the League Secretary within seven days the Management Committee shall have power to order the match to be played on a named date 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 take what other action they may deem necessary. In cases where a match is abandoned owing to the conduct of either 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.

(E) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use 7 substitute players in any match in this competition.

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.

(F) The half time interval shall be of at least ten minutes duration, but shall not exceed fifteen minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the Referee.

(G) Goal sizes for age groups are as follows:

Under 11's - 16' x 7'

Under 12's & Under 13's – 24' x 8' or 21' x 7' (if available)

Under 14's and above 24' x 8'

(H) Ball sizes for age groups

Size 3 football for Under 8's

Size 4 football for under 9's, U10's, U11's, U12's, U13's & U14's

REPORTING RESULTS

11. (A) The League Registration Officer must receive within 3 days of the date played (Sundays excluded) the result or postponement of each Competition match in the prescribed manner from **The Home Team Manager ONLY**. The form should be filled in FULLY and in block lettering. The postmark will be accepted as evidence of the time of posting.

Failure to do so will incur a fine of £5.00, the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide.

(B) **The Home Team Manager** shall email the result or postponement of each match to the League Secretary by noon on the day following the match. In the unlikely event that email is not accessible, results must be text/phoned in, defaulting may be liable to a fine of £5.00.

(C) The match result notification correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of the club. The Management Committee shall have the 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 at the end of all games in the playing season, team rankings will be decided by goal difference and if that is equal then it will be decided on goals scored.

Any team not completing its fixtures may be fined a maximum of £50.00 and shall not receive any medals.

(B) **Promotion & Relegation**

The bottom three teams from each competitive division will be automatically relegated for the next season into the division below the one they play in during the current season.

The top three teams from each division will gain promotion. The 1st place team will be deemed the Division Champions.

REFEREES

13. (A) Registered Referees shall be appointed by League's Referee Appointments Officer wherever possible. Teams that have appointed a referee for their home games should inform the Referee Appointment Officer prior to the start of the playing season
- (B) In cases where there are no officially appointed 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 appointed Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and the decision shall be final.
- (D) The Home Club shall pay the Official (s) their fees, as set out in the rules of the competition, in the Referee's changing room immediately after the match.
- (E) 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 plus expenses. Where a match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Official (s), if they attend the ground, their full fee and expenses.
- (F) A Referee not keeping his engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to his non-appearance, may have his name removed from the list of Referees and the fact will be reported to the County Football Association with which he is registered.
- (G) 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.
- (H) The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, upon request the League shall submit a summary to The Football Association/County Football Association.
- (I) 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 League Secretary in writing by 31st May. Clubs defaulting may be fined £50.00.

(B) A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its teams from the Competition after the Annual General Meeting. Clubs infringing this Rule shall be liable to a fine of £50.00.

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

(C) 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 League Secretary a sum of £20.00. 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 14 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 Devon Football Association, including an appropriate fee, 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 two-thirds (2/3rds) 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 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 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 member of a team) player, manager or individual found by the League to have caused a serious incident on 2 occasions in a 2 season period may be expelled from the League.

A Club will not be considered for re-election for a period of 2 seasons after expulsion.

(E) All cases of misconduct will be reported to the County Association.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

18. Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3rds) of the Clubs in membership the League Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting.

The Management Committee may call a Special General Meeting at any time.

At least fourteen 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 seven 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 £25.00.

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

All amendment of Rules can only be implemented once approved by the appropriate sanctioning authority.

ALTERATION TO RULES

19. 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 League Secretary 14 days before the AGM. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs within 14 days and any amendments thereto shall be submitted 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 seven 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 £300.00 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 the last day of May in any year.

(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.

SPECIAL NOTICE

23. (A) The League Council would like to remind ALL CLUBS taking part in the EXETER & DISTRICT YOUTH LEAGUE that they will be held responsible for the conduct of their Officials, Players and Spectators.

Every Officer and Member of a Club including Players are required by the Football Association Laws to take every precaution necessary to prevent spectators **insulting, threatening or assaulting** Match Officials or Players, either during or at the conclusion of matches.

Misconduct towards a Match Official away from the field of play will be dealt with just as if the offence had been committed on the field.

LEAGUE KNOCK OUT CUP

24. (A) Cup competitions shall be competed for annually as decided by the committee.

(B) All Cups shall remain the property of the Exeter & District Youth League Competition and cannot be won outright by any club. The cup winners shall be responsible for its safe keeping and must ensure that the Club's name is engraved on the trophy. The trophy must be returned at least thirty (30) days in advance of the following seasons Cup Final. Should the Competition cease to exist then the trophy should be returned to the League. Failure to comply with this may result in the club being fined the cost of a new replacement trophy

(C) The rules and principles of the Exeter & District Youth League competition will apply with one amendment.

(D)(i) A player **MUST** be registered before March 1st in the relevant playing season and have played **THREE** Exeter & District Youth League competitive matches to be eligible to then play for that team in the Cup or Plate Competitions.

(D)(ii) No player can play for more than one team in any competition in any one season of the competition. This means that one player can **ONLY** play in the Cup in **ONE** age group. The side he first registers for in the cup is the only side he/she can play for in that Cup for that season. If a player plays for more than one side or age group in any one season in the Cup it will be deemed that both side's he/she has played for will have played an ineligible player and will be ruled out of the competition in both age groups. This ruling **DOES NOT** affect a player in league games.

(D)(iii) In the event of any team cancelling a Cup match less than 48 hours prior to kick off for any reason other than an unplayable pitch the League Officers reserves the right to withdraw them from the Competition and award a Bye to the opposition.

(E) Under 11/12/13/14 - In all rounds, including the semi-final and final only **ONE** game shall take place. The team first drawn shall be the known as the 'home' team. After full time in a game, if the scores are level extra time of seven minutes each way shall be played. If the scores are level after extra time then five penalties shall be taken by each side.

If the scores are still level then a sudden death penalty shoot out will decide the outcome of the match. Only players on the field of play at the end of full time may participate in the penalty shoot out. In the event of the scores being level in the Final, after extra time, a penalty shoot shall then take place to determine the winners of the Trophy - this to apply to all Under11/12/13/14 ties.

(F)(i) The semi finals of the Cup competition shall be played at the home of the first team drawn. The final shall take place at a venue to be determined by the Officers of the League.

(F)(ii) Under 9 & 10 - In all rounds including the semi-final and final only ONE game shall take place. The team first drawn shall be the known as the 'home' team. After full time in a game, if the scores are level extra time of five minutes each way shall be played.

If the scores remain level after extra time then three penalties shall be taken by each side. If the scores are still level then a sudden death penalty shoot out will decide the outcome of the match. Only players on the field of play at the end of full time may participate in the penalty shoot out. This is applicable to all games except the Final

In the event of the scores being level in the Final, after extra time, then the trophy shall be shared between the two teams - **NO PENALTY SHOOT OUT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE FINAL.**

5 A maximum of fourteen (14) medals or plaques will be presented to the Cup Final teams – 18 in the case of 11 aside teams.

(G) Plate Competition - these will take place each season for teams knocked out of the Cup competition either in the 1st round or the 2nd round if that teams was awarded a BYE in the 1st round.

(H) All profits from the running of the Finals Day shall be used towards the running costs of the Exeter & District Youth League Competition.

Administration

| | Cost |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Entry fee to League | £40.00 |
| Failure to notify League of affiliation number by July 1st | £25.00 |
| Player transfer (each) | £5.00 |

| Rule | Reason | Fine |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 5 (G) | Failure to comply with a Management Committee instruction | £5.00 |
| 5 (H) | Unpaid fines after 14 days | £10.00 |
| 6 (H) | Non representation at the AGM | £25.00 |
| J (i) | Playing an unregistered player | £10.00 |
| 9 (A) | Away team not having a change of colours | £5.00 |
| 10 (B) | Failure to commence at agreed time | £5.00 |
| 10 (B) | Failing to inform of postponements by 9AM on day of match | £10.00 |
| 10 (B) | Failure to rearrange within 7 days | £5.00 |
| 11 (A) | Failure to send match report in within 3 days | £5.00 |
| 11 (B) | Failure to email result to League Secretary by noon next day | £5.00 |

| | | |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 12 (A) | Not completing fixtures | £50.00 |
| 14 (A) | Failing to notify League Secretary of proposal to withdraw | £50.00 |
| 14 (B) | Withdrawing after the AGM | £50.00 |
| 15 (D) | Deposit against complaints | £20.00 |

| | | |
|--------|------------------|-------------|
| | Officials | Cost |
| 14 (D) | Referee's fee | £20.00 |

Mini-Soccer Rules:

For both boys and girls over the age of six and under the age of ten

Please remember: Under 7's or Under 8's are not permitted to play in leagues where results are collected or published or winner trophies are presented, this is deemed to be detrimental to the development of the player and the game and will not be sanctioned.

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

Law 1: Playing Area

WARNING: Please ensure that The FA Goalpost safety guidelines are observed.

Size of Pitch

Under 7s-8s

- Minimum width: 18.30m (20 yards)
- Maximum width: 27.45m (30 yards)
- Minimum length: 27.45m (30 yards)
- Maximum length: 45.75m (50 yards)

Under 9s-10s

- Minimum width: 27.45m (30 yards)
- Maximum width: 36.60m (40 yards)
- Minimum length: 45.75m (50 yards)
- Maximum length: 54.90m (60 yards)

Other pitch dimensions

- Penalty Area: Length 9.15m (10 yards); Width 16.47m (18 yards)
- Penalty Mark: 7.32m (8 yards) from the Goal Line opposite the Centre of the Goal.
- Halfway Line: The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The centre mark is indicated at the mid-point of the halfway line.
- Goal Size: The distance between the posts is 3.6m (12 feet) and the distance between the lower edge of the cross bar and the ground is 1.88m (6 feet).

Law 2: The Ball

- The ball should be size 4 for U9/U10, or Size 3 for Under 8's.
- It should be safe and made of leather or another suitable material.

Law 3: Number of Players

- Under 7s-8s: 4v4, 5v5, 6v6 or 7v7
- Under 9s-10s: 6v6 or 7v7

Where the appropriate facilities are available, the FA would encourage leagues and competitions to use the smaller number of players at the youngest age group.

Players must play with and against players only from their own age range, as per Football Association and Competition rules.

Players should not be allowed to begin to play until the Season of the 7th birthday.

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

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

Law 4: Playing Equipment

- Players must wear shin guards and goalkeepers must wear a distinguishing playing strip.
- Shin guards must be covered entirely by the stockings.

Law 5: Referees

The Authority of the Referee

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

Powers and Duties

The Referee:

- Enforces the Laws of the Game
- Controls the match in co-operation with the assistant referees/time keeper
- Ensures that the ball meets the requirements of Law 2

- Ensures that the players' equipment meets the requirements of Law 4
- Stops, suspends or terminates the match, at their discretion, for any infringements of the Laws
- Stops, suspends or terminates the match because of outside interference of any kind
- Stops the match if, in their opinion, a player is seriously injured and ensures that they are removed from the field of play
- Ensures that any player bleeding from a wound leaves the field of play
- Allows play to continue when the team against which an offence has been committed will benefit from such an advantage and penalises the original offence if the anticipated advantage does not ensue at that time
- Takes disciplinary action against players guilty of cautionable and/or sending-off offences
- Takes action against team officials who fail to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and may, at their discretion, expel them from the field of play and its immediate surrounds
- Ensures that no unauthorised persons enter the field of play
- Restarts the match after it has been stopped

Decisions of the Referee

- The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play are final.
- The referee may only change a decision on realising that it is incorrect or, at his/her discretion provided that play has not restarted.

Law 6: Timekeeper/Scorer/Assistant Referee

Duties

A person may be nominated to assist the referee to:

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

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

Law 7: Duration of the Game

In any one day, no player shall play more than the stipulated period given below:

- Under 7 & Under 8s: 40 minutes
- Under 9 & Under 10s: 60 minutes

Each league/competition will determine its own playing time within the maximum time permitted. The half time interval must not exceed 5 minutes. [Please refer to Standard Code of Rules for Youth Leagues]

Law 8: Start and Restart of Play

Procedure

A kick-off is taken at the centre of the playing area to start the game and after a goal has been scored, opponents must be 4.5m (5 yards) away from the ball, and in their own half of the field. The ball must be played forward.

In Mini Soccer a goal cannot be scored directly from a start or restart of play

Special Circumstances

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

Law 9: Ball In and Out of Play

The ball is out of play when:

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

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

- It rebounds from a goal or post, crossbar or corner flag post and remains in the field of play

- It rebounds from either the referee or an assistant referee when they are on the field of play

Law 10: Method of Scoring

Goal Scored

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

Winning Team

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

Competition Rules

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

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

Law 11: Offside

There is no offside.

Law 12: Fouls and Misconduct

In Mini-Soccer all free kicks are direct.

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

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

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

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

Penalty Kick

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

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

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

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

Cautionable Offences

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

1. Is guilty of unsporting behavior
2. Shows dissent by word or action
3. Persistently infringes the Laws of the Game
4. Delays the restart of play
5. Fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick or free kick

6. Enters or re-enters the field of play without the referee's permission
7. Deliberately leaves the field of play without the referee's permission

Sending Off Offences

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

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

Law 13: Free Kicks

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

Law 14: Penalty Kicks

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

Position of the Ball and the Players

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

The ball must be kicked forward.

Infringement/Sanctions

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

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

Law 15: Throw-in

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

A throw-in is awarded:

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

Procedure

At the moment of delivering the ball, the thrower:

- Faces the field of play
- Has part of each foot either on the touch line or on the ground outside the touch line

Throw-in

- Uses both hands
- Delivers the ball from behind and over their head
- The throw-in is awarded to the opposing team, if any of these requirements are not carried out

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

Law 16: Goal Kick

Procedure

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

Opponents must remain outside the penalty area and at least 4.5m (5 yards) from where the kick is taken until the ball is in play.

Law 17: Corner Kicks

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

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

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