

Bristol Girls Football League

Affiliated to the
Gloucestershire Football Association
An FA Charter Standard League



League Handbook Season 2021 - 2022 Constitution & Rules

Club Officials should read and
Become Familiar with these rules.

The aim of the
Bristol Girls League
Is to
Provide Friendly, Competitive Football
And overall it is for the "Players enjoyment"

LEAGUE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OFFICERS 2021 / 2022

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***** **Please limit all non-electronic communication to before 21.00 hr** *****

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STANDARD CODE OF RULES FOR MINI SOCCER AND YOUTH FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS

This document contains the Standard Code of Rules developed by The Football Association for Mini Soccer and Youth Football Competitions (the "Standard Code").

The Standard Code is mandatory for all Mini Soccer and Youth Football Competitions.

Competitions seeking sanction must draft their Rules in conformity with the Standard Code, using the same numbering and standard headings.

The mandatory rules are printed in normal text and the optional rules in italics.

It should be noted that in many cases rules are so printed because they are alternatives and the procedure to apply should be retained and the others omitted.

In all cases where a [] is shown the necessary name, address, number or wording to complete that rule must be inserted.

Competitions may add to the core of the Standard Code, which is mandatory, providing the additions are approved by the Sanctioning Authority and do not conflict with the mandatory rules or any relevant principles and policies established by The FA. Guidance from the Sanctioning Authority should be sought in advance if there is any doubt as to the acceptability of additional rules.

Please note that from the 2021/22 season all players must be registered through PRS.

DEFINITIONS

1. (A) In these Rules:

"Affiliated Association" means an Association accorded the status of an Affiliated Association under the rules of The FA.

"AGM" shall mean the annual general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

"Club" means a club for the time being in membership of the Competition.

"Competition" means the Bristol Girls Football League, (BGFL).

"Competition Match" means any match played or to be played under the jurisdiction of the Competition.

"Contract Player" means any Player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play under a written contract of employment with a Club.

"Deposit" means a sum of money deposited with the Competition as part of the requirements of membership of the Competition.

"Fees Tariff" means a list of fees approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any matters for which fees are payable under the Rules, as set out at Schedule A.

"Fines Tariff" means a list of fines approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any breach of the Rules, as set out at Schedule A.

"Ground" means the ground on which the Club's Team(s) plays its Competition Matches.

"Management Committee" means in the case of a Competition which is an unincorporated association, the management committee elected to manage the running of the Competition and where the Competition is incorporated it means the Board of Directors appointed in accordance with the articles of association of that company.

"Match Officials" means the referee, the assistant referees and any fourth official appointed to a Competition Match.

"Mini Soccer" means those participating at ages under 7s to under 10s.

"Non Contract Player" means any Player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play for a Club but has not entered into a written contract of employment.

"Officer" means an individual who is appointed or elected to a position in a Club or Competition which requires that individual to make day to day decisions.

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

"Player" means any Contract Player, Non Contract Player or other player who plays or who is eligible to play for a Club.

"Player Registration System" means The FA system to register players as determined by The FA from time to time.

"Playing Season" means the period between the date on which the first competitive fixture in the Competition is played each year until the date on which the last competitive fixture in the Competition is played.

"Rules" means these rules under which the Competition is administered.

"Sanctioning Authority" means [The FA] [the Gloucestershire County Football Association Limited].

"Scholarship" means a Scholarship as set out in Rule C 3 (a) (i) of the rules of The FA.

"Season" means the period of time between an AGM and the subsequent AGM.

"Secretary" means such person or persons appointed or elected to carry out the administration of the Competition.

"SGM" means a special general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

"Team" means a team affiliated to a Club, including where a Club provides more than one team in the Competition in accordance with the Rules.

"The FA" means The Football Association Limited.

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

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

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

GOVERNANCE RULES

COMPETITION NAME AND CONSTITUTION

2.

- (A) The Competition will be known as **Bristol Girls Football League, BGFL**. The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A Club which ceases to exist or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall thereupon automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.
- (B) This Competition shall consist of not more than 60 Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority.
- (C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be a 50 mile Radius of the GFA HQ in Almondsbury.
- (D) The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Competition acting (save where otherwise specifically mentioned herein) through the Management Committee in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of The FA.
- (E) All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a member of the Competition to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee in relation thereto, subject to the provisions of Rule 7.
- (F) The Rules are taken from the Standard Code of Rules for Youth Competitions (the "Standard Code") determined by The FA from time to time. In the event of any omissions from the Standard Code then the requirements of the Standard Code shall be deemed to apply to the Competition.
- (G) All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority and must have a constitution approved by the Sanctioning Authority. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Sanctioning Authority and the constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped in divisions, *each not exceeding 16 in number*.

- (H) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination
 - (i) The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (to include those contained in the Equality Act 2010).
 - (ii) This Competition and each Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise.
 - (iii) Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.
- (I) Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including, but not limited to, Charter Standard and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (J) All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The FA from time to time.
- (K) Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing at a particular age group in the Competition in any other competition (with the exception of FA and County FA Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (L) At the AGM or a SGM called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the constitution of the divisions at their discretion. When necessary this Rule shall take precedence over Rule 22.

CLUB NAME

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

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

- 4. (A) Applications by Clubs for admission to the Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same Club must be made in writing to the Secretary and must be accompanied by an entry fee per Team as set out in the Fees Tariff, which shall be returned in the event of non-election.
At the discretion of the voting members present applications, of which due notice has been given, may be received at the AGM or a SGM or on a date agreed by the Management Committee.
- (B) The annual subscription shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Club/Team (*where a Club has more than one Team in membership of the Competition*) and shall be payable on or before 1st July in each year.
- (C) A Deposit of £20.00 shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Club/Team (*where a Club provides more than one Team in membership of the Competition*) and shall be payable on or before 1st July in each year. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the entry fee, annual subscription and Deposit (if required) have been paid.
- (E) If requested by the Competition, Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 1st August of its Sanctioning Authority affiliation number for the forthcoming Playing Season. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, its Officers and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (F) *An all-female team can apply to the Competition to play an age group down in a mixed gender competition, subject to rule 8A(iii)&(iv) and provided the team has obtained approval from its Sanctioning Authority.*

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

5. (A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and members who shall all be elected at the AGM.
- (B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination provided that the Officer notifies the Secretary in writing not later than 2 weeks before the AGM in each year.
- All other candidates for election as Officers of the Competition or members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the secretaries of two Clubs, not later than 2 weeks before in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the AGM.
- (C) The Management Committee shall meet as and when required, save that no more than three calendar months shall pass between each meeting.
- On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Management Committee.
- (D) Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.
- (E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Officers and sent to the Secretary.
- Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (F) All Clubs must send representation to the Managers meetings that are held in Sept, Dec and Feb / Mar of the playing season. Failure to attend or provide suitable apologies will result in a fine of £ 10.00.**

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

6. (A) The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all sub-committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of The FA or Affiliated Association.
- (B) Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each Season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any club which may have withdrawn during the Season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the Season.
- (C) Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee meetings and have one vote thereat, but no member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such member or to the Club so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest. (This shall also apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).
- In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman of the Management Committee shall have a second or casting vote.
- (D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition. Any action by the Competition must be taken within 28 days of the Competition being notified.
- With the exception of Rules 6(I), 8(H) and 9, for all alleged breaches of a Rule the Management Committee shall issue a formal written charge to the Club concerned. The Club charged shall be given 7 days from the date of notification of the charge to reply. In such reply a Club may:-
- (i) Accept the charge and submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
 - (ii) Accept the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or
 - (iii) Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
 - (iv) Deny the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case at a hearing before the Management Committee.
- Where the Club charged fails to respond within 7 days, the Management Committee shall determine the charge in such manner and upon such evidence as it considers appropriate.
- Where required, hearings shall take place as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of the reply of the Club as more fully set out above.
- Having considered the reply of the Club (whether in writing or at a hearing), the Management Committee shall make its decision and, in the event that the charge is accepted or proven, decide on the appropriate penalty (with reference to the Fines Tariff where applicable).
- The maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £100 and, when setting any fine, the Management Committee must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.
- No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.
- All breaches of the Laws of the Game or the Rules and Regulations of The FA shall be dealt with in accordance with FA Rules by the appropriate Association.
- (E) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7.
- Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 7 days.
- (F) Four (4) of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any sub-committee thereof.
- (G) The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill, in an acting capacity, any vacancies that may occur amongst their number.
- (H) A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee, and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (I) Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision.
- Any Club failing to do so will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.
- (J) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or Competition Match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.
- (K) The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the AGM or SGM called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Playing Season.
- (L) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

7. (A) (i) All questions of eligibility, qualification of Players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee.
- (ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the Competition Match.
- (B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within 7 days (excluding Sundays) of the Competition Match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.
- (C) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the inquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.
- (D) All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.
- (i) All parties must have received 7 days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.
- (ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should forward a deposit of £ 25.00 and indicate such when forwarding the written response.
- (E) The Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Management Committee shall direct.
- (F) Any appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of the posting of the written notification of the decision causing the appeal, accompanied by a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff), which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. A copy of the appeal must also be sent to the Secretary. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority, in such respect the Sanctioning Authority may (but is not obliged to):
- (i) invite submissions by the parties involved; or
- (ii) convene a hearing to hear the appeal; or
- (iii) permit new evidence; or
- (iv) impose deadlines as are appropriate.
- Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee.
- (G) No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8. (A) The AGM shall be held not later than **30th June** in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least 3 members are present and entitled to vote:-
- (i) To receive and confirm the minutes of the preceding AGM.
- (ii) To receive and adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts.
- (iii) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
- (iv) Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Season.
- (v) Election of Officers of the Competition and the Management Committee members.
- (vi) Appointment of auditors.
- (vii) Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14).
- (viii) Fix the date for the commencement of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.
- (ix) Fix the date for the end of the Playing Season.
- (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an AGM.
- (B) A copy of the duly *audited/verified* balance sheet, statement of accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 14 days prior to the meeting together with any proposed Rule changes.
- (C) A signed copy of the duly *audited/verified* balance sheet and statement of accounts shall be sent to the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of its adoption by the AGM.
- (D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. 14 days' notice shall be given of any AGM.
- (E) Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the Playing Season being concluded or who are not continuing membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the Season being concluded. *This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 12.*
- (F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.
- (G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Club.
- (H) Any continuing Club must be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (I) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM.
- (J) Where a Competition is an incorporated entity, the Officers of the Competition shall ensure that the Articles of Association of the Competition are consistent with the requirements of these Rules.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

9. Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call a SGM. The Management Committee may call a SGM at any time.
- At least seven (7) days' notice shall be given of a meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.
- Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.
- Any Club failing to be represented at a SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs.

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

10. Each Club shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the Competition together with the application for membership for the coming Season, or upon indicating that the Club intends to compete.
- "We, (A), (name) [] of (address) [] (Chairman)/Director and (B) (name) [] of (address) [] (Secretary/Director) of [] Football Club (Limited) have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the BGFL Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, if elected or accepted into membership, to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7."
- The agreement shall be signed by:
- (i) Where a Club is an unincorporated association, the Club chairman and secretary; or
 - (ii) Where a Club is an incorporated entity, two directors of the Club.
- Any alteration of the chairman and /or secretary of the Club on the above agreement must be notified to the [] County Football Association(s) to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary.
- Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

11. (A) N/A
- (B) The Management Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a Team being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season, including but not limited to, issuing a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (C) Notwithstanding the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 6(I), in the event of a Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50, the Management Committee shall be empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.

EXCLUSION OF CLUBS OR TEAM. MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

12. (A) At the AGM or SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, notice of motion having been duly circulated on the agenda by direction of the Management Committee, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to: (i) remove a member of the Management Committee from office, (ii) exclude any Club or Team from membership, both of which must be supported by more than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A member of the Management Committee or Club which is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.
- (B) At the AGM, or at a SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club or Team whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by more than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.
- (C) Any Officer or member of a Club proved guilty of either a breach of Rule, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a Player or Players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of clauses (A) and/or (B) of this Rule.

TROPHY

13. (A) The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the cup or trophy:-
- "We A [name] and B [name], the Chairman and Secretary of [] FC (Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of [] cup or trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the cup or trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before []. If the cup or trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair."
- Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (B) At the close of each Competition awards may/shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

ALTERATION TO RULES

14. Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at a SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. Any alteration made during the Playing Season to these Rules shall not take effect until the following Playing Season.
- Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary 2 weeks before the AGM each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 2 weeks before the AGM and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by the AGM. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried a majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting are in favour.
- A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or SGM shall be submitted to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA (as applicable)

at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

FINANCE

15. (A) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.
- (B) All expenditure in excess of £200.00 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.
- (C) The financial year of the Competition will end on 31st May.
- (D) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be *audited/verified* annually by a suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

INSURANCE

16. (A) All Clubs must have valid public liability insurance cover of at least ten million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.
- (B) All Clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Players' personal accident insurance cover must be in place prior to the Club taking part in any Competition Match and shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time to time by the Sanctioning Authority. In instances where The FA is the Sanctioning Authority, the minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which a Club affiliates.
- Failure to comply with Rule 16(A) or 16(B) will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

DISSOLUTION

17. (A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a SGM by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant SGM.
- (B) In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.
- (C) The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:
- (i) Any surplus assets, save for a trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or 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 Authority.
 - (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 Authority may decide.

MATCH RELATED RULES

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

18. (A) (i) A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:-

1. *Registered through the FA Player Registration Systems and received approval from the Competition.*
2. *Manual / hard copy applications are not accept by the Competition.*

Any registration that is not fully and correctly completed will be returned to the Club unprocessed and the player classed as unregistered. If a Club attempts to register a player via the Player Registration System but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via the Player Registration System, the registration will not be processed.

For Clubs registering Players under Rule 18 (A) 2 registration forms will be provided in a format to be determined by the Competition. For Clubs registering Players via the Player Registration System Clubs must access the Player Registration System in order to complete the registration process. The registration document must incorporate a current passport-size photograph of the Player seeking registration together with confirmation that the Player's proof of date of birth has been checked by the Club and is accurate.

Photographs must be updated every two years.

New registrations must be received by the BGFL in the PRS before 17.00 hr on Thursday to ensure players are eligible for a Sunday.

The club must then Print a new Squad sheet for the next match with the new player/s added.

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

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

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

(ii) A Player registered with a Premier League or English Football League Academy under the Elite Player Performance Plan contained within Youth Development Rules will not be permitted to play in this Competition. Details of the Youth Development Rules are published on The FA website. A Player registered with a FA Girls' Regional Talent Club may play in this Competition subject to the FA Programme for Excellence (Female) Regulations.

Players training with the Centre of Excellence can continue to play in the competition, but will not be allowed if they sign on for the COE. Any player who trains with the COE for more than 6 weeks or takes part in more than FOUR COE matches, will be deemed as being a COE player.

(iii) Each Team must have the following number of Players registered 7 days before the start of each Playing Season:

FORMAT	MINIMUM NUMBER
5v5	5
7v7	7
9v9	9
11v11	11

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

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

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

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

The age groups that children are eligible to play in are set out in the table below, *subject to Rule 4(F)*, along with the permitted football formats for each of those age groups. 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:

The following table shows the standard FA details; the BGFL will play matches based on the following team sizes for each age group, playing pitches / ball sizes will be as per the table below for that particular format;

BGFL Format.		
Under	8's	5 v 5
Under	9's / 10's / 11's	7 v 7
Under	12's / 13's	9 v 9
Under	14's / 15's / 16's	11 v 11

Age on 31 August of the relevant Playing Season	Eligible Age Groups For BGFL	Maximum Permitted Format. See Above	Minimum Pitch		Maximum Pitch Sizes		Recommended Goal Sizes in feet	Ball Size
			Yards	Metres	Yards	Metres		
6	Under 7	5v5	30 x	27.45 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12 x 6	3
			30 x	27.45 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12 x 6	
7	Under 8	5v5	30 x	27.45 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12 x 6	3
	Under 9	7v7	50 x	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	
8	Under 9	7v7	50 x	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
	Under 10		50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
9	Under 10	7v7	50 x	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
	Under 11	9v9	70 x	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	
10	Under 11	9v9	70 x	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
	Under 12		70 x	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	
11	Under 12	9v9	70 x	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
	Under 13	11v11	90 x	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	
12	Under 13	11v11	90 x	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	4
	Under 14		90 x	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	
13	Under 14	11v11	90 x	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	4
	Under 15		90 x	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	5
14	Under 15	11v11	90 x	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	5
	Under 16		90 x	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	
15	Under 16	11v11	90 x	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	5
	Under 17		100 x	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	
	Under 18		100 x	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	
16	Under 17	11v11	100 x	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5
	Under 18		100 x	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	
	Open Age		100 x	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	

(D) A fee of £ 5.00 as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered after the 30th August and before the 30th Sept. There is no charge for registrations processed through the PRS received before 30th Aug or after 30th Sept.

(E) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes taking into account the following.

- (i) A Player shall not be permitted to register for more than one **Team** subject to the exceptions set out in Rule 18 (E)(iii) below.
- (ii) In the event of a Player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one **Team** priority of registration shall decide for which **Team** the Player shall be registered. The Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the Player of the fact of the previous registration subject to the exceptions set out in Rule 18 (E)(iii) below.
- (iii) A Player is only permitted to register for one BGFL Team.

(F) It shall be a breach of these Rules for a Player to:-

- (i) Play for more than one Team in the same age group in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.
- (ii) Having registered for one Team in the Competition, register for another Team in the Competition in that Playing Season, except if the provisions set out in Rule 18 (E)(iii) apply.
- (iii) Submit a signed registration form or submit a registration through *the Player Registration System* for registration that the Player had willfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

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

(G) (i) The Management Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rule 18(G)(ii) and (iii) below.

(ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player, the exercise of such power being without prejudice to the Management Committee's ability to fine a Club at its discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) that has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 7).

(iii) The Management Committee shall have the power to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 7) subject to the right of appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. Where the Management Committee does not have enough information to enable it to make a decision pursuant to the above power, it may apply, in its absolute discretion, to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA for further information.

Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition.

(iv) For a Player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18(G)(iii) but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the Player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition would be empowered to consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

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

- (H) Subject to compliance with FA Rule C2(a) when a Club wishes to register a player who is already registered with another club it shall submit a transfer form (in a format as determined by the Competition) to the Competition accompanied by a fee as set out in the Fees Tariff. Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to the club for which the player is registered. Should this Club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the player concerned within 3 days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within 3 days, the Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or 7 days after receipt of such transfer.

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

Furthermore, 28 days must elapse between notices of approach for players between the same clubs.

- (I) **A Player may not be registered for a Club after 31st March or transferred to another Club in the Competition after 28th February**, except by special permission of the Management Committee.
- (J) A Club shall keep a list of the Players (**inc FAN Numbers**) it registers and a record of all matches in which those Players have played for the Club, and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee.
- In the event a Club has more than one Team in an age group, each Team must be clearly identifiable but not designated 'A' or 'B' or 1st or 2nd. In such cases, Players will be registered for one Team only. A Player so registered will **not** be allowed to play for his Club in a younger or older age group within the provisions of Rule 18(C).
- (K) A register containing the names of all Players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the (*Registrations*) Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of an Officer of the Club at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.
- In the event of a Non Contract Player changing 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 Non Contract Player will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 18(B)(i).
- (L) A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding Competition Match (as specified in Rule 22(A)) unless the Player has played 2 Competition Matches for that Team in the current Playing Season.
- (M) N / A.

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

- (N) (i) Subject to Rule 18(N)(ii), any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a Competition Match or Matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that Competition Match deducted from its record, up to a maximum of 12 points, and have levied upon it a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (ii) The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18(N)(i) only in circumstances where the ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate or where the ineligibility is related to the Player's status.
- (iii) Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 18(N)(i) above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion:
- (a) Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed; or
- (b) Levy penalty points against the Club in default; or
- (c) Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).

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

- (O) (i) Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (ii) The availability of children must be cleared with their head teacher (except for Sunday league competitions).
- (iii) A child under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31 August in the relevant Playing Season, shall not be permitted to play in a Competition Match during that Playing Season where any other Player is older or younger than that child by two years or more.

CLUB COLOURS

19. Every *Team* must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 1st July who shall decide as to their suitability.

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

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

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

Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents the colours in which they will play (including the colours of the goalkeeper jersey) at least 5 days before the competition Match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the *away/ home* Team shall make the change. Should a Team delay the scheduled time of kick-off for a Competition Match by not having a change of colours they will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

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

20. (A) All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board or, for Mini-Soccer, and 9v9 football, the Rules as set down by The FA.

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

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

Football Turf Pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition provided they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA's Register of Football Turf Pitches. All Football Turf Pitches used must be tested (by a FIFA accredited test institute) every three years and the results passed to The FA. The FA will give a decision on the suitability for use and add the pitch to the Register.

The home Club is also responsible for advising Participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements in accordance with Rule 20(C).

All teams must have their registration ID available at all matches. No player is allowed to take part in the match without her identity being checked. All Managers are asked to arrange a line-up of all players at the beginning of a match, identifying which players shall take part in the match. Managers will have to complete the results report stating that this has taken place. The Management Committee will apply a £10 fine and shall deal with any Club failing to comply.

The Team Managers are to ensure that they have printed off a team sheet listing all of their registered players and their photographs. If changes are made to the squad during the season it is the Managers responsibility to ensure that this document is updated.

All Competition Matches shall have a duration as set out below unless a shorter time is mutually arranged by the two Clubs in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the Competition Match, and in any event shall be of equal halves.

Competition Matches should be played in accordance with the Laws appropriate to the relevant age group, as laid down by The FA, as detailed below.

Age Group	<u>Minimum Duration of play per quarter (minutes)</u> <u>(Mini-Soccer only)</u>	<u>Maximum Duration of play per quarter (minutes)</u> <u>(Mini-Soccer only)</u>	Minimum duration of play per half (minutes)	Maximum duration of play per half (minutes)	Maximum playing time in one day in all organised development fixtures (minutes)	Maximum playing time in one day in all tournaments and trophy events/festivals (minutes)	Competition structure
Under 7 and Under 8	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	10	20	40	60	Development focused with a maximum of 3 trophy events per
Under 9 and Under 10	<u>10</u>	<u>12.5</u>	20	25	60	90	Development focused with a maximum of 3 trophy events per
Under 11	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	20	30	80	120	Development focused with a maximum of 3 trophy events per
Under 12	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	20	30	80 (if applicable)	120	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 13 and Under 14	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	25	35	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table

Under 15 and Under 16	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	25	40	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 17 and Under 18	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	25	45	120	180	Any varieties including one season long league table

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

For trophy events, the Competition may award mementos.

Fixtures will always be arranged for Sunday. If the original fixture is postponed, with the agreement of both teams, the match can be played on a day other than Sunday. U8 Matches only can be arranged for Saturday or Sunday.

Fixtures will be arranged to include the last Sunday of School Holidays (based on the Bristol School dates). Fixtures will be set for Remembrance Sunday and Mothers Day.

The times of kick-off can be arranged between Team Managers to a mutually agreeable time. We recommend between 10.00 am and no later than 2.00 pm. If a mutual agreement between the Managers of both Teams cannot be reached by default the game must be played as per the Home Team's Pitch availability or a Management Committee decision will be made. Where possible please consider the travelling time of your opponents when planning kick-off times. The Full Time system will default to a KO time of 09.00.

The Secretary/Manager of the home Club must give notice in writing or telephone of the full particulars of the location, access to and kick-off time of the match. This is to be advised to the Secretary/Manager of the opposing Club at least five (5) clear days prior to the playing of the match, or before 21.00 hr on the Tuesday before a Sunday fixture. The away Club shall seek and acknowledge receipt of these details.

The Team Managers are to exchange their Clubs 'Covid-19 Risk Assessments' and communicate any specific limitations or requirement that may be specific to their Club. The two Team Managers will be required to provide the contact details (phone number and full name) for all those who attended each match, should this information be needed by NHS Track and Trace.

All Matches to be played under current Government, FA and County FA Covid-19 Guidance.

Referees must order Competition Matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition.

The home Team must provide goal nets, corner flags and at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

A First Aid Kit must be present at all Football matches. The Management Committee will inflict a £ 10.00 fine and shall deal with any Club failing to comply.

- (B) Except by permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. **If a Team is taking part in an FA County Association Cup Competition that is NOT run but their parent County FA, this match will be deemed as being secondary to the BGFL fixture and the League fixture will take priority. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a Competition Match with the consent of the (Fixtures) Secretary.** Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

- (C) An Officer of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the Ground and time of kick-off to the Match Officials and an Officer of the opposing Club at least 5 clear days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. If not so provided, the away Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (D) The minimum number of Players that will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is as follows:

FORMAT	MINIMUM NUMBER
5v5	4
7v7	5
9v9	6
11v11	7

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

If players are unavailable due to organised school events, please try and bring the fixture forward, if this is not possible please send a copy of the relevant school letter and a list of the players concerned to the Fixtures Secretary not less than two weeks before the fixture date. Consideration will then be given to whether a postponement is allowed.

The only valid reasons for postponement are Cup Competitions and adverse weather conditions.

Shortage of players is not a valid reason for Postponement and the game must be forfeited. The opposing team will be awarded 3 points and the postponing team will be fined £ 10.00, subsequently increasing by £ 10.00 for each successive cancellation, ie £ 10.00 the first instance then £ 20.00, £ 30.00 etc. This fine will be applied at the discretion of the Management Committee. Teams who are struggling to fulfil their fixtures should contact the Management Committee as soon as possible.

The postponing club must give notice of the postponement of any match without delay ensuring that the opposing team have confirmed advise of the cancellation. The Club must give such notice two (2) days prior to the match to the Fixtures Secretary and the Secretary of the opposing Club.

In the event of the home team having to cancel the match due to their pitch being unfit to play on, the fixture should be switched to the Away teams pitch or a natural venue, if available. All costs will remain that of the original hosts. If a pitch inspection needs to be undertaken on match day, please consider the travelling time of your opponents to avoid wasted journeys.

It is the responsibility of both Team Managers to ensure that the postponed fixture is re-arranged and the BGFL Fixtures Secretary advised with 14 days of the new agreed fixture date. Failure to comply will result in a fine for both teams of £ 10.00. If it is not possible to make this re-arrangement within this period the Managers must ensure they have contacted the BGFL Fixtures Secretary before the 14 days period to advise of the issue and avoid the fine.

The Mercy Law may be applied where one sided matches are abandoned when one team has a lead of over 10 goals. It is at the discretion of the Managers as to whether an alternative format can then be agreed to get the players participating on a more equal level for the remained of the match time.

It is recommended that when it is anticipated that a match may be one-sided that the Managers agree a possible course of action before the match to ensure the best and fairest experience for all players on the day.

- (E) (i) In competitions where points are awarded (**U12 to U18**), home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have the power to impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff), deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the Competition Match in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals. Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a Competition Match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent's Ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.
- (ii) Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a Competition Match has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the (Fixtures) Secretary, the Competition Referees Appointments Secretary, the secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials.
- (iii) In the event of a Competition Match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the (Fixtures) Secretary within 14 days the Management Committee shall have the power to order the Competition Match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and the Clubs involved agree, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (iv) The Management Committee shall review all Competition Matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a Competition Match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Team or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the Competition Match to the opponent. In cases where a Competition Match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule that neither Team will be awarded any points for that Competition Match and it shall not be replayed. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned Competition Match.
- (v) The Management Committee shall review any Competition Match that has taken place where either or both Teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by The FA or Affiliated Association. In each case the Team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible players in accordance with Rule 18(N)(i) above. Where both Teams were under suspension the Competition Match must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.
- (F) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use substitute Players in any Competition Match.

The Competition allows return substitutes:

For Under 12s - Under 18s – a Club may use up to 5 from 5 substitute Players. A Player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace any Player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

For Mini-Soccer – a Club may use up to 5 from 5 substitute Players with permission of the referee. Entry onto the field of play will only be allowed during a stoppage in play. A Player who has been replaced may return to play as a substitute for another Player. A Team must not have a match day squad greater than double the size of its team in an age group.

In Youth Football only, the referee shall be informed of the names of the substitute Players not later than 5 minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a Player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match.

A Player who has named as a substitute before the start of that Competition Match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a Player in that Competition Match within the meaning of Rule 18 of this Competition.

A team must not have a squad of players, greater than double the size of its team in an age group.

For U9's to U11's only, the Maximum Squad size will be 14.

5 v 5 and 7 v 7 Games will be played as per the Current FA rules of Mini Soccer.

These rules can be down loaded from the FA Website.

Goal kicks - Mini Soccer

- **The ball can be kicked from the ground anywhere within the Penalty Area**
- **The retreat rule must be used in all Mini Soccer 5 v 5 and 7 v 7 matches**
- **If the ball is in play it can be kicked out of hand by the Goalkeeper**
- **Back passes are not allowed**

9 v 9 and 11 v 11 Games will be played as per the Current International Football Association Board rules.

FA Respect Barriers, or similar should be used to keep supporters a reasonable distance from the pitch. Managers and Substitutes should, where possible be on the opposite side of the pitch to the supporters

As good practice it is expected that all match day squad players are given equal playing time.

- (G) The half time interval shall be of 10 minutes' duration, but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.
- (H) The Teams taking part in Under 8s to Under 11 or Youth Football shall identify a Team captain who *may* wear an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of her teammates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (I)

REPORTING RESULTS

- 21. (A) The Results/Fixtures Secretary must receive by 21.00 hr Tuesday evening, the result of each Competition Match in the prescribed manner, being the FA Full-Time system. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the Team Players and also the referee markings required by Rule 23, plus any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Both Teams shall respond to the FA Full-Time SMS message with the result of each Competition Match to the day by 20.00 hr. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (B) NA.
- (C) The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect but NOT publish results or any grading tables for fixtures involving Under 8s, Under 9s, Under 10s, and Under 11s. Any Competition failing to abide by this Rule will be dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and any Club failing to abide by this Rule will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect and publish results for trophy events.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

- 22. (A) In Competitions where points are awarded, Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn Competition Match. The Teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the end of the Playing Season shall be adjudged the winners. Competition Matches must not be played for double points. **Goal Difference or Goals Scored will not be used for the League Tables.**
In the event of the Winners or Runners up of a competition being level on points at the end of the season, the position will be decided by a play-off. The Play-off will be played at a mutually agreed venue and where required, officials will be supplied by the Competition. If there are more than two teams level, assuming that home and away fixtures have been played, the Management Committee will use these results to decide the position and who will participate in the Play-off Final.
- (B) N / A
- (C) N / A
- (D) In the event of a Team withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the Playing Season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting Team shall be expunged from the Competition table. For the purposes of this Rule 22 (D) a completed fixture shall include any Competition Match(s) which has been awarded by the Management Committee.

MATCH OFFICIALS

- 23. (A) Registered referees (and assistant referees where approved by The FA or County FA) for all Competition Matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Authority.
If one has been issued the Referee is to show both Managers their FA Photo Registration card before Kick Off.
A Manager of a participating team is not allowed to act as Referee of that match.
- (B) In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that Competition Match, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any open age competition and individuals under the age of 14 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any Competition Match. Referees between the ages of 14 and 16 are only eligible to officiate in competitions where the Players' age band is at least one year younger than the age of the referee, for example a 15 year old referee may only officiate in competitions where the age banding is 14 or younger.
- (C) Where assistant referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club assistant referee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in

accordance with the Fines Tariff) being imposed on the defaulting Club.

- (D) The appointed referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground in all c o m p e t i t i o n Matches and that decision shall be final, *subject to the determination of the Local Authority or the owners of a Ground, which must be accepted.*
- (E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Authority, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff and travel expenses of £0.35 per mile / or inclusive of travel expenses.
- Match Officials will be paid their fees and/or expenses by the home Club before/immediately after the Competition Match, unless otherwise ordered by the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (F) In the event of a Competition Match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to *full fee plus expenses/half fee plus expenses/expenses only.* Where a Competition Match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Ground, their full fee and expenses. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (G) A referee not keeping his or her engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Affiliated Association with which he or she is registered.
- (H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The FA, award marks to the referee for each Competition Match and the name of the referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.
- (I) The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided by the prescribed date each Season, shall submit a summary to The FA/County FA.
- (J) N / A.
- (K) Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.
- (L) Match Officials shall have undertaken a RESPECT briefing offered by The FA/County FA or the Competition.

SCHEDULE A

FEES TARIFF		
RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
4 (A)	CLUB ENTRY FEE	£45.00
4 (B)	CLUB/TEAM ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£30.00
4 (C)	DEPOSIT	£20.00
7 (C), 7(E)	PROTEST/APPEAL FEES	£25.00
18 (D)	PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE 30 th Aug to 30 th Sept	£5.00 (per player)
18 (H)	TRANSFER FEE	£10.00
23 (E)	Suggested REFEREE FEES GFA suggested mileage rate £ 0.35 per mile.	5 v 5 7 v 7 £ 20.00 9 v 9 £ 22.00 11 v 11 (U13 - U14) £ 25.00 11 v 11 (U15 - U18) £ 27.00
	Suggested ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES GFA suggested mileage rate £ 0.35 per mile	11 v 11 £ 17.00

FINES TARIFF		
RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
2 (G)	FAILURE TO AFFILIATE	£100.00
2 (I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£100.00
2 (K)	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	£100.00
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	£30.00
4 (C)	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£100.00
4(E)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE AFFILIATION NUMBER/DETAILS FORM	£100.00
5 (E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£ 25.00
5 (F)	Failure to Attend Managers Meetings	£ 10.00
6 (H)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£100.00
6 (I)	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	DOUBLE THE ORIGINAL FINE UP TO £100.00
8 (H)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£100.00
9	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM	£100.00
10	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES	£25.00
11 (A)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE	£100.00
11 (B)	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£100.00
13 (A)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£25.00

16(A)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£100.00
16(B)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£100.00
18 (A)	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£40.00
18 (B)(iii)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE PLAYING SEASON COMMENCING	£25.00
18 (F)	REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM	£25.00
18 (G)(ii)	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£100.00
18(M)	FIELDING MORE THAN THE PERMITTED NUMBER OF PLAYERS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SENIOR COMPETITIONS MATCHES	£100
18 (N)(i)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£100.00
18 (O)(i)	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£50.00
19	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS	£10.00 (per shirt, up to an aggregate maximum of £30)
19	DELAYING KICK OFF TO DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS	£30
20(A)	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT	£30.00
20 (B)	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	£100.00
20 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£50.00
20 (D)	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS	£100.00
20 (D)	Failure to rearrange a postponed match with 14 days	£ 10.00
20 (E) (i) & (iii)	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	£100.00
20 (H)	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£10.00
21 (A) & 21 (C)	LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION FORM	£20.00
21 (B)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT	£20.00
21(D)	PUBLISHING RESULTS/GRADING TABLES FOR FIXTURES INVOLVING U7S, U8S, U9S, U10S OR U11S	£50.00
23 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£25.00
23 (E)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES	£25.00
23 (F)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£25.00
23 (H)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£25.00

Bristol Girls' Football League

Code of Conduct

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY, SIGN AND RETURN THE BOTTOM SLIP TO THE LEAGUE SECRETARY.

1. REFEREE AND OFFICIALS:

The Referees decision on any matter relating to any match is final and absolute. Whilst there may a difference of opinion in regards to decisions they will be accepted without question.

Any bona fide appeals about poor refereeing will be conducted in a proper and professional manner, in the first instance by way of a written report to the League Secretary supported by any statements.

Verbal barracking of referees and appointed linesmen (including non-qualified or stand in officials) will not be tolerated. Any reported incidents of this nature will be subject of a League Committee investigation and subsequently disciplinary action will be taken if found guilty by the League including suspension and potentially dismissal from the League.

2. BEHAVIOUR OF PLAYERS AND SPECTATORS:

The League recognises that football can be an emotional sport particularly when it is competitive and involves ones children. It is not acceptable to direct verbal abuse, or use of foul language or racist remarks at the opposition, encourage foul or dirty play and the dispute of an official decision.

It is however acceptable that you encourage your team and children in a respectable manner.

NO PERSONS ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE FIELD OF PLAY ACCEPT CLUB OFFICIALS.

3. INSURANCE COVER:

The League covers all clubs with Public Liability Insurance. This is compulsory for us as a league, but we cannot afford to cover all players with personal injury as we clearly have far too many clubs in the league. This notice is to make you aware that if you wish to take out cover for your players for personal injury insurance it is up to you as a club.

THE BRISTOL GIRLS FOOTBALL LEAGUE HOLDS NO LIABILITY FOR PERSONAL INJURY.

PLEASE DETACHED, SIGN AND RETURN THE SLIP TO THE LEAGUE SECRETARY

WE: _____ FOOTBALL CLUB

SIGNED BY: _____ DATE: _____

Have read the code of conduct and will abide by its rules.

Bristol Girls' Football League

Agreement to Rules of the Handbook

*We,

.....of.....(Chairperson)

and.....of.....(Secretary)

and.....of.....

and.....of.....Football Club,

have been provided with a copy of the current Rules and Regulations of the Bristol Girls Football Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club to conform to those Rules and Regulations. We also agree to 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 agreement form must be notified to the League Secretary within 14 days. The Gloucestershire Youth Football Association Secretary may, in certain circumstances, require the completion of a revised form.

Bristol Girls' Football League

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

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

SIGNED.....

(PLEASE SIGN THIS FORM AND SEND TO THE LEAGUE SECRETARY)

Bristol Girls' Football League

Respect Code of Conduct for Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game.

In the FA's survey of 37,000 grassroots participants, behaviour was the biggest concern in the game. This included the abuse of match officials and the unacceptable behaviour of over-competitive parents, spectators and coaches on the side lines.

Play your part and observe the Football Association's Respect Code of Conduct in everything you do.

On and off the field, I will:

- Show respect to others involved in the game including match officials, opposition players, coaches, managers, officials and spectators
- Adhere to the laws and spirit of the game
- Promote Fair Play and high standards of behaviour
- Always respect the match officials' decisions
- Never enter the field of play without the referee's permission
- Never engage in public criticism of the match officials
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour.

When working with players, I will:

- Place the well-being, safety and enjoyment of each player above everything, including winning
- Explain exactly what I expect of players and what they can expect from me
- Ensure all parents/carers of all players under the age of 18 understand these expectations
- Never engage in or tolerate any form of bullying
- Develop mutual trust and respect with every player to build their self-esteem
- Encourage each player to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance
- Ensure all activities I organise are appropriate for the players' ability level, age and maturity
- Co-operate fully with others in football (e.g. officials, doctors, physiotherapists, welfare officers) for each player's best interests.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA, league or The FA.

I may be:

- Required to meet with the club, league or County Welfare Officer
- Required to meet with the club committee
- Monitored by another club coach
- Required to attend a FA education course
- Suspended by the club from attending matches
- Suspended or fined by the County FA
- FACA membership withdrawn
- Required to leave or be sacked by the club.

In addition:

- My FACA (FA Coaches Association) membership may be withdrawn.

Bristol Girls' Football League

Respect Code of Conduct for Youth Players

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game.

As a player, you have a big part to play. That's why The FA is asking every player to follow a Respect Code of Conduct.

When playing football, I will:

- Always play to the best of my ability
- Play fairly – I won't cheat, complain or waste time.
- Respect my team-mates, the other team, the referee or my coach/manager.
- Play by the rules, as directed by the referee
- Shake hands with the other team and referee at the end of the game
- Listen and respond to what my coach/team manager tells me
- Talk to someone I trust or the club welfare officer if I'm unhappy about anything at my club.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA.

I may:

- Be required to apologise to my team-mates, the other team, referee or team manager
- Receive a formal warning from the coach or the club committee
- Be dropped or substituted
- Be suspended from training
- Be required to leave the club.

In addition:

- My club, County FA or The FA may make my parent or carer aware of any infringements of the Code of Conduct
- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and suspension against my club.

Bristol Girls' Football League

Respect Code of Conduct for Match Officials

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game.

The behaviour of the match officials has an impact, directly and indirectly, on the conduct of everyone involved in the game – both on the pitch and on the side lines.

Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct for match officials at all time.

I will:

- Be honest and completely impartial at all times
- Apply the Laws of the Game and competition rules fairly and consistently
- Manage the game in a positive, calm and confident manner
- Deal with all instances of violence, aggression, unsporting behaviour, foul play and other misconduct
- Never tolerate offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour from players and officials
- Support my match official colleagues at all times
- Set a positive personal example by promoting good behaviour and showing respect to everyone involved in the game
- Communicate with the players and encourage fair play
- Respond in a clear, calm and confident manner to any appropriate request for clarification by the team captains
- Prepare physically and mentally for every match
- Complete and submit, accurate and concise reports within the time limit required for games in which I officiate.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA.

I may be:

- Required to meet with The FA/County FA Refereeing Official
- Required to meet with The FA/County FA Refereeing Committee
- Obligated to attend or re-attend The FA Respect training or other FA education course
- Issued with a written warning
- Fined by the County FA
- Offered less senior appointments
- Suspended from all appointments for a defined period
- Excluded from affiliating as a FA Referee.

Bristol Girls' Football League

Respect Code of Conduct for Spectators and Parents/Carers

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game.

This Bristol Girl's League is supporting The FA's Respect programme to ensure football can be enjoyed in a safe, positive environment.

Remember children's football is a time for them to develop their technical, physical, tactical and social skills. Winning isn't everything.

Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct for spectators and parents/carers at all times.

I will:

- Remember that children play for FUN
- Applaud effort and good play as well as success
- Always respect the match officials' decisions
- Remain outside the field of play and within the Designated Spectators' Area (where provided)
- Let the coach do their job and not confuse the players by telling them what to do
- Encourage the players to respect the opposition, referee and match officials
- Avoid criticising a player for making a mistake – mistakes are part of learning
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting, or abusive language or behaviour.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA, league or The FA.

I may be:

- Issued with a verbal warning from a club or league official
- Required to meet with the club, league or CFA Welfare Officer
- Required to meet with the club committee
- Obligated to undertake an FA education course
- Obligated to leave the match venue by the club
- Requested by the club not to attend future games
- Suspended or have my club membership removed
- Required to leave the club along with any dependents.

In addition:

- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and/or suspension

Bristol Girls' Football League

League Constitution

1. The Bristol Girls League is affiliated to Gloucestershire Football Association.
2. All teams playing in The Bristol Girls League are affiliated to their respective County F.A.
3. The Gloucestershire Football Association will handle all disciplinary matters.
4. Coaches/Managers must adhere to all guidelines laid down within the Constitution and the rules of the Bristol Girls Football League.
5. Coaches /Managers must encourage and guide players to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
6. Coaches/Managers must consistently display high standards of behaviour and experience and to be a role model for players, parents and spectators.
7. Each team may register up to 14 players for 7-a-side, 18 players for 9 a-side and 22 players for 11 a-sides at the start of each season.
8. Mini Soccer(5-a-side) any Ten from those registered may be used in any one game U8
9. Mini Soccer (7-a-side) any Twelve from those registered may be used in any one game U9/U10/U11
Youth Football (9 v 9) any Forteen from those registered may be used in any one game U12/U13
Youth Football (11 v11) any Sixteen from those registered may be used in any one game U14/U15/U16
10. A team should consist of Four outfield players and a goalkeeper for 5-a-side, Six outfield players and a goalkeeper for 7-a-side, Eight outfield players and a goalkeeper for 9 a-side and 10 outfield players and one goal keeper for 11-a-side.
11. All teams must have a minimum of 4 players for 5-a-side, 5 players for 7-a-side, 6 players for 9 a-side and 8 players for 11-a-side at the start of each game, one of which must be a goalkeeper.
12. Any match where a team is reduced to 3/4/6/7 players due to sending(s) off, will be abandoned and the points awarded to the opponents. The score-line at the time of abandonment will be used.
13. Any match where a team fields an under or over aged player will be shown as a loss to that team.
14. All team members should wear matching shirts (except goalkeeper), if a similar colour as the opposing club, Bibs should be worn by the away team.
15. The Bristol Girls League reserve the right to amend or adjust either the constitutional or the playing rules providing notice has been given previous to the meeting.

LEAGUE MATCH CANCELLATION CONDITIONS

- 1. A postponing Club must give 2 days notice of postponements of all games without delay to the Fixtures Secretary and the Secretary of the opposing Club (by personal service, telephone message or facsimile) before Friday pm.**
- 2. Valid reasons for postponement may be adverse to weather conditions. Shortage of players is not a valid reason, and the game must be forfeited. The opposing team will be awarded the 3 points and the postponing team will lose 3 points and face a fine.**

Bristol Girls' Football League

Bristol Girls League Equality Policy

The aim of this policy is to ensure that everyone is treated fairly and with respect and that The Bristol Girls League is equally accessible to them all.

The Bristol Girls League is responsible for setting standards and values to apply throughout the League at every level.

Football belongs to and should be enjoyed by, anyone who wants to participate in it. Our commitment is to confront and eliminate discrimination whether by reason of gender, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability and to encourage equal opportunities.

This policy is fully supported by the Bristol Girls League Officers who are responsible for the implementation of this policy. The Bristol Girls League, in all its activities will not discriminate, or in any way treat anyone less favourably on grounds of gender, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability. It means that The Bristol Girls League will ensure that it treats people fairly and with respect and that it will provide access and opportunities for all members of the community to take part in, and enjoy, its activities.

The Bristol Girls League will not tolerate harassment, bullying, abuse or victimisation of an individual, which for the purposes of this policy and the actions and sanction applicable is regarded as discrimination. This includes sexual or racially based harassment or other discriminatory behaviour, whether physical or verbal. The Bristol Girls League will work to ensure that such behaviour is met with appropriate action in whatever context it occurs.

The Bristol Girls League is committed to taking positive action where inequalities exist and to the development of a programme of ongoing training and awareness raising events and activities in order to promote the eradication of discrimination and promote equality in football.

The Bristol Girls League is committed to a policy of equal treatment of all members and requires all members to abide and adhere to these policies and the requirements of the relevant equalities legislation – Race Relations Act 1976, Sex Discrimination Act 1975 and Disability Discrimination Act 1995 as well as any amendments to these acts and any new legislation.

The Bristol Girls League commits itself to the immediate investigation of any claims when brought to its attention, of discrimination on the above grounds and where such is found to be the case, a requirement that the practice stop and sanctions are imposed as appropriate.

Bristol Girls' Football League

Goal Post Safety

The Football Association and the British Standards Institution would like to draw your attention to the following guidelines for the safe use of goalposts. Too many serious injuries and fatalities have occurred in recent years as a result of unsafe or incorrect use of goalposts. Safety is always of paramount importance and everyone in football must play their part to prevent similar incidents occurring in the future.

1. For safety reasons goalposts of any size (including those which are portable and not installed permanently at a pitch or practice field) must always be anchored securely to the ground.

- Portable goalposts must be secured by the use of chain anchors or appropriate anchor weights to prevent them from toppling forward.
- It is essential that under no circumstances should children or adults be allowed to climb, swing on or play with the structures of the goalposts.
- Particular attention is drawn to the fact that if not properly assembled and secured, portable goalposts may topple over.

2. Portable goalposts should not be left in place after use. They should be dismantled and removed to a place of secure storage.

3. It is strongly recommended that nets should only be secured by plastic hooks or tape and not by metal cup hooks. Any metal cup hooks should if possible be removed and replaced. New goalposts should not be purchased if they include metal cup hooks which cannot be replaced.

4. Goalposts which are "home-made" or which have been altered from their original size or construction should not be used. These have been the cause of a number of deaths and injuries.

5. Guidelines to prevent toppling:

i. Follow Manufacturer's guide-lines in assembling goalposts.

ii. Before use, adults should:

- ensure each goal is anchored securely in its place
- exert a significant downward force on the cross bar
- exert a significant backward force on both upright posts
- exert a significant forward force on both upright posts

These must be repeated until it is established that the structure is secure. If not, alternative goals/pitches must be used.

Bristol Girls' Football League

Guidance for U8's

The aim is to smoothly introduce girls into playing matches against other local teams in a friendly and fun environment, promoting RESPECT and complimenting their ongoing coaching within clubs.

The main guidance points for all managers are:

- * Format: 5 v 5
- * All Players must be 6 or 7 year old on the 31st August of the relevant playing.
- * Duration: 2 x 20 min half or 4 x 10 min games with a short break.
- * Subs: Maximum of 5.
- * Ball: Size 3
- * Rules same as 7 v 7 format, with retreat rule and pass backs are allowed.
- * No player cards / photo's - just PRS player registration.
- * No match sheets or electronic results cards required.
- * Respect line up & hand shake before each match.
- * A referee to be organised by the home team.
- * Fixtures - 2 matches a month - games can be played on a Saturday or Sunday depending club preference/pitches. Fixtures will be published for a Sunday and it's up to the managers to agree the best day/KO time by the Tues evening before the game.

Please can you let the League Fixtures Secretary know your preferred match day and KO time (Sat or Sun) which can shared with all other coaches. Fixtures will be published after **1st August**. Link to the BGL website attached.

<http://fulltime-league.thefa.com/Index.do?divisionseason=893088304&league=4508388>

A list of all Managers contact details for the u8's will be circulated shortly.

If you do have to postpone a game always ensure that the opponents have confirmed that they are aware, then just text P-P when you receive the SMS text on the weekend of the game. Advise the League of any rearranged fixtures at the earliest opportunity. This is important so we can update full time and the revised fixture dates can be shown.

The Player Registration System (PRS) and FA Full time system is intrinsically linked, so if your personal mobile and email addresses are correct on PRS and your club secretary/registration officer has linked you to your team, then you should receive fixture emails the week before the game and a SMS text on the weekend of the game. If

you play 4 x 10 min games then just text the final 'overall' score. Scores are **not published** on the BGL website/FA Full Time, it allows us to keep records and helps us with the fixtures.

Please support each other and make the matches as enjoyable for the girls as possible.