



THE trophyUK.net
**ROYSTON CROW YOUTH
FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

FOUNDED 1971

LEAGUE RULES

(Effective 1st September 2016)

NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

1. **(a)** This Competition shall be known as the trophyUK.net Royston Crow Youth Football League, herein referred to as The Competition and shall consist of not more than 75 Clubs who shall be Full Member Clubs.

The Competition will provide football in accordance with the agreed youth formats published under FA Rule C4(A). This Competition will reproduce the relevant FA Rule in its handbook and on its website to ensure clarity and compliance with Rule 8(B).

(b) 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 Hertfordshire County Football Association. The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be within a 25 mile radius of Royston.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Hertfordshire County Football Association and the constituent Teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in Divisions, each not exceeding sixteen in number.

(c) (i) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

Competition and each Member Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination

(ii) This Competition and each Member Club does not and must not [by its rules or regulations or] in any manner whatsoever unlawfully discriminate against any person within the meaning and scope of the Equality Act 2010 or any law, enactment, order or regulation relating to discrimination (whether by age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise).

(iii) This Competition and each Member Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise).

(iv) Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate sanctioning Association for investigation."

(f) This Competition and its Clubs shall support the FA's Respect programme. As such it recognises that everyone in football has a collective responsibility to create a fair, safe and enjoyable environment in which the game can take place. A Respect League values the courtesy and fairness by opposing Players, Club Officials and Spectators. The League and its Clubs will seek to play fixtures in a fair, competitive but not antagonistic environment.

(g) 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.

(i) Any Club seeking membership of The Competition must have in place a formal

Constitution and Committee Structure consisting of the minimum of the following Officers,

- (ii) Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Child Welfare Officer. *For those Clubs wishing to join the League this must be attained within the first Season of being accepted.* Failure to meet these criteria will lead to Membership being withdrawn.

(j) Each Member Club is required to have an e.mail address operated by the Club Secretary. Please note that this should be accessible at all times and as such Business Addresses which are not available at weekends do not meet the requirement for this Rule.

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

- 2. (a) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition must be made in writing to the Secretary and must be accompanied by an Application or Entry Fee per Team as shown in Schedule 1 – Fees, 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 compulsory transferred to another Division no Entry Fee shall be payable.

(This Rule does not apply to the Royston Crow Youth Football League.)

(b) The Annual Subscription per Club and individual Team Entry Fees shall be as shown in Schedule 1 Fees and shall be payable on or before the 1st July in each year.

(c) Each Club shall, upon election, pay a Deposit as shown in Schedule 1 – Fees 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 and Deposit have been paid

(e) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 31st July of its County Football Association Affiliation Number for the forthcoming Season, failing which they shall be fined in accordance with Schedule 2 – Fines. Accordingly Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its Headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition.

OFFICERS

- 2. The Officers of the Competition shall be determined by the Annual General Meeting and elected thereat. (N.B. Auditors/Verifiers 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 and Eight Members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. No two Ordinary Members shall represent the same Club. 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, signed by the Secretaries of two Member Clubs, not later than the 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. Any Person seeking election to the Management Committee is required to have an e.mail address. Please note that this should be accessible at all times and as such Business Addresses which are not available at weekends do not meet the requirement for this Rule.

(c) The Management Committee shall meet regularly, but at least quarterly or more frequently as the Management Committee may decide 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 Management Committee.

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

(e) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their nominated Officers, i.e. Club Secretary or appointed Representative in his/her absence. Any correspondence that does not comply with this requirement will be disregarded.

(f) Management Committee Members should not be contacted before 9.00 a.m. or after 9.30 p.m. Where the enquiry relates to a specific Club matter, contact should only be made by the Club Secretary. In the event of a Management Committee Member being contacted by any person other than the Club Secretary, they are not obliged to deal with that person. However, should they choose to do so they will not discuss specific Club matters but will only advise on general enquiries.

(g) Any member of the Management Committee absent from three consecutive Management Committee Meetings, or designated Committees, without giving a satisfactory explanation in writing, shall be considered to have resigned their seat and the Management Committee may proceed to fill the vacancy.

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

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

(b) Subject to the permission of the Hertfordshire 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 or where there may be a conflict of interest. (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.

With the exception of Rules 5(i), 6(h), 10(a), 11 and 19 for any breaches of Rule a formal written charge must be issued. The respondent shall be given seven days from the date of notice to reply to the charge and given the opportunity to:-

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

All breaches of the Laws of the Game, Rules and Regulations of The Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance with F.A. Rules by the appropriate Association.

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

(e) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal

in accordance with Rule 16

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

(f) Five Members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee and three Members shall constitute a Quorum for the transaction of business by any Sub-Committee of the Competition.

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

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

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

(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.

(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.

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

(m) Leagues who organise Mini Soccer for Teams playing U7, U8 U9 and U10 Football may not, with the exception of Rules 6,10a,11d,14 &19 fine Clubs for breaches of League Rules.

(n) For those Leagues defined under Rule 5(m) when a Team fails to fulfil either a festival or development fixture and pitch hire costs have been incurred, the Organising Competition will be empowered to order the defaulting Club to pay these costs and charge an administration fee of up to £10.

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

(p) A Club failing to be presented at a General Meeting (such as a Special General, Extraordinary General or Managers Meeting) will be fined. Any Club failing to be represented at three consecutive Meetings without satisfactory reasons being given shall be dealt with as the Management Committee may determine. Not less than seven days notice shall be given of any Meeting called by the Management Committee

(q) A Club having failed to comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee within twenty one days of receipt of such notice, or within twenty one days of the operative date specified in that order, shall not be allowed to play or take part in the business of the League until the order has been complied with and a reason for the delay has been furnished to the Secretary, who shall submit it to the Management Committee for their adjudication.

(r) A Club failing satisfactorily to attend to the business of the League or to the correspondence of the League shall be liable to be fined or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(s) The Management Committee shall have the power to call upon Clubs or Players to produce any books, letters or documents and other evidence the Management Committee may desire. The Parties to a dispute or against whom a charge of infringement of the Rules has been made are entitled to be present when evidence affecting such charge or dispute is given. Any Club or player failing to comply with this Rule will be dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6. **(a)** The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held not later than 30th June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least 50% of the Members are present and entitled to vote:-
- (i) To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding AGM.
 - (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 of the season and kick off times applicable to the Competitions.
 - (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being
 - (xi) relevant to an AGM.
 - (xi) Confirmation of Fees and Fines for the forthcoming Season.
- (b)** A copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least fourteen days prior to the meeting, and to the Hertfordshire County Football Association.
- (c)** A signed copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Hertfordshire 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 fourteen 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.
- (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 Member Club.
- (h)** Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined in accordance Schedule 2 - Fines.
- (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) and
C _____ of _____ (Committee Member) and
D _____ of _____ (Committee Member) of the
_____ Football Club have been provided with a copy of the
Rules and Regulations of the Royston Crow Youth Football League 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 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 Committee Members)

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

8. (a) (i) Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules, **are not** permitted in this Competition with the exception of those Players who are registered under Contract with the same Club who have a team operating at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System.

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

(ii) No player registered with a F.A. Premier League or Football League Academy under the Elite Player Performance Plan contained within Youth Development Rules will be permitted to play in this Competition. Details of the Youth Development Rules are published on the FA Web Site.

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

(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 his /her Parent or Guardian and by an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the League Registration Secretary 24 hours prior to playing and whose League Registration Card has been received by the Club prior to playing.

The only exception to this Rule is at Under 7 –Under 10 where Clubs may seek a *“Temporary Player Registration”* for 3 matches by e-mailing the League Registration Secretary with the Players Name and Date of Birth. After completing 3 matches the Player must complete a trophyUK.net RCYFL League Registration Form to continue playing in the League.

(ii) The Registration Document must incorporate two current passport-size photographs of the Player seeking registration together with proof of the Player's date of birth. At the initial time of registration this must be by means of a Birth Certificate, Passport or other original Document approved by the Management Committee. Photocopies will only be accepted if certified as a true copy by the Club Secretary.

Subsequent registrations will be accepted without proof of the Player's date of birth if the Players Registration Number is quoted.

(iii) Except for matches in a playing season in the Age Ranges Under 7 to Under **15** inclusive (as defined in 8(b)(i), Players in a Match must be of the same gender.

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

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

Notwithstanding the above, a child is permitted to play up in the age group above his or her chronological age group, irrespective of any changes of format or competition structure, save that a child who attains the age of 6 after 31 August is permitted to play only in the Under 7 age group, and may not play in the Under 8 age group, for that playing season.

The age groups that children are eligible to play in are set out in the table below, along with the permitted football formats for each of those age groups. Children shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match between sides of more than the stated number of players, according to their age group:

Age on 31 August of the relevant playing season	Eligible Age Groups	Maximum Permitted Format
6	Under 7	5v5
	Under 8	
7	Under 8	5v5
	Under 9	7v7
8	Under 9	7v7
	Under 10	
9	Under 10	7v7
	Under 11	9v9
10	Under 11	9v9
	Under 12	
11	Under 12	9v9
	Under 13	11v11
12	Under 13	11v11
	Under 14	
13	Under 14	11v11
	Under 15	
14	Under 15	11v11
	Under 16	
15	Under 16	11v11
	Under 17	
	Under 18	
16	Under 17	11v11
	Under 18	
	Open Age	

(d) A Team shall not include any Player/more than _____ Players who has/have taken part in any _____ or more Senior Competition matches during the current Season unless a period of _____ days has elapsed since they played. For the purpose of this Competition a Senior Competition(s) is/are _____. (This Rule not applicable to Royston Crow Youth Football League).

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

(f) A Fee shall be paid for each Player registered as shown in Schedule 1 - Fees. Registration Forms shall be obtained from the League Registration Secretary in a manner and at a cost to be determined from time to time at the League Annual General Meeting.

(g) The Management Committee shall decide all Registration Disputes. In the event of a Player signing a Registration Form or having a Registration submitted for more than one Club priority of registration shall decide for which Club the Player shall be

registered. The League Registration Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the Player of the fact of the previous Registration.

(h) It shall be deemed misconduct for a Player to:-

(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.

(i) (i) The Management Committee shall have power to accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of clauses (ii) and (iii) below..

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

(iii) The Management Committee shall have power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 16) subject to the right of appeal to the FA or the relevant County Football Association

Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven 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 or intending to be registered with.

(iv) For a player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with clause (iii) but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition would be empowered to consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

Note: Action under Clause (iii) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any case be subject to an Appeal to the Football Association. All decisions must include the period of restriction. For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the competition into disrepute can only be considered where the player has received in excess of 112 days' suspension, or 10 matches in match based discipline, in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence for any Team playing in this Competition.

(j) Subject to FA Rule C2(a) dealing with players without a written contract when a Player desires a Transfer is as follows:

The Player must obtain a Transfer Form from the League Registration Secretary. Part 1 should be signed by the Club for which the Player is registered, and given back to the Player along with his Registration Card. Then Part 1 & 2 of the Transfer Form should be passed to the Club the Player wishes to transfer to, who shall then submit the Transfer Form to the League Registration Secretary accompanied by 2 new photographs a stamped addressed envelope and the appropriate fee in accordance with Schedule 2 – Fines.

Should the Player's present Club object to the Transfer it should state its objections in writing to the League Registration Secretary and to the Player concerned within seven days of receipt of the Transfer Form.

Upon receipt of the Club's consent and the return of the Player's League Registration Card, or upon its failure to give written objection within seven days, the League Registration Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the Player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or 24 hours after receipt of such transfer and whose League Registration Card has been received by the Club prior to playing.

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 allowed to transfer from one Club to another until the 1st October.

A Player may not be transferred more than twice in any one Season unless by special permission of the Management Committee.

(k) A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 31st March except by special permission of the Management Committee.

(l) A Club shall keep a list of the Players it registers and a record of the games in which they have played, and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee.

In the event a Club has more than one Team in an Age Group, each Team must be clearly identifiable but must not be designated A or B or 1st and 2nd. In such cases, Players will be registered for one Team only. A Player so registered will be allowed to play for his Club in a younger or older age group within the provisions of Rule 8 (b).

The only exception to this Rule is at Under 7 to Under 11 where Players are registered as a Squad. For the purpose of this Rule a Squad shall be deemed represent a maximum of 3 Teams.

However, they can only play for Teams that compete in the same Division, and play for one Team on the day, and in the case of the League Cup or Trophy Event will be cup tied for the first Team they play for. It is also recommended that each Team should have a minimum of 2 additional registered Players over the number required for the format.

At Under 12 where Teams are registered separately a Player can play 3 times for another Team in the Club at that Age Group. Once the Player has played for that other Team four times or more, he/she shall not in that Season be eligible to play for the other Team except by permission of the Management Committee.

At this point the Registration Card should be returned to the League Registration Secretary to make an internal Club transfer to his/her new Team). In the event that the Player has already played in a League Cup Competition for a previous Team, the Registration Card will be marked "Cup-tied" on the reverse.

(m) A Register containing the Names of all Players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the League Registration Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of any duly appointed Member Club representative at all Management Committee Meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one Season only.

In the event of a Player without a written contract changing his status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition or with a Club in another Competition his registration as a Player without a written contract will automatically be cancelled and declared void. In order to play in the League again either for his original Club or for another Club it will be necessary for him to be re-registered as required by this Rule.

(This Rule not applicable to Royston Crow Youth Football League).

(n) 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) (ii) unless the Player has played six games for that Team in this Competition in the current Season.

(o) A Player who has played for a Team in any upper Age Division four times or more shall not in that Season be eligible to play in a lower Age Division except by permission of the Management Committee.

At this point his Registration Card should be returned to the League Registration Secretary to be altered to his new Team. In the event that the Player has already played in a League Cup Competition for his previous Team, his Registration Card will be marked "Cup-tied" on the reverse.

(p) (i) Any Team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible Player or Players will 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. The only exception to this Rule will be in the case of a Club fielding an underage Player, in which case the deduction of points and levying of fine will be at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(ii) In addition the Team may have a further three points deducted from its total at the discretion of the Management Committee and may be dealt with in any further manner which

is thought to be fit.

(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:-

(q) (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) A child under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31 August in a playing season, shall not be permitted to play in a match during that playing season where any other player is older or younger than that child by two years or more.

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

(r) (i) Registration Cards will be issued by the League Registration Secretary upon receipt of a League Registration Form, fully and correctly completed in ink, signed by a Parent or Legal Guardian and a designated Club Official. An incorrectly completed League Registration Form, in particular with regards to date of birth, may result in the Club being fined in accordance with Schedule 2 – Fines.

(ii) All Registration Cards must be returned by Member Clubs to the League Registration Secretary not later than the Annual General Meeting each year. Failure to do this will incur a fine in accordance with Schedule 2 – Fines.

(iii) Clubs must submit at least 12 fully completed Registration Forms for each Team to the League Registration Secretary by 31st July of the current Season. In the case of Mini-Soccer this number is reduced to 8 and for 9 v 9 to 10. Failure to comply with this may lead to a Club having its matches cancelled until such time as the required number of fully completed Registration Forms are presented to the League Registration Secretary.

A Club in default of this may also be fined or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

Each Team may register a maximum of 20 players. Any additional registrations will subject to approval by the Management Committee

(iv) It is the responsibility of the Club to ensure that their Players are registered in time to play in the opening fixture of the Season. Any Registrations received between 1st and 31st August will not be guaranteed to be released until 14th September.

(s) A Player having played for his Club in one Division one day may not play another game in that Division or another Division on the same day.

(t) (i) In the event of a Player ceasing to play for a Club, it is the responsibility of the Club to de-register that Player with the League Registration Secretary.

(ii) A Club wishing to de-register a Player must return his Registration Card to the League Registration Secretary, together with a letter explaining why the de-registration is being made

(iii) Where the Player being de-registered has not fulfilled his financial obligations to the satisfaction of his Club, the Club must simultaneously notify the Player and the League Registration Secretary, in writing with the full circumstances of the claim.

(u) (i) Registration Cards must be shown to the person in charge of the opposing Team prior to every competitive Royston Crow Youth Football League and League Cup Match. In the event of a failure to produce Registration Cards, the Match will be played nonetheless. Proven failure to produce Cards will result in a Fine in accordance with Schedule 2 – Fines and the Match be awarded to the Opposition regardless of the result.

(ii) Any individual Player whose Registration Card is not made available will not be

permitted to participate in the Match.

(v) In the event of the loss of a Player's Registration Card a replacement can be obtained from the League Registration Secretary by submitting the appropriate Form together with two passport sized photographs and the required fee. The Player must not play in any Royston Crow Youth Football League or League Cup Matches until the replacement is received.

(w) In the event that a Manager is not satisfied that a Player is the Player on the Registration Card, the Match will be played nonetheless. The Club concerned should submit within four days the grounds for the Manager's objection together with a deposit in accordance with Schedule 2 Fines and be prepared to attend a Hearing at which the Player will be present and card will be produced. (Subject to Rule 15).

CLUB COLOURS. CLUB NAME

9. **(a)** Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 31ST July 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 three days before the Match.

If, in the opinion of the Referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the Home 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 in accordance with Schedule 2 – Fines.

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 and/or colours must seek permission from its affiliated County Football Association and from the Management Committee.

(c) Shirts bearing different numbers must be worn by all Players (including Substitutes) of all competing Teams in the Royston Crow Youth Football League (second strips included). Any Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be dealt with by the Management Committee who may impose such penalties as they deem suitable.

(d) Players in this League are not permitted to wear names on the back of their shirts. Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be dealt with by the Management Committee who may impose such penalties as they deem suitable.

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

10. **(a)** The Playing Season is regarded as being from the 1st September until the 31st May and all Member Clubs must be prepared to play within these dates.

The Annual General Meeting shall determine the actual commencing date for the ensuing Season which shall be in accordance with Football Association Rules. Original fixtures arranged by the Fixture Secretary, or at a Meeting specially convened for that purpose, to be held no later than 21st May, must not be arranged for a date later than seven days preceding the concluding date.

(b) (i) 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 and 9 v 9 Football as set down by The Football Association.

(ii) 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.

Subject to the agreement of Management Committee and provided the principles of the Laws of the Game are maintained, the sizes of Pitches may be modified in their application for matches for Players of under 16 years of age. The following modifications are permissible:

- Size of the field of play (width or length only)
- Width between the goalposts and height of the crossbar

Any Club wishing to use Pitches where these modifications apply should contact the League Secretary to seek permission of the Management Committee to use these facilities. (See Appendix: FACILITIES)

This Competition may allow Matches to be played on a synthetic surface, which must meet FIFA and The Football Association current guidelines on the grading of pitches. A Club wishing to play on this surface must obtain sanction from the Management Committee prior to committing to a Venue, which will need not only to meet surface grading but also other Competition Rules for staging a fixture. (See Appendix: FACILITIES)

(iii) 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.

Football Turf Pitches (3G Artificial Pitches) are allowed in this Competition providing they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA's Register of Football Turf Pitches. For clubs playing at Step 7 and below, all Football Turf Pitches used must be on the FA's register and must be tested (by an accredited test institute) every three years and the results passed to The FA. The FA will give a decision on the suitability for use and add the pitch to the Register.

The home Club is also responsible for advising participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements in accordance with Rule 10(d).

(iv) All matches shall have duration as set out below unless a shorter time (not less than 20 minutes) is mutually arranged by the two Managers in consultation with the Referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves.

For Mini-Soccer – The maximum duration of play for the Under 7 and Under 8 Age Groups shall be two halves of 20 minutes each way, **and for the Under 9 and Under 10 Age Groups, two halves of 25 minutes each way.** The maximum playing time in any one day for the Under 7 and Under 8 Age Groups is 40 minutes, and for the Under 9 and Under 10 Age Groups is 60 minutes **in all Competitions.**

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 times of kick-off shall not be earlier than 10.30 a.m. nor later than 3.00 p.m. for Sunday fixtures, and 6.30 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. for midweek fixtures unless by mutual agreement of both Clubs. Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time may be fined in accordance with Schedule 2 – Fines 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 and must advise the offending Team's Secretary or Manager of his intention of doing so.

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

A size 3 ball will be used for age groups U7 to U9.

A size 4 ball will be used for age groups U10 to U14.

A size 5 ball will be used for all other age groups

Goal Nets must be used.

(b) 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 **match day** squad greater than double the size of its team in an age group.

(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 parent County Association Cup Competitions. All other Matches must be considered secondary. Clubs competing in **Standard Leagues** may mutually agree to bring forward a Match with the consent of the relevant Divisional Fixture Secretary.

Clubs competing in **Development Leagues** may mutually agree to bring forward **or move back** a Match with the consent of the relevant Divisional Fixture Secretary. **Matches moved as a result of this must be rearranged by the Clubs within in 7 days. If Clubs are unable to agree a date, this must be referred to the Divisional Fixtures Secretary by the postponing Club, who will decide whether to rearrange or void the fixture.**

Evening Matches shall be played as required by the League. Evening Matches may be played on any day (Monday to Friday inclusive) by prior mutual arrangement of the two Clubs involved. In the event of a dispute, the Management Committee shall order the Match to be played on the Wednesday.

In the case of a revised fixture date, the Clubs must be given by the Competition 5 clear days notice of the match (unless otherwise mutually agreed).

(d) (i) The Secretary or Fixtures Secretary of each Team of the Home Club must give notice using the Match Confirmation Form (MCF) by e.mail of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the Ground and time of kick-off to the Match Officials, the Secretary or Fixtures Secretary of the opposing Club and to the Divisional Fixtures Secretary by 9.00 p.m on the Tuesday prior to the playing of the Match for Sunday fixtures.

In addition the Home Club must advise their Opponents as to whether or not a qualified and currently registered Referee will be refereeing the game. The notice required in relation to midweek matches is 48 hours.

The Away Club shall seek and acknowledge receipt of such particulars and confirm acceptance of the Match within 48 hours of receipt. The notice required in relation to midweek matches is 24 hours.

In the event of Away Club not receiving confirmation by 9.00 p.m on Tuesday or 48 hours before midweek matches, they should contact their Divisional Fixture Secretary and then contact the Home Club to obtain confirmation. Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine in accordance with Schedule 2 – Fines.

Where circumstances do not allow confirmation by e.mail, Matches may be confirmed by telephone before 9.00 p.m. at least five clear days prior to the playing of the Match, but if a message is left on either an answerphone or with anybody other than the designated Secretary or Fixture Secretary, a subsequent phonecall should be made to confirm the message has been received. All details as required for the MCF must be given when confirming the Match and the Divisional Fixtures Secretary must also be informed

(ii) If there is a League appointed Referee (and Assistant Referees) for the Match these should be confirmed as per Rule 13(a).

(e) In the event of a Club playing in any Match with less than 10 Players they may be fined for each missing Player in accordance with Schedule 2 - Fines. A minimum of 7 Players will constitute a Team for a Competition Match.

(f) (i) 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 from the Match in question 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.

(ii) Any Club with more than one team in the Competition shall always fulfill 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 _____ or otherwise dealt with by the Management Committee.

(This Rule not applicable to Royston Crow Youth Football League).

(iii) Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture must, without delay, give notice to the Divisional Fixtures Secretary, the Competition Referees 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 a fine as set out in Schedule 2 Fines .

(iv) 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 arranged by the Divisional Fixture Secretary.

(v) The Management Committee shall review all matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a 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 Opponent.

In cases where a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams or their Club Member(s), the Management Committee shall rule all points for the match as void. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match.

(vi) The Management Committee shall review any match that has taken place where either or both teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by the Association or Affiliated Association. In each case the team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible players in accordance with Rule 8(O) above. Where both teams were under suspension the game must be declared null and void.

(vii) Notice of Postponement of any Match must be given without delay by the Secretary or Fixture Secretary of 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 Divisional Fixture Secretary, the Referees 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.

The Divisional Fixture Secretary shall acknowledge this action by giving a Reference Number. The postponing Club must send a completed League Postponement Form to the Divisional Fixture Secretary within 72 hours of receiving the Reference Number.

Written confirmation may be requested by the Divisional Fixture Secretary under Rule 5(q) of the circumstances surrounding the request for any Postponement.

The Secretary of the Opposing Club, shall be told the Reference Number and the reason for Postponement from 'a to h' above. The Opposing Club has seven days from receipt of the Reference Number to make comments in writing on the Postponement to the League Divisional Fixture Secretary. Clubs that fail to meet this requirement will have no further right of appeal.

No League or League Cup Match may be postponed or cancelled without the prior agreement of the relevant Divisional Fixture Secretary. Postponements shall be allowed for Clubs having a Player competing in:

- a. International Representative Competitions
- b. County Representative Competitions
- c. League Representative Competitions
- d. County Competitions
- e. Schools trips or events

- f. Approved Outside Cup Competitions
- g. Unplayable pitches
- h. Exceptional circumstances.

All requests for Postponements, for the reasons stated above, shall be treated as a postponement subject to the following clauses:

Requests for Postponements, for reasons other than 'a to g' above shall be treated initially as a Cancellation and a Rule Contravention Form shall be issued for non fulfillment of the fixture under this Rule. Confirmation of the decision that Rule 10(f) has been broken will be made by the Management Committee based upon the evidence submitted.

viii) In the event of a Team failing to appear at a Ground by the appointed Kick Off time without prior notification to their Opponents, the Team in attendance should attempt to contact the Team to ascertain the reason for their non-appearance. They should also notify the Divisional Fixtures Secretary of their Opponent's failure to appear. They should then wait for a minimum period of 30 minutes before leaving unless instructed by the Divisional Fixtures Secretary to leave. Teams failing to appear in this manner will be issued with a Rule Contravention Form for non-fulfilment of fixture.

(g) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use "roll on roll off" substitutions using up to a maximum of five named Substitutes.

For Mini-Soccer and 9v9 – 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 18 Age Group and below, a Player who has been substituted himself becomes a substitute and may replace another Player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

The Referee shall be informed of the Names of the Substitutes not later than ten minutes before the start of the Match.

A Player who has been selected, appointed or named as a Substitute before the start of the Match but does not actually play in the Game shall not be considered to have been a Player in that Game within the meaning of Rule 8 of this Competition.

(h) The Half Time interval shall be of five minutes duration, but it shall not exceed fifteen minutes. The Half Time interval may only be altered with the consent of the Referee.

(i) (i) The Competition shall require all Players and Club Officials to have signed the FA's Respect Codes of Conduct and produce these if so requested by the Management Committee.

Prior to each match the participating Teams and Officials shall conduct the 'Respect' handshake.

The participating Clubs taking part in the fixture shall identify a Team Captain designated with a Captain's armband who has a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his/her team mates. If the participating Players are considered to be too young to take on this role a Member of the Team Coaching Staff should provide this support.

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

Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine in accordance with Schedule 2 – Fines.

(ii) Spectators from both Teams shall stand on one side of the Pitch and all Managers, Coaches and Substitutes shall stand on the opposite side, behind the Respect Barriers.

In addition there must be a 3 metre exclusion zone either side of the Halfway Line that must be kept clear at all times during the match.

Any Club unable to comply with this requirement must notify the League Secretary immediately. Failure to observe this Rule may result in a fine as shown in the Schedule 2 Fines.

(iii) Under no circumstances is a Manager, Coach or Spectator allowed to stand behind the goal, it is the responsibility of the Match Delegate to make sure this does not happen.

(j) Requests for Postponements due to forthcoming School Trips or Events are required in writing, accompanied by the League's Official School Trip Form and evidence from the School, not less than 28 days before the date concerned.

Clubs giving less than 28 days notice shall be issued with a Rule Contravention Form under Rule 5(p).

(k) Requests for postponement due to approved Outside Cup Competitions will be allowed on the dates notified at the start of the Season. Requests for postponement on a different date will be allowed only with the agreement of the Divisional Fixture Secretary.

Postponement or cancellation of a League Cup Match will NOT be allowed, for Clubs to play in an approved Outside Cup Competition with the exception of the Club's Parent Association County Cup Competition.

(l) All correspondence from Clubs referring to fixtures must be issued by the Club Secretary and shall be sent to the Divisional Fixture Secretary of the relevant Age Group, with a copy to League Fixture Secretary.

(m) A Club will be required to play a fixture if notified not later than 9.00 p.m. five days before the fixture is due to be played.

REPORTING RESULTS

11. (a) The League Registration Secretary must receive within three days of the date played, the result of each Competition match in the prescribed manner. For the purposes of this Competition this will be the top copy of the three part Match Result Notification Form. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the Team Players (in block letters) together with the following information.

- (i) Age Group/Division. (ii) Date and Time of Match.
- (iii) Initials and Surnames of all Players available to play. (iv) Player's Registration Number.
- (v) Name of the Referee, and whether qualified or unqualified.
- (vi) Confirmation of sight of Opposition's League Registration Cards.
- (vii) Name of Match Delegate. (viii) Confirmation of use of Designated Spectator Areas.
- (ix) Result of Match. (x) Sporting Award Mark for Players.
- (xi) Adult Behaviour Mark for Team Management & Spectators.
- (xii) Referee's Mark as required under Rule 13.
- (xiii) Confirmation of Players used, including Substitutes.

Failure to do so will incur a fine in accordance with Schedule 2 - Fines and/or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide.

(b) Clubs must notify Results of all Matches, including Postponements as detailed in Appendix (Results). Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a Fine for each Offence and may be further dealt with as the Management Committee may decide.

(c) The Match Result Notification Form correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible Member of the Club and the top copy sent to the League Registration Secretary. Failure to do so will result a fine as detailed in Schedule 2 Fines.

NB. If the fixed penalty exceeds £20 the Club must be charged as detailed in Rule 5(d).

Prior to the start of the Match the Opponent's Copy completed with the information required under Rule 11(a)(i) to (viii) should be given to the Opposition Manager. The Club Copy should be retained for Club Records as required under Rule 8(k). Match Notification Result

Forms MUST still be sent in for all abandoned Matches and the time and reason for the abandonment should be noted in the Comments Box of the Form. 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.

(d) Leagues are permitted to collect but not publish result for fixtures they organise for U7, U8, **U9 and U10** Mini Soccer **and U11**. They may require a Club to confirm that a set fixture has been played. A maximum fine of £5 may be imposed for a breach of this Rule.

(e) Any Club who submits a Sporting Award of '4' or less shall forward to the League Secretary a written explanation within FOUR days of the Match in question being played.. Such reports MUST be submitted on a correctly completed Royston Crow Youth Football League Low Sporting Mark Report Form and be countersigned by the Club Secretary. Any Club in default of this Rule will be fined and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee

(f) Any Club who submits a Adult Behaviour Mark of '4' or less shall forward to the League Secretary a written explanation within FOUR days of the match in question being played. Such reports MUST be submitted on a correctly completed Royston Crow Youth Football League Low Adult Behaviour Mark Report Form and be countersigned by the Club Secretary. Any Club in default of this Rule will be fined and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee

(g) Any Club who submits a Referee's Mark of '50' or less shall forward to the Referees' Secretary a written explanation within FOUR days of the Match in question being played. Such reports MUST be submitted on a correctly completed Royston Crow Youth Football League Referee Low Mark Report Form and be countersigned by the Club Secretary. Any Club in default of this Rule will be fined and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

12. **(a)** (i) 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 Mini Soccer points can only be awarded for Under 9 Competitions onwards.

(ii) In the event of two or more Clubs being equal on points for the Championship in any League Table at the close of the Competition, a deciding or "Play-Off" Match shall be played under the conditions arranged by the Management Committee. All remaining positions in the Table will be determined firstly by points and the goal difference and lastly number of goals scored.

[The only exception to this is in respect of the Runners Up position where if a match has been awarded this position will be decided on the "head to head" results between the Teams. If this still fails to provide an outright Winner, a deciding or "Play-Off" Match shall be played under the conditions arranged by the Management Committee.](#)

(iii) Wherever possible "Play-Off Matches" will be played on either of the last two Sundays in May, and will be played at a neutral Ground with three match Officials appointed by the League.

(iv) The duration of play for "Play-Off Matches" is in accordance with Rule 10 (b) of the League Competition Rules. If the scores are level at the end of normal time a period of extra-time will be played, and will be ten minutes each way in all Age Groups except for the Under 17 and Under 18 sections which will be fifteen minutes each way. If at the end of extra time a result has still not been obtained, then the game will be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark as laid down by the International Football Association (see appendix).

(v) In the event of a Club failing to keep this engagement the Management Committee shall have power to award the Match to their Opponents by the giving of 3 points thus providing an outright Winner for the Division, and deal with the defaulting Club under the provisions of rule 10(f).

(b) Automatic promotion and relegation shall be applied for the first two and last two Teams in each Division. The Management Committee will consider representations made by Member Clubs if they feel they have Teams allocated to the wrong Division within 7 days of receiving the League Constitution, and shall have power to decide or adjust the compilation of the Divisions at their discretion.

(c) In the event of a Club not completing 75% of its fixtures for the Season all points obtained by, or recorded against such defaulting Club, shall be expunged from the League Table.

(d) Where a Club has completed 75% of its fixtures the points for any games un-played may be awarded to the Opponents of the Club in default.

The definition of a “completed” relates to any fixture that having been set, a final outcome has been achieved and no further action is required. This can be either by the obtaining of a result on the field of play or by a decision based on a breach of League or Football Association Rules as decided by the appropriate Governing Bodies.

(e) Matches must not be played for double points. However, the Management Committee may order at its discretion that Matches are played as ‘double headers’. In this case two consecutive Matches are played at the same venue. The length of each Match shall not be less than that stated in rule 10(b). Players are entitled to a break of 15 minutes between the two games. These Matches are to be treated as two entirely separate entities. For each Match three points may be awarded for a win and one for a draw.

The time to be played for each Match in a Double Header is arrived at by adding the normal playing time to the permitted period of extra-time that would be played in a Cup Match for that Age Group. This is then divided half and then divided again into two equal halves.

Therefore Playing times are as follows:-

Under 11 to Under 14 - Two games of 20 minutes each way.

Under 15 & Under 16 - Two games of 25minutes each way

Under 18 - Two games of 30 minutes each way

(f) In the event of a League appointing a Referee to officiate at both matches, the Fee payable will be one and a half times the standard Fee for that Age Group, as set out in Schedule 1 Fees, and this cost will be shared between the competing Clubs.

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).

Except with the permission of the League Referees Secretary, Referees appointed by the League to officiate at any League or League Cup Match may not be withdrawn from the Game by, nor may the Referee be replaced by, either of the Clubs involved. In all cases, details of venues and kick-off times must be confirmed to the appointed Referee not later than five days before the scheduled date of the Match.

If, in the judgement of the Management Committee, a Club or Clubs selects or changes a kick-off time to avoid the use of an appointed Referee or fails to notify details of venues or kick-off times, as required above with the intention of causing the non-appearance of the Referee, the action will be treated as the Club(s) withdrawing or replacing the Referee and the Management Committee will, at its discretion, apply the Fine(s) and such other punishment it thinks appropriate to the breach of this Rule.

Where Clubs have a League appointed Referee, who when contacted is unable to take the appointment due to the Kick Off time given by the Club, it is the Home Club's responsibility to inform the Referees' Secretary of this to enable the Referee to be reallocated to another Match.

Clubs failing to advise Match Details to the appointed Referee by 9.00 p.m no later than five days before the scheduled date of the Game, or as soon as is practical for re-scheduled fixtures shall be fined as per Rule 10(d), and Clubs withdrawing or replacing an appointed

Referee, or causing the non-appearance of an appointed Referee, shall be fined.

In addition to the Fine, the Club in default will also be required to pay the current Referee's fees to the League (whether or not the appointed Referee attends the Game). The League will then pay the Fee to the appointed Referee.

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

If the Home Team is unable to provide a Qualified Referee and their Opponents have a Qualified Referee travelling with them, he/she shall take precedence over any non-qualified Referee, provided that he/she can produce a current Season's Registration Card.

(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 in accordance with Schedule 2 – Fines 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. In the event of the appointed Referee not being available, a local Referee may be called upon to decide as to the fitness of the Ground so as to avoid unnecessary travelling and expenses, subject to the approval of the Referees' Secretary.

(e) Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be entitled to charge a Match Fee in accordance with Schedule 1 - Fees. The Home Club shall pay the Officials their Fees immediately after 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 Full Fee plus Expenses from the Home Club. Where a match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Officials, if they attend the Ground, their Full Fee and Expenses.

(g) A Referee not keeping his engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to his non-appearance, may be reported to the County Football 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

(i) The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the Form provided by the prescribed date each Season, shall submit a summary to Hertfordshire Football Association.

(j) 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 Referees' Secretary within two days of the match

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

(l) Referees and Assistant Referees shall have undertaken a Respect briefing offered by the FA/County FA or the League.

(This Rule not applicable to Royston Crow Youth Football League).

(m) Any Club who gives a Referee a Mark of 50 or less must submit a written report to the League's Referees' Secretary within three days of the date of the match. The Management

Committee will have the power to deal with any Club who they consider have submitted frivolous reports

(n) Each Team must provide a Match Delegate (adult) for every Royston Crow Youth Football League or League Cup Match, who should report to the Match Referee prior to kick-off. Reported failure to provide a Youth Match Delegate will result in a Club being fined in accordance with Schedule 2 - Fines.

(o) Nobody under the age of 18, unless they are a qualified and registered Referee, may officiate at any Royston Crow Youth Football 11-a-side League matches. The only exception to this shall be a "Trainee Referee" supported by his/her Mentor.

(p) The Home Club must provide the Match Referee (qualified or unqualified) with a partly completed Match Report Form (MRF) giving the details of the participating Teams, Competition, Venue and Kick Off time.

At the end of the Match the Referee must complete and sign the MRF and hand the top and blue copy to the Home Club's Representative and the pink copy to the Away Team's Representative.

The Home Club must then send the top copy to the League Registration Secretary within three days of the match having been completed.

Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine in accordance with Schedule 2 – Fines.

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 in accordance with Schedule 2 – Fines.

(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 in accordance with Schedule 2 - Fines and shall also be liable for its share of any call which may be made under Rule 5(d).

(c) The Constitution for the coming Season having been decided at a Special General Meeting held for that purpose not earlier than April 14th nor later than June 30th, the League shall have the right, irrespective of other provisions in this Rule, to refuse to permit a Club to withdraw its Team in order to join another Competition and may hold the Club to its engagements. Any additional Teams put forward by the Clubs after this Meeting would only be accepted in a League subject to availability under Rule 1.

(d) In the event of a Member Club which is an unincorporated 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

(e) Any Team withdrawing from the League after the Annual General Meeting to play in another League shall be fined.

PROTESTS AND APPEALS

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 four 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 an Appeal Fee in accordance with Schedule 1 – Fees. 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 receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.

(i) All parties must have received 7 days' notice of the Hearing should they be instructed to attend.

(ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then they should forward a deposit as indicated in Schedule 1 Fines and indicate such when forwarding the written response.

(f) No Club may be fined or otherwise dealt with for any breach of a Rule until they have first been advised in writing of the charges laid against them, and been allowed a fourteen day period from the date of notification to reply to the charges either by submitting written observations to the Management Committee or requesting a Personal Hearing by the Management Committee. When seeking a Personal Hearing the Club must provide detailed documentary evidence that forms the basis of their request together with the Appeal Fee in accordance with Schedule 1 – Fees. Rule Contravention Forms are to be regarded as fulfilling the requirements of this Rule.

(g) It is expected that all Clubs and Officials understand the Royston Crow Youth Football League Rules. Failure to inform a Royston Crow Youth Football League Official or Match Official at the earlier possible time of contravention of these Rules, may forfeit your right to any subsequent appeal for contravention of this offence.

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 Hertfordshire Football Association, including a fee as determined by the Hertfordshire Football Association, 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 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 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.

(d) Any Club or Team failing to complete 75% of its fixtures in any Season shall (unless the conditions are beyond their control, or the accredited Delegates present at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting decide otherwise by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast) be (de)barred from Membership the following Season.

(e) The Management Committee shall have the power to recommend the exclusion or deal with at their discretion any Member Club or Officials whose conduct has, in their opinion been objectionable after consultation with The Hertfordshire Football Association.

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

18. (a) 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 February. 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.

(b) At the close of each Competition awards may/shall be made to the Winners t under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair.” and Runners-up if the Funds of the Competition permit. The Awards for the League Competitions are applicable to all Divisions.

(c) Cup or Trophy Winners are required to engrave the Cup or Trophy appropriately before return to the Secretary of the League in accordance with the terms of the above paragraph. Failure to comply will result in a fine as determined by the Management Committee as set out in Schedule 2 Fines.

(d) Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be invoiced for any repair, cleaning and engraving costs that are incurred, shall be fined and dealt with as the Management Committee may decide. The Persons signing this document must be over 18 years of age and approved by the Management Committee.

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 seven days notice shall be given of either Meeting under this Rule, together with an Agenda of the business to be transacted at such Meeting.

Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send two Delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only as will Members of the Management Committee

Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall/ may be fined in accordance with Schedule 2 – Fines.

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

- 20.** Alterations, for which consent has been given by the sanctioning Association 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 April 30th in each year. The Proposals, together with any Proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by date of the Special General Meeting and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 31st May. 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 and voting 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 fourteen days prior to the date of the Meeting.

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

FINANCE

- 21. (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 £1000 shall be approved by the Executive 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 1st 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.

INSURANCE

- 22.** All Clubs must have Public Liability Insurance cover of at least £10,000,000.

DISSOLUTION

- 23 (a)** Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a Special General Meeting by a majority of three quarters of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant Special General Meeting.

(b) In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.

(c) The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:

(i) Any surplus assets, save for a Trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or Affiliated Association or The Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the sanctioning Association.

(ii) If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a Trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the Donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the sanctioning Association may decide.

ALL CUP COMPETITION RULES

NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

1. (a) The Competition shall be called the Royston Crow Youth Football League Challenge Cup. Entry is mandatory for all Clubs registered in the League in all Age Groups, and only the League Management Committee has the right to remove a Club from the Competition. No entry forms are requested and entry to the Competition is automatic upon the acceptance of a Club to the League.

(b) Any Club failing in its obligations with regard to this Competition shall be deemed guilty of misconduct.

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

2. (a) As League Competition Rule 8.

(b) (i) Once a Player has actively participated in the Competition within an Age Group, and/or for a Club, then that Player is forbidden to play in the same Competition in another Age Group and/or for another Club, in except where a Club/team has withdrawn from the League after the First Round, or Preliminary Round, and all records have been expunged thereby releasing the Player to play for another Club.

(ii) At Under 10 the League runs two invitation Cup Competitions, the President's Cup and the Calvert Trophy. Teams will be notified of their entry in to either Competition by the Divisional Fixture Secretary. Once a Player has played in one Competition they are automatically cup-tied for the other.

(iii) From time to time the League may chose to run "subsidiary" Cup Competitions at any Age Group. Entry into such Competitions will be by invitation only and Teams will be notified of their entry by the Divisional Fixture Secretary. Player eligibility for such Competitions is determined by the Club they have already played for in any other Cup Competition or in accordance with Rule 2(b)(i).

(c) All Players in Cup Competitions must be registered playing Members of their Club in accordance with League Rule 8. Players must have been registered at least seven (7) days prior to the match and, in the case of the Semi-Final and Final ties, have played in a minimum of three League fixtures (including League Cup) for their Club in that Season

The only exception to this is in Development Leagues where Players are only required to have been registered with their Club for seven (7) days prior to the match.

In the event of the game being abandoned or a postponement being required, only those players eligible at the date of the first game shall be eligible to play.

(d) In the Semi-Final and Final tie the competing Club must notify their Opponents and the Registration Secretary at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the tie with the names, registration numbers and date of births of the Players from which the Team will be selected.

Objections must be received in writing by the League Secretary and the Opposing Club not less than 24 hours before the stipulated time for the tie.

(e) Any Team guilty of playing ineligible Players, as covered in Rules 2(a), (2b) and (2c) will automatically be disqualified from the Competition and will be fined or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the League Management Committee

(f) All actions will be subject to right of appeal in accordance with Rule 15(f) of the League

Rules.

DRAW

3. The ties shall be drawn and the Competition Matches played as the Management Committee may determine, and immediately after each draw the League Fixture Secretary should inform each Club drawn, the name of the Club against which it has been drawn.

MATCH OFFICIALS

4. a) As League Competition Rule 13.

(b) In the Final ties, Referees and Assistant Referees will receive mementoes in lieu of a match fee.

CHOICE OF GROUND

5. Unless otherwise mutually agreed, the Club which is in each instance the first drawn in the ballot shall have the choice of ground.

Clubs shall not mutually arrange to play a match in lieu of a Cup tie. If a match is played to a conclusion, it must be a Cup tie. Postponed and abandoned matches will be rearranged by the League Fixture Secretary.

CLUB COLOURS

6. In the event of two Clubs, in the opinion of the Referee, having the same or similar colours, the home Team shall make the change, except in the Final ties when both Teams will change, each Team to have change colours available.

MATCH RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES

7. In all ties, except the Semi-Finals match, receipts will be retained by the Home Club. In the Final Tie the League shall take all the proceeds.

DURATION OF PLAY

8. The duration of play is according to Rule 10 (b) of the League Competition Rules. If the scores are level at the end of normal time a period of extra-time will be played, and will be five minutes each way for Under 9/10 Mini Soccer, ten minutes each way for Under 11 to Under 16 and fifteen minutes for the Under 17 and Under 18 sections. If at the end of extra time a result has still not been obtained, then the game will be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark as laid down by the International Football Association (see appendix). Except in the Semi-Final and Final ties the duration of the match can be reduced by no more than 10 minutes divided equally between the two halves, subject to agreement of the Referee and Opposing Managers.

RESULT CARDS

9. The Match result should be communicated to the League in accordance with Rule 11 of the League Competition Rules.

PROTESTS

10. In all cases of protest of dispute, Rule 15 of the League Competition Rules will apply.

MATTERS NOT COVERED

11. Matters not covered by these rules arising in connection with the Competition shall be dealt with by the Management Committee who decision shall be final.

All points expressly not covered in these Cup Competition Rules, the League Competition Rules will apply.

APPENDIX

The International Board at its Meeting on 27th June, 1970 accepted a proposal by the Federation Internationale de Football Associations that the practice of drawing lots to determine which two teams in a drawn match should proceed to a later stage of a Knock Out Competition or receive the Trophy (if any) be discontinued and be replaced by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark which shall not be considered part of the match, subject to the following conditions.

1. The Referee shall choose the goal at which the kicks shall be taken.
2. He shall toss a coin, and the team whose Captain wins the toss shall take the first kick.
3. (a) Subject to the terms of the following paragraphs (c) and (d) both teams shall take five kicks.
(b) the kicks should be taken alternatively.
(c) If, before both teams have taken five kicks, one has scored more goals than the other could, even if it were to complete its five kicks, the taking of kicks shall cease.
(d) If, after both teams have taken five kicks, both have scored the same number of goals, or have not scored any goals, the taking of kicks shall continue. In the same order, until such time as both have taken an equal number of kicks (not necessarily five more kicks) and one has scored a goal more than the other.
4. The Team which scores the greater number of goals, whether the number of kicks taken in accordance with the terms of the foregoing paragraph 3(a), 3 (c), or 3(d) shall qualify for the next round of the Competition, or shall be declared the winner of the Competition as the case may be.
5. (a) With the exception referred to the following paragraph (b) only the players on the field of play at the end of the match, which shall mean at the end of extra time in so far as a match in which extra time is authorised is concerned, and any who, having left the field of play temporarily, with or without the Referee's permission, are not on the field of play at that time, shall take part in the taking of the kicks.
(b) Provided that his team has not already made use of the maximum number of substitutes permitted by the rules of the competition under which the match was played, a goalkeeper who sustains an injury during the taking of the kicks and who, because of the injury is unable to continue as goalkeeper may be replaced by a substitute.
6. Each kick shall be taken by a different player and not until all eligible players of any team, including the goalkeeper or the named substitute by whom he was replaced in terms of paragraph (5) as the case may be, have each taken a kick may a player of the same team take another kick.
7. Subject to the terms of paragraph (5) any player who is eligible may change places with his goalkeeper at any time during the taking of the kicks.
8. (a) Other than the player taking the kick from the penalty mark and the two goalkeepers, all players shall remain in the centre circle whilst the taking of kicks is in progress.
(b) The goalkeeper, who is a colleague of the kicker shall take up position within the field of play but outside the penalty area at which the kicks are being taken, behind the line which runs parallel with the goal-line and at least 10 yards from the penalty mark.
9. Unless stated to the contrary in the foregoing paragraphs 1 to 8, the Laws of the Game and

the International Board decisions relating thereto shall, in so far as they can, apply at the taking of the kicks.

NB In the event of light failing before the end of the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, the result shall be decided by the drawing of lots.

SCHEDULE 1 – FEES

<u>RULE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Rule 2 (a) Entry Fees for Teams to The trophyUK.net RCYFL	
Under 7 – Under 9 (Per Team)	£20.00
Under 10 – Under 11/12 (9v9) (Per Team)	£35.00
Under 11 – Under 18 (Per Team)	£40.00
Rule 2(b) Annual Subscription (Per Club)	£20.00
Rule 2(c) Club Deposit.	£10.00.
Rule 8(f) Player Registration Fee	£1.50
Rule 8(k) Transfer of Players Registration Fee	£3.00
Rule 8(w) Deposit regarding objection to a Players Registration Card	£20.00
Rule 13(e) Match Officials Fees	
Referee from under 11s to Under 12s	£20.00
Referee from Under 13s to Under 14s	£25.00
Referee from Under 15s to Under 16s	£30.00
Referee from Under 17s to Under 18s	£35.00
Registered Referees appointed by the Management Committee as Assistant Referees from Under 11 to Under 12s	£10.00
Registered Referees appointed by the Management Committee as Assistant Referees from Under 13s to 14s	£12.00
Registered Referees appointed by the Management Committee as Assistant Referees from Under 15s to 16s	£15.00
Registered Referees appointed by the Management Committee as Assistant Referees from Under 17s to 18s (Subject to any limits laid down by the sanctioning Association(s).)	£18.00
Rule 15(d) Fee for a Personal Hearing	£20.00

Note: All items to be read in conjunction with and subject to League Rules.

SCHEDULE 2 – FINES

<u>RULE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2 (e) Failure to advise County Affiliation Number	£10.00
5 (i) Fines not paid within stated date	£50.00 (max)
5 (o) Non attendance at Special Meetings	£30.00
5 (p) Not attending to business or correspondence of the League	£20.00
6 (h) Non attendance at Annual General Meeting	£50.00
8 (q) (i) Incorrectly completed League Registration.	£50.00 (max)
8 (q) (ii) Failure to return all Registration Cards to the League Registration Secretary by the date of the AGM	£20.00
8 (t) (i) Failure to produce Registration Cards	£25.00
9 (a) Failure to provide change of kit for Home side or delaying kick off as a result	£10.00
10 (b) (vi) Late kick off	£10.00
10 (d) (ii) Failure to confirm match details with Referee, Assistant Referee or Opposing Club	£20.00
10 (e) Failure to provide a full Team (fine for each missing player greater than 7 and less than 10)	£5.00
10 (f) (i) Failure to fulfil fixture	£40.00
10 (f) (iii) Failure to notify inability to fulfil Fixture without delay.	£20.00
10 ((i) Failure to provide a Designated Spectator Area	£20.00
10 ((ii) Failure to provide Exclusion Zone / Spectator separation	£20.00
10 (j) Failure to give due notice of School Trip	£20.00
11 (b) Failure to notify result of League and Outside Competitions	£20.00
11 (c) Failure to provide correctly completed / Late Match Notification Result Form.	£20.00

11 (d)	Submission of Result Sheet for Under 7 & 8T	£5.00 (max)
11 (e)	Failure to submit correctly completed Low Sporting Mark Form	£10.00
11 (f)	Failure to submit correctly completed Low Adult Behaviour Mark Form	£10.00
11 (g)	Failure to submit correctly completed Low Referee's Mark Report Form	£10.00
13 (a)	Causing non appearance of Referee	£50.00
13 (c)	Failure to provide Club Assistant Referee.	£10.00
13 (h)	No Referee's Mark	£10.00
13(l)	Failure to provide an Adult Youth Match Delegate	£10.00
14 (a)	Failure to provide Club Intentions Form, to continue in or withdraw from the League	£10.00
14 (b)	Withdrawing after the Annual General Meeting (AGM)	£50.00
14 (e)	Withdrawing after the AGM to play in another League	£60.00
18 (b)	Trophies not returned by 1 st February	£50.00
18 (c)	Failure to engrave Trophies	£20.00

Note: All items to be read in conjunction with and subject to League Rules

APPENDIX

RESULTS

The procedure for reporting of Results in Royston Crow Youth Football League (RCYFL) as required Under Rule 11(c) to F.A. Full Time is as follows:-

METHOD

Results should be submitted using the Text Message Service available through FA Full Time to text their results directly to the Website on a game by game basis, replying to TXT sent, with “Result home away” or “Result PP” only.

The Form for using this method of reporting Results can be downloaded from Full Time and MUST be e-mailed to full.time@ntlworld.com duly completed for ALL Clubs/Teams by 31st August.

Where circumstances do not allow confirmation by this method on the day of the Match the result should be sent by e-mail to full.time@ntlworld.com.

In order to enable the FA Full Time Administrator to input all Results into FA Full Time, and to allow Players And Managers’ to view them as soon as possible, usually on a Sunday evening, it is essential ALL Results are communicated as soon as possible on Sunday afternoons and at very latest by 6.00pm.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE REPORTED & WHEN?

- 1) RCYFL League and League Cup Results for all Age Groups U10 to U18 inclusive, should be reported by the Home Team **ONLY** before 6.00pm on the Sunday of the Match. Mid-week Results should either be reported on the night of the fixture or the Sunday after the Match has been played.
- 2) Hertfordshire County Cup Matches **MUST** be reported by both the Home and Away Teams and need to be reported 30 minutes earlier before 5.30pm.
- 3) Results should be reported in the following sequence:
 - Competition (League/League Cup/ County Cup U9 to U18)
 - Age Group & Division
(In the case of Cup Competitions Round & Match Number)
 - Home Team Name with goals scored
 - Opponents Team Name with goals scored
 - PP or Postponed or AA or Abandoned.
- 4) Details of ALL Postponed/Abandoned Games must also be reported by the Home Team.
- 5) Details of Postponed/Abandoned County Cup Games must to be reported by both the Home and Away Teams

APPENDIX

FACILITIES

The following to be read in conjunction with Rule 10 (b)(i)

USE OF SYNTHETIC SURFACES

The trophyUK.net RCYFL Matches may be played on synthetic surfaces (3G or similar) subject to the following:

- (i) Each Venue must be inspected by the League before permission is granted to use "The Facility".
- (ii) Only Match Officials, Managers / Coaches / First Aiders and Players, including Substitutes, are allowed inside "The Facility" unless there is sufficient space to allow the use of Designated Spectator Areas to comply with the Respect Programme. If there is not sufficient space all Spectators must stay outside of the perimeter fencing.
- (iii) Away Clubs must be allowed 30 minutes warm up time before the game commences.
- (iv) The Home Club is also responsible for advising participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements in accordance with Rule 10(d).

PITCH MARKINGS & SIZES

The following Pitch sizes are recommended for the following Age Groups;

11-a-Side

Under 11 /12

Minimum Width 42m (45 yds) - Maximum 50.77m (55 yds)

Minimum Length 68.25m (75 yds) - Maximum 82m (90 yds)

Under 13 /14

Minimum Width 45.5m (50 yds) - Maximum 56m (60 yds)

Minimum Length 72.8m (80 yds) - Maximum 91m (100 yds)

Under 15 /16

Minimum Width 45.5m (50 yds) - Maximum 64m (70 yds)

Minimum Length 82.3m (90 yds) - Maximum 100.6m (110 yds)

Under 17 /18

Minimum Width 45.5m (50 yds) - Maximum 90m (100 yds)

Minimum Length 90 m (100 yds) - Maximum 120 m (130 yds)

Goal Size

The following Goal sizes are recommended for the following Age Groups;

Under 11 - 14 21ft wide x 7ft high / 6.4m wide x 2.1m high

or 24ft wide x 7ft high / 7.3m wide x 2.1m high

Under 15 -18 24ft wide x 8ft high / 7.3m wide x 2.4m high

9v9

Under 11s-12s

Minimum width: 36.58m (40 yards) - Maximum width: 45.72m (50 yards)

Minimum length: 64.00m (70 yards) - Maximum length: 73.15m (80 yards)

Goal Size

16ft wide x 7ft high / 4.88m wide x 2.1m high

21ft wide x 7ft high / 6.4m wide x 2.1m high (may be used if in situ)

Mini Soccer

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)

Goal Size

12ft wide x 6ft high / 3.44m wide x 1.80m

N.B. PLEASE NOTE THAT NO TEAM CAN REFUSE TO PLAY A FIXTURE ON PITCHES THAT DO NOT MATCH THESE RECCOMENDATIONS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

www.thefa.com/TheFA/RulesandRegulations/LawsoftheGame

www.thefa.com/GetIntoFootball/Players/MiniSoccer/MiniSoccerTheLawsOfTheGame

APPENDIX

BEST PRACTICE

POSTPONEMENTS DUE TO BAD WEATHER

The League receives complaints every Season from Teams that have been made to travel to games only to find when they arrive that they will not be played, and in many cases never had any chance of being played. This is extremely frustrating at best for those involved and in the majority of cases could have been avoided with a “little bit of thought” by either Team, as on many occasions prevailing weather conditions were well known to everyone in advance.

The two main causes of games not going ahead are a frozen or waterlogged pitch. The League would therefore recommend the following actions to be taken if there is any possibility of bad weather affecting a game being played.

- (1) If following confirmation of the game the weather deteriorates to a point when the game is in doubt, the HOME Team should contact their Opponents at least the day before the game is due to be played, to inform them of the situation. They should find out when their Opponents will be leaving for the game so that arrangements can be made to inspect the pitch and prevent Teams traveling needlessly if the pitch is unplayable. The AWAY Team should provide a contact number to ring to confirm if the game is on or off.
- (2) If not contacted, the AWAY Team should ring their Opponents, at least the day before the game is due to be played, to find out the situation in respect of the game going ahead and what arrangements have been made to inspect the pitch. They should also confirm the time when they will be leaving for the game and provide a contact number for their Opponents to ring to confirm the status of the game. The HOME Team is then responsible for ringing their Opponents back to confirm if the game is to go ahead or not.
- (3) If you have either an appointed or qualified Referee on the game you should contact them, at the latest the day before the game is to be played, to arrange a Pitch Inspection. If in the event of the Game being covered by an unqualified Referee, that Person or an Official of the Club must undertake the inspection. It is essential that all pitch inspections are actually carried out at the Ground and not assumed to be okay to play on purely because there had been another game on the pitch previously. Remember that an unqualified Referee assumes all the powers and duties of a qualified Referee when taking a game.

- (4) In the event of both Teams having gone through the above process and the AWAY Team travelling to the Ground. If in the opinion of ALL parties it is decided the pitch is unplayable both Teams should exchange their Match Result Notification Forms and write in the Comments Box that the game was postponed by mutual agreement.

APPENDIX

Respect

As a Respect League all Royston Crow Youth League (RYCFL) Fixtures will be governed by the proposals laid down in the RESPECT Programme. The League does not intend to list all the requirements contained in The RESPECT Pack that Clubs already have, but would bring to your attention to the following points:

Clubs are required to provide a "Designated Spectator Area" which should be a minimum of 2 metres away from the side of the pitch, or as far away as the venue will allow, behind which everybody watching the Match should stand. This "Respect Barrier" can be provided by the use of a white line, training cones, ropes and stakes or a formal Designated Spectator Barrier as promoted by the Football Association.

Spectators from both Teams shall stand on one side of the Pitch and all Managers, Coaches and Substitutes shall stand on the opposite side, behind the Respect Barriers.

In addition there must be a 3 metre exclusion zone either side of the Halfway Line that must be kept clear at all times during the match.

Any Club unable to comply with these requirements must notify the League Secretary immediately.

Clubs are required to appoint a Match Delegate to all RYCFL matches.
(See Person Specification below as to the Role of the Delegate)

Players, Managers, Coaches, Club Officials, Parents and Spectators are reminded of their responsibilities under The Respect Codes of Conduct as to what is acceptable/unacceptable behaviour at Youth Football Matches. Remember it is your Club that is ultimately responsible for their actions.

Only the Captain may talk to the Referee on the Field of Play. This does not exempt him/her from any action being taken against him/her should he/she infringe the Laws of the Game.

Show your Opponents the same level of Respect that you would expect to receive.

Zero Tolerance Policy

Inappropriate Language and Referee Abuse

The trophyUK.net Royston Crow Youth Football League (hereafter refereed to as The League) acknowledges that every child, young person or adult who plays or participates in football should be able to do so in an enjoyable and safe environment and should be protected from poor practice and all forms of abuse.

Match Officials are just as entitled to enjoy the game as much as Players and Spectators so please do not abuse them in any way.

The League will not tolerate any form of inappropriate language or threatening behaviour from Parents, Guests, Spectators, Visitors, Officials or Club Representatives on match sidelines, particularly that aimed towards Match Officials and participating children.

League Member Clubs reserve the right to ask any individual demonstrating actions deemed to conflict with this policy to move away from the match sidelines and, if necessary, to leave the area.

APPENDIX

MATCH DAY DELEGATE

PERSON SPECIFICATION, DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Royston Crow Youth Football League (RYCFL) requires under Rule 13(i) both Clubs, Home and Away, to nominate a Youth Match Day Delegate for every RYCFL League or League Cup Match.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The Match Delegate should not be the Team Manager, Coach or the Club's Assistant Referee (Linesman) but another responsible Adult who is at the Match.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- (i) Upon arrival at the Ground, the Match Day Delegate (herein after referred to as The Delegate) from the Home Team will ask their Opponents who their Delegate is and make their introductions to each other.
- (ii) Together, they will then report to the Match Referee at least 15 minutes before the start of the game and introduce themselves.
- (iii) It will be the responsibility of the Home Team Delegate to look after the Referee before, during and after the game until he or she leaves the Ground.

This would include meeting and greeting the Referee, showing him/her to the Changing Facilities and directing him/her to the correct Pitch, possibly offering a drink at half-time or after the Match, and making sure the Referee gets paid.

- (iv) During the Match, each Delegate is responsible for the behaviour of all the Club Members and Spectators.
- (v) If the Referee needs to he/she will, during a stoppage in play approach the Delegate to assist him/her in dealing with any problems that occur.

- (vi) Filling in the Match Result Notification Form, producing or signing off of Registration Cards are not specifically included in the Delegates Duties and can be carried out by any Club Official.

APPENDIX

Match Day Behaviour Regulations

The trophyUK.net RCYFL respectfully asks Member Clubs to make their Managers, Coaches, Parents and Spectators aware of the following requirements when watching Matches:

THEY ARE EXPECTED TO

- Stand at least 2 metres away from the side of the pitch or as far as the venue will allow within the “Designated Spectator Area” provided.
Spectators from both Teams shall stand on one side of the Pitch and all Managers, Coaches and Substitutes shall stand on the opposite side, behind the Respect Barriers.
Maintain a 3 metre exclusion zone either side of the Halfway Line that must be kept clear at all times during the match.
- Allow the Coach or Manager only to coach and instruct the Children.
- Give encouragement to all the Children from both Team’s, applaud good play.
- Let the Children Play and enjoy the experience of Learning for themselves.
- Keep their involvement to a minimum.
- Adults should guide and support and give positive comments.
- Enjoy the football match.
- Be realistic about the capability of the Players.
- Show each other the same level of respect that you would expect to receive

THEY SHOULD NOT

- Encroach on the playing area, the Pitch.
- Get involved with coaching the Children.
- Make any derogatory comments at all, to anyone.
- Raise their voice or shout at the Children or the Referee.
- Question the Referees decisions.
- Use any form of foul or abusive language.

- Expect too much from the Children.
- Use a video camera or take photographs of any children, without asking the other Parents and Opposing Team first.
- Bring Dogs onto School Premises, as this is in breach of local Byelaws.

Thanking you for your co-operation.

APPENDIX

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR MINI SOCCER & 9v9

MINI SOCCER

Squad Sizes

The Football Association in the Laws of Mini Soccer allow for a Squad to be double the size of the format who can take part in one game i.e. 10 for 5v5 and 14 for 7v7.

The League's guideline for the required number of Players to be registered to allow a Team to be entered into the League is for a minimum of 1 additional Player over the number of the Format i.e. 6 for 5v5 and 8 for 7v7 and 10 for 9v9.

Clubs will only be allowed to register more than one Team provided that they have sufficient Players to meet the minimum requirements to allow them to do so. For example if a 5v5 Team has 11 Players they will only be allowed to register 1 Team those with 12 will be expected to run 2 Teams. The same principle applies to 7v7 and 9v9 Teams.

Please note whereas the League cannot stop Teams travelling with double sized Squads to play single matches, but these Teams cannot demand that their Opponents play another match so as all their Players get sufficient game time, as Players cannot exceed the mandatory playing times laid down by the FA..

Where Players are "trying out" for a Club, "Temporary Player Registration" for 3 matches can be obtained by e-mailing the League Registration Secretary with the Players Name and Date of Birth. This does not affect the Team's position until the Player signs on a permanent basis.

Players from Under 7 to Under 10 are registered as a Squad. For the purpose of this Rule a Squad shall be deemed represent a maximum of 3 Teams. This allows for the movement of Players between Teams within the Club whether based on the development of the Player or the need to fill Teams with the required number of Players to fulfil a fixture. Where Clubs have more than 3 teams they are asked to separate them into two Groups

However, Players can only play for Teams that compete in the same Division, and play for one Team on the day, and in the case of any Trophy Events will be cup tied for the first Team they play for.

Playing Times

The FA has laid down maximum times that Players within these Age Groups are allowed to play as follows;

*Under 7/8 Maximum Playing Time is 40 Minutes
Maximum time per half – 20 minutes each way - Extra Time tba*

*Under 9/10 Maximum Playing Time is 60 Minutes
Maximum time per half - 25 minutes each way - Extra Time 5 minutes each way*

Note: Matches may be played as 4 equal quarters by agreement between both Teams prior to Kick Off.

In instances where there is a Single Team in a Double Team Division Clubs should agree when confirming the fixture whether to play two Matches, in which case playing time must be reduced, or just one Match for one Team

Development Rules

(a) Equal Numbers

If, the Opposition Team fields fewer than the maximum number of players, Teams will be offered the choice of loaning them one or more Substitutes (if available and willing) or withdrawing one or more of their own Players (or a combination of both choices) to make the number of Players equal on both teams to increase competition, development and enjoyment.

Reason: Stop teams postponing matches when they have Players missing.

(2) Power Play

If, in any match, the goal difference reaches 4 goals, the losing team is offered a Power Play and can either bring on an additional player or ask for the removal of one of the other Team's Players until the end of the game or until the goal difference is reduced to 2 goals.

Reason: Help make matches more competitive.

(3) Blue Cards / Sin Bin

The Match Referee shall have the power to temporarily suspend a Player from the match for any cautionable offences, and they may not be replaced for the following duration, 2 minutes for Under 7-10s.

The Referee can do this by either showing a Blue Card or by verbal instruction to the Player's Manager. Repeated offences will lead to the Player being refused re-entry into the game.

Reason: Help diffuse situations with young Players.

(4) Equal Playing

All Squad Members should receive equal playing time where possible, with a best practice. (Time recommendation of at least 50% per Player for each game).

Reason: Development of Players.

9v9

Squad Sizes

The Football Association in the Laws of Mini Soccer allow for a Squad to be double the size of the format who can take part in one game i.e. 18 for 9 v9.

The League's guideline for the required number of Players to be registered to allow a Team to be entered into the League is for a minimum of 1 additional Player over the number of the Format i.e. 10 for 9v9

Players will be registered as a Squad. For the purpose of this Rule a Squad shall be deemed represent a maximum of 3 Teams. This allows for the movement of Players between Teams within the Club whether based on the development of the Player or the need to fill Teams with the required number of Players to fulfil a fixture. Where Clubs have more than 3 teams they are asked to separate them into two Groups.

However, they can only play for Teams that compete in the same Division, and play for one Team on the day, and in the case of the League Cup will be cup tied for the first Team they play for.

The exception is at Under 12 where Teams are registered separately. However, a Player can play 3 times for another Team in the Club. Once the Player has played for that other Team four times or more, he/she shall not in that Season be eligible to play for the other Team except by permission of the Management Committee.

At this point his Registration Card should be returned to the League Registration Secretary to be altered to his new Team. In the event that the Player has already played in a League Cup Competition for a previous Team, the Registration Card will be marked "Cup-tied" on the reverse.

RESULTS

We hope to have all fixtures for Mini Soccer & 9v9 on FA Full Time for the coming Season. This will allow us to collect the results using the SMS text messaging service but the League tables generated will not be viewable to Clubs, as we are not allowed to publish results in the younger Age Groups, but this information can then be used to make decisions on the placement of Teams during the Season.

In order to achieve this and to collect the necessary data to reassign Teams correctly Teams within Squads must have separate Names, for without this the results cannot be collected through Full Time.

A simple Match Result Form will be provided for each Team to complete. This will include details of the Players used and the number of Players brought by each Team to fulfil a fixture. Thus highlighting serial offenders who regularly turn up with either too many or insufficient Players.

24th June,2015