



(in association with Bilston Town F.C.)

RULES

SEASON 2005 - 2006

RULES

1. NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

- 1(A) This competition shall be designated the BILSTON PARTNERSHIP YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE and shall consist of not more than 400 clubs who shall be Full Member Clubs.

All such Member Clubs must be affiliated to an affiliated County Football Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on Form "D" to the Staffordshire Football Association. The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be Wolverhampton and surrounding areas.

The Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Staffordshire Football Association and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped into divisions, each not exceeding fourteen in number.

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

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

- 1(B) At the Annual General meeting or a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have the power to decide or adjust the compilation of the divisions at their discretion. When necessary this rule shall take precedence over Rule 12. There will be a maximum of thirty-three teams at each age group and a maximum of fourteen teams in each division and, where it is necessary or appropriate to have two or more divisions, the format will be decided by the Management Committee. All new clubs elected into the Competition will enter a division at the discretion of the Management Committee.

2. ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION AND DEPOSIT.

- 2(A) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of additional team(s) must be made in writing to the Secretary (on or before 30 April) and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee (see Appendix 1) per team which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

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

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

The Management Committee has the power to veto the application of clubs who may be deemed discreditable to the Competition.

- 2(B) The Annual Subscription shall be (see Appendix 1) per team playing 11-a-side football and (see Appendix 1) per team playing Mini-Soccer payable on or before 1st of August in each year.

- 2(C) Each club shall, within 7 days of election, pay a Deposit (see Appendix 1) which shall be returnable to Clubs on leaving the Competition provided they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all orders of the Management Committee

- 2(D) A club shall not participate in this Competition until the Entry Fee, Annual Subscription and Deposit have been paid.
- 2(E) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 21 July of its County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming season, failing which they shall be fined (see Appendix 1). Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, by 31 May annually details of its Headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition, failing which they shall be fined (see Appendix 1).

3. OFFICERS

The Officers of the Competition shall be the President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Registration Secretary, Referees Secretary, Fixtures Secretary, Press Secretary, Fines Secretary, Youth Development/Child Protection Officer, Disciplinary Committee Secretary, Under 10s Co-ordinator, Sponsorship Co-ordinator, Match Report Form Secretary, two Referees Representatives and Referees Assessor to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. (N.B. Auditors are not Officers).

4. MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

- 4(A) The Competition shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Football Association by a Management Committee comprising of the Officers and two members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

All matters relating to Rule 17, the conduct of clubs, teams, players or spectators, will be considered by the Disciplinary Committee together with any other matters the Management Committee deem appropriate. All on the field incidents will be subject to investigation by the Staffordshire F.A. prior to consideration by the Disciplinary Committee. The Disciplinary Committee shall comprise four representatives from the Management Committee, namely the Youth Development/Child Protection Officer, Disciplinary Committee Secretary, one of the Referees Representatives and one other and one club representative from each age group. The Club representatives shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

- 4(B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination. All other candidates for election as Officers or Members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two Member Clubs, no later than 14 May in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting.

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

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

- 4(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.

- 4(E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their nominated Officers.

5. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

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

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

5(C) Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee Meetings and have one vote thereat, but no Member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such Member or to the Club so represented. (This shall apply to the procedures of any committee or sub-committee).

In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

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

5(E) All decisions of the Management Committee, or Disciplinary Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal to the Board of Appeal in accordance with Rule 16.

All decisions of the Management Committee, or Disciplinary Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 14 days.

5(F) Five members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee and three members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Disciplinary Committee, or any other committee or sub-committee of the Competition.

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

5(H) Any club having failed to comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee, within twenty-one days of receipt of notice of such an order or within twenty-one days of an operative date specified in that order or failing to satisfactorily attend to business and/or the correspondence of the Competition, shall be liable to be fined (see Appendix 1) or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the Management Committee. Any Club failing to comply with an order or instruction by the due date shall not be allowed to play, or to take part in the business of the Competition, until the order has been complied with and a reason for the delay has been furnished to the Secretary, who shall submit it to the Management Committee.

5(I) All fines and charges shall be paid within fourteen days of the date of posting of the written notification.

Clubs, Officials or individuals committing a breach of this Rule shall be liable to such penalties, as the Management Committee shall impose.

Fines not paid within FOURTEEN days of issue will incur an administration fee of £10 per week outstanding and fixtures may be suspended until all outstanding fines are paid.

Should a club be in debt to the Competition for any reason all Officials of that club will be held jointly and severally liable for the amount owing to the Competition.

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

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

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6(A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held no later than the 30 June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least 25 Members are present and entitled to vote: -

- (i) To receive and confirm the minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
- (ii) To consider any business arising thereon.
- (iii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
- (iv) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies (as recommended by the Management Committee).
- (v) Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing season.
- (vi) Election of Officers and Management Committee.
- (vii) Appointment of Verifiers
- (viii) Alteration of Rules, if any (of which notice has been given).
- (ix) Fix the date for the commencement and conclusion of the playing season.
- (x) Other Business, of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.

6(B) A copy of the duly verified Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each club at least fourteen days prior to the meeting and to the Staffordshire Football Association.

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

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

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

6(F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least one third of the delegates qualified to vote, or the Chairman so decides.

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

6(H) Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting without satisfactory explanation being given shall be fined (see Appendix 1).

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

7. AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED.

The Chairman, Secretary and two responsible members of each club shall complete and sign the following agreement, which shall be deposited with the Competition together with the Application for Membership for the coming season, or upon indicating that the club intends to compete: -

“We, _____ of _____ (Chairman)
and _____ of _____ (Secretary)
and _____ of _____ (Member)
and _____ of _____ (Member)
of the _____ Football Club have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the BILSTON PARTNERSHIP YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said club, if elected or accepted into Membership, to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition and to adhere to the Code of Conduct (Appendix 4), subject to the Right of Appeal, in accordance with Rule 16.”

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

(N.B. the spaces above are intended for the inclusion of signatures and address of officers and members.)

8. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS.

8(A) Contract player, as defined in the Football Association Rules, are not permitted to play in this Competition.

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

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

(1) Signed three copies of a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by his/her parent or guardian and by an Officer of the Club and who has been registered with the Registration Secretary FOUR CLEAR DAYS prior to playing and whose completed Club copy of the registration form has been received by the Club prior to playing, (i.e. registration cards must be with the Registration Secretary by 12 noon on Wednesday for the player to be eligible to play on the following Sunday, midweek matches by the previous Saturday). Proof of date of birth must be produced for inspection when registering the player. Only ORIGINAL documents shall be accepted. Duly appointed Officers of the League shall have the power to carry out spot checks in the pursuance of this Rule. Subject to the approval of the players parents or guardians the registration document must incorporate any known serious medical conditions of the player and emergency contact details of the players parents or guardians. These details must be available at matches and training events the player attends within the management of the Club or Competition.

(2) Signed a fully and correctly completed Special Emergency Registration Form in ink on a match day prior to playing countersigned by an Officer of the Club and witnessed by an Officer of the opposing Club and submitted to the Registration Secretary, together

with three copies of the Competition registration form within THREE (3) days. The player shall not play again until normal registration requirements have been fulfilled. A fee will be charged (see Appendix 1). Any Club failing to comply shall be liable to a fine (see Appendix 1) and/or dealt with as the Management Committee decides. A maximum of THREE players may be registered in this way.

The Registration Documents must incorporate a current passport size photograph of the player seeking registration together with proof of the player's date of birth.

The qualification dates for the competition shall be as follows (the actual qualification dates for the current season are set out in Appendix 2):-

Mini Soccer

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

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

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

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

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

Youth Football

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

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

Under 13s – the player must be under the age of 12 as at midnight on 31 August in the playing season.

Under 14s – the player must be under the age of 12 as at midnight on 31 August in the playing season.

For the remaining ages the Age Qualification Date of 31 August shall be introduced in the following seasons, until then the Age Qualification Date of 31 July shall apply:-

Season 2006 / 2007	Under 15s
Season 2007 / 2008	Under 15s and 16s
Season 2008 / 2009	Under 15s, 16s and 17s
Season 2009 / 2010	Under 15s, 16s, 17s and 18s

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

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

A minimum of ELEVEN players per team must be registered on the appointed Registration Night that date to be determined by the Management Committee. All teams must register on arrival. Any Club failing to comply shall be liable to a fine (see Appendix 1).

The maximum permitted registrations per team at any one time shall be FOURTEEN registrations per team for Under 7s to Under 10s, EIGHTEEN registrations per team for Under 11's to Under 15's and TWENTY TWO registrations per team for Under 16's to Under 18's.

A player may be de-registered, provided the card is returned to the Registration Secretary together with the appropriate fee (see Appendix 1).

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

“1. Players who have never received any remuneration other than actual expenses incurred during the course of their participation in or for an activity connected with association football shall be regarded as amateur.

2. Travel and hotel expenses incurred through involvement in a match and the costs of a players equipment, insurance and training may be reimbursed without jeopardising a player's amateur status.

3. Any player who has ever received remuneration in excess of the amount stated under clause 2 in respect of participation in or an activity connected with association football shall be regarded as non-amateur unless he has reacquired amateur status under the terms of Art. 10.1”

8(D) NOT RELEVANT

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

8(F) A fee (see Appendix 1) shall be paid for each player registered.

Registration Forms shall be obtained from the Registration Secretary on prepayment of (See Appendix 1) per form.

8(G) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes

In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration form submitted for more than one Club priority of registration shall decide for which Club the player shall be registered. The Registration Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

8(H) It shall be a breach of rule for a player to: -

- i) Play for more than one club in the Competition in the same season, without first being transferred.
- ii) Having signed for one Club in the Competition, sign for another Club in the Competition except for the purpose of a transfer.
- iii) Submit a signed registration form for registration that the player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

iv) Play in any other age group, other than the one for which he is registered.

- 8(I) (i) The Management Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any player.
- (ii) The Management Committee shall have the power to refuse, cancel, or suspend the registration of any player or may fine the player and/or Club registering the player at their discretion proved guilty of any registration irregularities. (Subject to Rule 16).
- (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 16). Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated conduct, which may deter a participant from being involved in this Competition.”

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

- 8(J) Subject to The Football Association Rules dealing with player without a written contract when a player desires a transfer, the Club the player wishes to transfer to shall submit transfer form to the Registration Secretary accompanied by a fee (see Appendix 1.) Such transfer shall be referred by the Registration Secretary to the Club for which the player is registered. Should this Club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Registration Secretary and to the player concerned within seven days of receipt of the transfer form. Upon receipt of the Club's consent or upon the failure to give written objection within seven days, the Registration Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or four 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.

- 8(K) A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 31 March except by special permission of the Management Committee. The Management Committee may limit the player's eligibility to games not involving promotion or relegation etc.

- 8(L) A Club shall keep a list of the players it registers and a record of the games in which they have played and shall produce such records upon demand of the Management Committee. A club failing to comply may be liable to a fine (see Appendix 1).

In the event a Club has more than one team in an age group, each team must be clearly designated "A" or "B" etc or in any other way that clearly distinguishes the teams. In such cases players will be registered for one team only.

- 8(M) A register containing the names of all players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Registration Secretary and shall be open to inspection of any duly appointed Member Club representative at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one season only.

- 8 (N) A player signed after 1 January shall not be eligible to play for a team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding match (as specified in Rule 12 (A)) unless the player has played five games for that team in this Competition in the current season except by special permission of the Management Committee.

(Note: In applying their discretion the Management Committee will take into account all extenuating circumstances i.e. where a player has been unable to play in five games due to circumstances beyond the team/player's control e.g. where fixtures have been

cancelled due to the pitch being unplayable or where the opposition has failed to fulfil the fixture.)

8 (O) NOT RELEVANT

- 8(P) (i) Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players, may have the points gained in the match deducted from its total in the case of a league match or be expelled from the competition in the case of a cup or shield match and may be fined (see Appendix 1) and/or otherwise be dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- (ii) In addition the team may have points deducted from its total at the discretion of the Management Committee and may be dealt with in any further manner which is thought to be fit.
- (iii) The Management Committee in exceptional circumstances may, at its discretion, award any points deducted from a Club under this Rule to the opponents in the match in question subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed. No goals shall be recorded or awarded for the original match. If the Management Committee decree that the match should be replayed the offending team shall be liable for the pitch fees and match officials fees in addition to any fines incurred.

Any re-match ordered as a result of this Rule being transgressed will not have any players playing who have been deemed unregistered or ineligible within the meaning of this Rule.

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

- 8(Q) (i) priority must be given at all times to school and school organisation activities;
- (ii) the availability of players must be cleared with the Head Teacher (except for Sunday Competitions);
- (iii) Children under 14 shall not play in a team involving players who are more than 2 years older.

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

A player who participates in any organised football match on the same day prior to a match in this Competition will be ineligible to play in that match and will be dealt with as an ineligible player.

9. CLUB COLOURS, CLUB NAME.

- 9(A) Every club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 31 May annually, who shall decide their suitability. A Club failing to comply shall be liable to a fine (see Appendix 1).

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

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

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

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours the HOME team shall make the change. Any team not having a change or delaying kick off by not having a change of colours shall be fined (see Appendix 1).

The Secretary of the Competition may request shirts to be submitted if complaints are received as to the lack of distinguishing colours and the Management Committee may refuse to permit any shirts or shorts as they think fit. Shirts must be numbered. Failure to comply may result in a fine (see Appendix 1).

- 9(B) Any club wishing to change its name and/or colours must obtain permission from its affiliated County Football Association and from the Management Committee.

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

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

A Club failing to be represented at a General meeting (i.e. monthly league meeting) without providing prior written notification to the League Secretary shall be liable to a fine (see Appendix 1). Failure to be represented at three consecutive meetings a Club shall be further dealt with as the Management Committee may determine. No less than seven days notice shall be given of any meeting. Any team failing to be represented at a monthly league meeting, even if they have provided their apologies for non-attendance, will be liable to a fee (see Appendix 1) to cover postage and administration costs.

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

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

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

Teams aged Under 13 and above should not play on junior sized pitches with small goals unless with prior permission of the Management Committee.

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

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

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

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

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

The times of kick-off shall be fixed by the A.G.M. or the Management Committee. Appendix 2 sets out the kick off times currently applicable. Any club failing to commence at the appointed time may be fined a sum not exceeding (see Appendix 1), or be otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine.

Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition by completing the match report form accordingly. In the event of a team(s) not being ready by the appointed time, 20 minutes shall be allowed, after which time the referee and opponents can then leave the ground.

The home team must provide at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. The size of football to be used shall be: For Mini Soccer size 3 for Under 7 and Under 8 age categories; size 4 for Under 9s and 10s. For youth football - size 4 for Under 11, 12, 13 and 14 age groups; size 5 for all other age groups.

Ground marking must be maintained. The home team must provide goal nets and corner posts/flags. Failure to comply may result in a fine (see Appendix 1).

- 10(C) Except by permission of the Management Committee all matches shall be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to the Football Association and all relevant County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match, either by date or time, with the consent of the Fixtures Secretary. Failure to comply with this rule may result in a fine (see Appendix 1) and may be dealt with in any further manner that the Management Committee feels appropriate.

Fixtures for the forthcoming 6 weeks will be issued at each general monthly meeting (i.e. monthly league meeting).

Up to two "free dates" may be applied for per team, per season. These dates must be applied for in writing, to the Fixtures Secretary, at least 28 days prior to the date required or at least seven days prior to the relevant fixtures being circulated whichever is the earlier.

- 10(D) The Secretary of the home Club must give notice, in writing or by telephone, of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the match officials and the Secretary of the opposing Club at least four clear days prior to the playing of the match. The away team shall seek and acknowledge receipt of such particulars.

Any club failing to comply with this rule may be liable to a fine (see Appendix 1).

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

(Note: The intention of this Rule is not to interfere with normal team selection by clubs but to prevent clubs fielding a weakened team in order to unreasonably reserve players for another game. If, in the opinion of the Management Committee, the substance or spirit of the Rule is obviously being disregarded the Club or Clubs concerned may be called upon to account for its/their actions and shall be subject to such decisions as the Management Committee may determine despite the fact that Rule 8 has not been infringed.)

In the event of a Club playing in any match with less than the nine players (11-a-side) or five players (Mini-Soccer) they may be liable to a fine for each missing player (see

Appendix 1). A minimum of seven players (11-a-side) will constitute a team for a Competition match.

- 10(F) 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 inflict a fine, deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals. Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision the Management Committee shall have the power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponents ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

Any Club with more than one team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixture, within the competition, in the following order of precedence:- First Team, Reserve Team, "A" Team. Clubs in breach of this requirement shall be fined a sum not exceeding (see Appendix) or otherwise dealt with by the Management Committee.

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

Any teams competing in an approved outside competition on the same day as a designated fixture must give notice to the Fixtures Secretary, Referees Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing club and the match officials by letter or phone at least four days prior to the fixture. Any club failing to comply with this rule may be liable to a fine (see Appendix 1).

Any Club postponing a fixture must provide written evidence for the reasons of the postponement and may be required to appear before a Management Committee or Disciplinary Committee to justify the cancellation. In the event of a Club failing to provide a satisfactory explanation or otherwise failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have the powers to inflict a fine (see Appendix 1), award the opponents the points or in the case of a cup or shield competition award the tie to the opposition, order the defaulting club to pay expenses incurred by the opposing club or otherwise deal with them at their discretion. The Management Committee shall have the power to order the match to be played on a neutral ground, or on the opponents ground, if they are satisfied the circumstances warrant such action.

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

The Management Committee shall review all abandoned matches 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, shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one team or its Club member(s), they shall be empowered to award the points for the match to the opponents and/or take whatever action they may deem necessary. In cases where a match is abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams or their Club members the Management Committee shall take such action as they consider appropriate. Such action is subject to any disciplinary action taken by the appropriate Affiliated Association.

- 10(G) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use up to five substitute players (up to three for Under 17s and Under 18s) in any match in this competition who may be selected only from those nominated on the Match Report Form

prior to the commencement of the match. Under 16s, Under 17s and Under 18s teams shall be allowed to nominate five substitutes per match, Under 11s to Under 15s teams shall be allowed to nominate seven substitutes per match. Names may be given verbally to the Referee but must be included on the Match Report Form prior to the start of the match.

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

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

The Referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than ten minutes before the start of the match. Substitutes not named may not take part in the match.

A player who has been selected, appointed or named as a substitute before the start of the match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a player in the game within the meaning of Rule 8 of the Competition.

- 10(H) The half time shall be of 5 minutes duration but it shall not exceed 15 minutes duration. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

(Note: Registration cards must be presented to the opposition before the game commences. Cards must remain in the opposition team's possession for the duration of the game. Failure to do so may result in the offending team being liable to a fine (see Appendix 1). In the event of no registration cards being available prior to the game all players, including substitutes, must write their name, date of birth and signature on the reverse of the Match Report Form, witnessed by a club official of the opposing team. The Registration Secretary will verify these details within seven days and a fine shall be issued (see Appendix 1). If the registration cards are lost it must be reported to the Secretary immediately and the cards replaced within seven days or the team may have its fixtures suspended until the Management Committee are satisfied that the matter is again in order. A fee will be levied for all replacement cards issued (See Appendix 1).)

All clubs should use their best endeavours to ensure that changing rooms are available for all matches, irrespective of age group.

Any player reaching 16 years and above and in active employment during the playing season must be insured against loss of earnings.

All Cup and Shield competitions organised by the Competition will be organised in accordance with the specific Cup and Shield Rules set out in Appendix 3.

11. REPORTING RESULTS.

- 11(A) The Match Report Form Secretary must receive within three days of the date played the result of each Competition match in the prescribed manner (See Appendix 2). This must include the forename(s) and surname of the team players (in block letters) and also the Referee markings required by Rule 13, or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to do so will result in a fine (see Appendix 1) and/or the club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide. Match Report Forms must be submitted for postponed games, stating the reason for the postponement.

- 11(B) The Home Club shall telephone the result of each match to the appropriate results' co-ordinator by 6.30pm on the day of the match. The results of midweek matches must be reported to the appropriate results' co-ordinator at the above times on the following

Sunday. This rule also applies to postponed and abandoned games and to teams involved in external competitions, whether home or away. Failure to do so will result in a fine (see Appendix 1).

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

12. DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP.

- 12(A) Team ranking within the Competition will be decided on points with 3 points awarded for a win and 1 point awarded for a drawn match. The team gaining the greatest number of points in their respective division at the conclusion of the season shall be adjudged the winners. Matches must not be played for double points.

In the event of two or more teams being equal on points for the top two or bottom two places (or for other positions involving promotion or relegation) in any division at the close of the competition, the places shall be decided on goal difference. If they are still equal then the team scoring the most goals shall finish higher if in the event of all things still being equal a play off match between the two teams involved shall be arranged on the terms and order of the Management Committee. Where teams finishing on equal points, goal difference and goals scored are not involved in championship/runners up/promotion or relegation issues those teams will be deemed to have finished on equal ranking.

For deciding matches, in the event of the scores in a special championship, promotion or relegation match played under conditions determined by the Management Committee being level at the end of the game extra time will be played as follows:-

For Mini-Soccer - Extra time shall be 5 minutes each way for all mini soccer matches.

For Youth Football – Extra time shall be 5 minutes each way for U11s and U12s, 7½ minutes each way for U13s and U14s, 10 minutes each way for U15s and U16s and 15 minutes each way for U 17s and Under 18s.

If, after extra time, the scores are still level the game shall be decided by the taking of penalty kicks on the basis approved by the International F.A. Board (and as outlined in the Laws of Association Football).

- 12 (B) Automatic promotion and relegation shall be applied for the first two and last two teams in each division except as provided hereunder and subject to the provisions of Rule 1(B).

Should one or more teams withdraw from any one division after the fixtures have commenced or resigning at the end of the season an equal number of teams to those withdrawing or resigning shall not be automatically relegated.

- 12(C) In the event of a team not completing 75% of its fixtures for the season all points and goals obtained by or recorded against such defaulting team shall be expunged from the Competition table and the defaulting club shall be fined (see Appendix 1).

The Management Committee shall have the power to review all unfulfilled fixtures and in cases where it deems it appropriate and are satisfied that the non-fulfilment is due to one team or its Club member(s), they shall be empowered to award the points for the game to its opponents and/or take whatever action they deem necessary.

- 12(D) NOT RELEVANT.

13. REFEREES

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

Home teams entering outside Cup competitions may have referees appointed by the Management Committee.

- 13(B) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed referee, where appropriate, the appointed senior Assistant Referee shall take charge and a substitute Assistant Referee shall be appointed by the competing Teams. In cases where there are no officially appointed Assistant Referees or where the competition has been unable to appoint a Referee the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee, where necessary the teams shall toss a coin for the choice of who provides the referee. A Referee thus agreed upon shall, for that game, assume the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee.

- 13(C) The Management Committee may, if they consider it desirable or upon application of either of the two competing teams, appoint Assistant Referees, if available, to any match. Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee. Failure to do so will result in the team being liable to a fine (see Appendix 1).

- 13(D) The appointed Referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and the decision shall be final subject to either in the case of a ground of a Local Authority or the owners of a ground, the Representatives of that body is the sole arbiter and whose decision must be accepted unless the ground is declared fit to play.

- 13(E) The Home Club shall pay the referees fees immediately after the match, unless otherwise directed by the Management Committee. Where the Management Committee appoints assistant referees the fees shall be paid by the away team or the team requesting them. In Cup competitions Officials fees shall be shared by both teams.

The fees for the Officials are set out in Appendix 1.

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

- 13(G) A referee not keeping his engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to his non-appearance may be reported to the Association with which he is registered. A club MUST always report the non-appearance of an appointed referee to the Referees Secretary.

- 13(H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by the Football Association, award marks to the Referee for each match and the name of the Referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the Match Report Form provided. Teams failing to comply with this rule shall be liable to a fine (see Appendix 1) and/or be dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.

The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the Form provided and by the prescribed date each season, shall submit a summary to the Staffordshire Football Association.

Any club marking a referee poor or worse (5 or below) must submit a report to the Referees Secretary, within SEVEN days of the match, stating the reasons for giving such a low mark. Failure to do so may result in a fine (see Appendix 1).

- 13(I) The Referee shall submit a report form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the match, the number of players in each team and the kick-off time to the Match Report Form Secretary within three days of the match.
- 13(J) Referees and Assistant Referees shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules and Competition Handbook free of charge.

14. CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

- 14(A) After 31 December in the current season a Club intending, or having a provisional intention to withdraw a team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the Secretary, in writing by 31 March each season, or be liable to a fine. (See Appendix 1).

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

- 14(B) A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its teams from the Competition after the Annual General Meeting. Any Club infringing this rule will be liable to a fine (see Appendix 1). Any Club withdrawing its team or teams from the Competition after the arrangement of fixtures will be liable to a further fine (see Appendix 1). Any club breaching this rule will also be liable for its share of any call that may be made under Rule 5(B).
- 14(C) The Membership for the coming season having been decided at a Special General Meeting held for that purpose or at the Annual General Meeting the Competition shall have the right, irrespective of any other provisions in these rules, to refuse to permit a Club to withdraw its team or teams in order to join another Competition and may hold the club to its engagements.
- 14(D) In the event of a Member Club, which is an un-incorporated association withdrawing and/or disbanding it shall be immediately liable to discharge all its financial and other obligations to the Competition.

In the event that such obligations remain undischarged after a period of 21 days then such obligations shall be met by the current Club Members, excluding those under the statutory school leaving age. Until a Member's pro rata obligation is discharged in full the Member shall not be allowed to participate in the Competition, which may apply to the Club's Parent County Association for a suspension order.

15. PROTESTS AND APPEALS.

- 15(A) (i) All questions of eligibility, qualification of players or interpretation of the Rules, shall be referred to the Management Committee.
- (ii) Objections relative to dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest has been lodged with the Referee prior to the commencement of the match. Any Club lodging such protest and not proceeding with it shall be deemed guilty of a breach of this Rule and shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.
- 15(B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints, which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded, must be lodged in duplicate with the Secretary within seven days (excluding Sundays) of the match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A Member of the Management Committee who is a Member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his/her Club) when such a protest or complaint is being determined.

- 15(C) Any dispute occurring between Clubs in the Competition shall be referred for determination by the Management Committee whose decision shall be binding on all parties subject to Rule 16.
- 15(D) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum (see Appendix 1). This may be forfeit in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have the power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the enquiry or to order that the costs be shared by the parties.
- 15(E) All parties to a protest or complaint must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement when the protest or complaint is being heard and must have received seven days notice of the hearing, together with a copy of the submission. When dealing with a protest or complaint the Management Committee shall take into consideration the possession by the protesting or complaining Club of any information, which, if properly used, might have avoided the protest or complaint.

16. BOARD OF APPEAL

Within 14 days of the posting of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee, Disciplinary Committee or the Competition, a Club, Official or Player against whom action is being taken may appeal against such a decision by lodging particulars, in duplicate, with the Secretary of the Staffordshire Football Association, including a fee in accordance with the Staffordshire Football Association rules, for adjudication by a Board of Appeal. The grounds of appeal shall be in accordance with FA Rules. The Board of Appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited and shall decide by whom costs of the appeal shall be borne. The decision of the Board of Appeal shall be final and binding on all parties concerned.

No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an Annual or Special General Meeting unless this is on the grounds of unconstitutional conduct.

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

- 17(A) At the Annual General Meeting, or Special General Meeting called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19. Notice of Motion having been duly circulated on the Agenda, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude any Club or Team from further membership, which must be supported by two-thirds of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club who is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.
- 17(B) At the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club or team of a Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, has been undesirable, which must be supported by two-thirds 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.
- 17(C) Any official or member of a Club proved guilty of either breach of rule, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a player or players from another club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to expulsion or such penalty as a General Meeting, Management Committee or Disciplinary Committee may decide and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Clauses (A) & (B) of this Rule.
- 17(D) Any club or team failing to fulfil 75% of its fixtures in any one season shall, (unless the conditions are beyond their control or the majority of the accredited delegates present at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall decide otherwise by a

majority of two-thirds of the votes cast), be debarred from membership the following season.

Any club, team or player found guilty of bringing the Competition into disrepute by deed or action, or any club or team found guilty of regularly breaching the Competition's Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Code (Appendix 4) could, on the recommendation of the Disciplinary Committee, be liable to immediate suspension from the Competition until the matter can be dealt with in accordance with Rule 17 A if the Management Committee feels it cannot guarantee the safety of players, officials or spectators of any future opposition.

The Referees' Representative shall chair the Disciplinary Committee.

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

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

The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of each Cup or Trophy. Failure to provide such a written agreement by the date required by the Management Committee may result in a fine (see Appendix 1): -

"We and, the Chairman and Secretary ofF.C., members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of the 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 Secretary, on or before the March league meeting in the following season. If the Cup or Trophy is lost or damaged whilst in our care we agree to refund the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair."

It is the responsibility of all Trophy holders to ensure all Trophies are suitably engraved and returned to the Competition on or before the March League meeting in the following season. Failure to comply may result in a fine (see Appendix 1).

19. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS.

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

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

At least 7 days notice shall be given of either meeting under this Rule, together with an Agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.

Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.

Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be liable to a fine (see Appendix 1).

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

Subject to Rule 17, all voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least one third of the delegates present, or unless the Chairman so decides.

No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Full Member club.

20. ALTERATION TO RULES

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

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary, in writing, by the 30 April each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee shall be circulated to clubs by 14 May and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 31 May. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.

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

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

21. RULES BINDING ON CLUBS.

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

Each Member Club shall be deemed to have agreed to abide by the Competition's Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Code (Appendix 4) and the Football Associations Child Protection Regulations (Appendix 5).

Each Member Club must provide the League Secretary with a telephone number available to them for immediate contact. All correspondence to the Competition must be sent first class or delivered by hand within the stipulated time.

22. FINANCE.

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

22(B) All expenditure in excess of £250 shall be approved by the Management Committee. All cheques shall be signed by two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.

22(C) The financial year of the Competition will end on 31 May.

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

FINES AND FEES**FINES**

Rule			Fine
2(D)	Failure to provide affiliation details		£10
2(E)	Failure to provide Club details		£10
5(H)	Failure to attend to business/correspondence		£10
6(H)	Non attendance at Annual General Meeting		£10
8(A)	Non attendance at Registration Evening		£25
8(C)	Late receipt of Emergency Signing		£7.50p
8(O)	Failure to produce up to date Register of Players	up to	£10 per player
8(P)	Failure to produce medical/emergency contact details	up to	£10 per player
8(S)	Playing unregistered/ineligible players	up to	£30 per player per offence
9(A)	Failure to notify details of colours		£7.50p
9(A)	Failure to provide change of colours		£7.50p
9(A)	Failure to use numbered shirts		£7.50p
10(A)	Non attendance at General (monthly) Meeting		£10
10(B)	No ground marking		£7.50p
10(B)	No goal nets		£7.50p
10(B)	No corner flags/poles		£7.50p
10(D)	Late Kick Off		£7.50p
10(J)	Non fulfilment of fixture	up to	£50
10(K)	Late notification of match		£7.50p
10(L)	Failure to notify details of fixtures in outside competitions	up to	£25
10(N)	Failure to field full team	up to	£5 per player per offence
10(R)	Failure to produce Registration Cards		£15
11(A)	Late match report form		£7.50p
11(A)	Incorrect match report form		£7.50p
11(A)	Inappropriate alteration to match report form	up to	£30
11(D)	Failure to provide explanation of referee assessment	up to	£15
11(E)	Failure to phone in results	1 st Offence	£7.50p
		2 nd Offence	£9
		3 rd Offence	£10
12(D)	Resignation from League during playing season	up to	£75
12(D)	Failure to complete fixtures	up to	£50
13(C)	No Assistant Referee provided		£10
13(H)	Failure to provide referee assessment		£10
14(A)	Late notification of intended withdrawal from League		£25
14(B)	Withdrawal from League (after acceptance at AGM)	up to	£50 (plus annual subscription)
14(B)	Withdrawal from League (after arrangement of fixture)	up to	Above plus £25
18(B)	Failure to provide written obligation re trophies	up to	£25
18(B)	Late return of trophies	up to	£25
19(F)	Non attendance at Special General Meeting		£10

For repeated offences the fine will be doubled for teams after the third offence. Fines not paid within 14 days of issue will incur an administration fee of £7.50p per week outstanding and fixtures may be suspended until all outstanding fines are paid.

FINES AND FEES**FEES**

Rule		Fee
2(A)	Entry Fee (refundable in the event of non election)	£10
2(A)	Deposit (refundable in the event of non election/fulfilment of obligations)	£10
2(B)	Annual Subscription	£45
8(C)	Emergency Signing	£5
8(H)	Player Registration	No charge
8(H)	Blank Player Registration Cards	No charge
8(H)	Replacement Player Registration Cards	£1 per card
8(M)	Transfer of Player	£5
8(U)	Player Deregistration	£5
10(A)	Despatch of papers due to non attendance at General (monthly) Meeting	£5
13(E)	Referee's Match Fee	£20
13(E)	Assistant Referee's Match Fee	£10
15(D)	Protest or Complaint Deposit	£25

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**AGE QUALIFICATION DATES FOR THE CURRENT SEASON**

A player qualifies to play for his/her respective age group in this competition for the season 2005-2006 if he/she was born between the following dates: -

Mini Soccer:

Under 6s	From	01-Sep-99	to	31-Aug-01
Under 7s	From	01-Sep-98	to	31-Aug-2000
Under 8s	From	01-Sep-97	to	31-Aug-99
Under 9s	From	01-Sep-96	to	31-Aug-98
Under 10s	From	01-Sep-95	to	31-Aug-97

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

Youth Football

Under 11s	From	01-Sep-94	to	31-Aug-95
Under 12s	From	01-Sep-93	to	31-Aug-95
Under 13s	From	01-Sep-92	to	31-Aug-94
Under 14s	From	01-Sep-91	to	31-Aug-93
Under 15s	From	01-Aug-90	to	31-Aug-92
Under 16s	From	01-Aug-89	to	31-Aug-91
Under 17s	From	01-Aug-88	to	31-Aug-91
Under 18s	From	01-Aug-87	to	31-Aug-91

In accordance with the foregoing qualifications a player under the age of 14 must not play in a match where any other player is older or younger by 2 years or more.

KICK-OFF TIMES

The kick-off times are currently:-

For Mini Soccer the kick off times will be as per the published fixtures.

For Youth football the following kick off times apply:-

10.30am for Under 11s and Under 12s

2.15pm for Under 13s, Under 14s, Under 15s, Under 16s, Under 17s and Under 18s.

The kick off times for cup semi finals and finals for any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding match (as specified in Rule 12 (A)) will be as determined by the Management Committee.

MATCH REPORT FORMS.

The Match Report Form shall be completed prior to the kick off by both the home team and the visiting team and returned to the home team. The home team must ensure that the Match Report Form Secretary receives the Match Report Form, fully completed by both teams, within THREE DAYS of the match being played. Failure to do so or the submission of incomplete forms will result in a fine as set out in Appendix 1. Match Report Forms must be submitted for postponed games, stating the reason for the postponement.

The form must be completed in block letters and must include the following information:-

Match Details

- Age Group
- Division/Competition
- Date

Final Score

Player Details

- Registration Number
- Shirt Number
- Full Name
- Number Goals Scored

Substitution Details

Name of Club Assistant Referee provided

Assessment of Referee's performance

(Any club marking a referee poor or worse (5 or below) must submit a report to the Referees Secretary, within SEVEN days of the match, stating the reasons for giving such a low mark. Failure to do so may result in a fine as set out in Appendix 1.)

The referees are requested to pass comments on the match in the space provided including comments on the state of the pitch (markings, nets corner flags etc), reasons for late or early kick off (if applicable), number of cautions/dismissals, details of club officials / spectator conduct.

The Match Report Form, correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of each Club after the game. The Home Club are responsible for ensuring the Match Report Form is received by the Match Report Form within three days of the Match.

CUP & SHIELD RULES

1. The entire control of Cup and shield competitions is vested in the Management Committee of the Bilston Partnership Youth Football League.
2. These trophies cannot be won outright and will be competed for annually.
3. Unless otherwise stated the general League Rules will apply.
4. The Management Committee shall decide the competitions and format that these competitions shall take.
5. A five/six-a-side competition shall be held annually and all eligible member teams will be expected to enter. An entrance fee shall be charged and a list of rules issued accordingly.
6. In accordance with Rule 18 (B) the winners of the League's Cups and Shields must give a written declaration that they will agree to return such trophies in good condition and suitably engraved, when requested by the Management Committee, and repair or replace such trophies to the Management Committee's satisfaction should they be lost or damaged and to pay the costs incurred to have the said trophies engraved.
7. No club shall receive trophies or medals won if they have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the League.
8. All matches shall be played under the Laws of the Game as approved by the International Football Association and in accordance with the Rules, Regulations and Byelaws of the Football Association.
9. In knockout competitions, up to and including the Semi-Final rounds, the first team drawn shall be deemed the home team. In matches played on a two-leg basis the score in the first leg is carried forward to the second leg. If aggregate scores are level Rules 16 and 17 below shall apply. In competitions played on a knockout basis clause 13(a) below applies.
10. For competitions organised in whole or in part on a mini league or group basis team ranking within mini leagues or groups will be decided on points with 3 points awarded for a win and 1 point awarded for a drawn match. In the event of two or more teams being equal on points in any group or mini league at the conclusion of that stage of the competition the places shall be decided on goal difference. If they are still equal then the team scoring the most goals shall finish higher. If in the event of all things still being equal the team winning the group or mini league game between the sides will finish higher. If in the event of all things still being equal the Management Committee may organise play off matches or such other means, as they deem appropriate to decide the placings. Any play off matches will be organised in accordance with League Rule 12.
11. In the event of two teams, in the opinion of the referee, having the same or similar coloured shirts in accordance with League Rule 9(A) the HOME side shall make the change.
12. No team shall receive more than one bye in any one competition each season.
13. Ties must be played as per the fixture list and any team failing to fulfill any Cup or Shield fixture shall: -
 - (a) for knockout competitions be ruled out of that competition and fined as per Appendix 1;
 - (b) for mini-league competitions have that game ruled out and be deducted three points, three points will be awarded to the opposition, and fined as per Appendix 1.

14. In all Cup and Shield games the duration must be those specified for the appropriate age groups, as specified under League Rule 10(C).
15. Kick Off ties will be in accordance with League Rule 10(D) unless otherwise directed by the Management Committee.
16. Extra time shall be 5 minutes each way for U11s and U12s, 7½ minutes each way for U13s and U14s, 10 minutes each way for U15s and U16s and 15 minutes each way for U 17s. In all Cup competitions, if there is no result at full time, extra time shall be played should the scores still be level then clause 14 applies.
17. If, after extra time, the scores are still level the game shall be decided by the taking of penalty kicks on the basis approved by the International F.A. Board (and as outlined in the Laws of Association Football).
18. The competing teams shall consist of 11 players, plus named substitutes, who may be used in accordance with League Rule 10(Q). The following rules for eligibility shall apply: -
 - (a) All players must be registered at least 7 days prior to any round, unless special permission is obtained from the Management Committee no "Emergency Signings" will be allowed;
 - (b) No player shall play for more than one team in any one competition per season;
 - (c) Any player signed before the 1st of January will be eligible to play in a League Cup or Divisional Cup semi-final or final. Any player signed after the 1st of January must have played at least five games for the team involved or have played in an earlier round of the competition, unless gaining consent from the Management Committee;
 - (d) Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player(s), shall be expelled from the competition and fined or otherwise dealt with by the Management Committee. In the case of a mini-league based cup match the points may be deducted and awarded to the opposition and the team dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.
 - (e) In all cup or shield matches registration cards must be presented to the opposition prior to the commencement of the game in accordance with League Rule 10(R). Any team not in possession of their opponent's registration cards prior to its start must report the facts to the match referee and ensure that all facts are entered onto the Match Report Form. Any team in breach of this rule will be fined accordingly and may, after further investigation by the Management Committee, be excluded from the competition.
19. In all finals registration cards must be presented to a member of the Management Committee prior to the games commencement. A registration check will be carried out prior to the game's start. Failure to produce registration cards as required will mean immediate expulsion from the competition plus a fine to cover the costs incurred by the League and opponents. Any player found to have a discrepancy in his registration will not take part in the final, or any further games, until his registration has been corrected to the satisfaction of the Registration Secretary and the Management Committee.
20. In all semi finals and finals: -
 - (a) The ground shall be fixed by the Fixtures Secretary and approved by the Management Committee. If neutral grounds are not used, or are unavailable, the first team drawn shall be the home team. If neutral grounds are used then each team must produce a match ball, for the use of, which must be approved by the Referee prior to the kick off, and which must conform to the regulation set out in League Rule 10(E);
 - (b) The playing of extra time will be decided in accordance with clause 16 and 17;
 - (c) The Match Officials shall be appointed by the Referees Secretary and approved by the Management Committee;

21. The match fee for referees and assistant referees, where appointed, will be as set out in Appendix 1 to the League Rules. The teams involved will share the fees of all officials.
22. The conditions of the finals are that: -
 - (a) The League shall take sole control of all arrangements, and take all receipts;
 - (b) Each team must produce a match ball, for the use of, which must be approved by the Referee prior to the kick off, and which must conform to the regulation set out in League Rule 10(E);
 - (c) Where there is a colour clash, BOTH teams shall change unless mutually agreed; and
 - (d) The Management Committee shall publish a list of dates for finals at the April meeting. Any team due to play in a final where the dates have been published MUST fulfil their fixture on the published date, unless a request for an amendment is received by the Fixtures Secretary within SEVEN days of the dates being published. Any team in breach of the above and failing to fulfil their fixture will be expelled from the competition and their opponents from the previous round re-instated in their place. The offending club shall be responsible for all expenses incurred by the League and their opponents and may be fined up to a maximum of £25.
23. The Management Committee shall have the power to fine and/or exclude any team contravening any of the above rules.

CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY CODE

CODE OF CONDUCT

General

1. The primary aim of the League is to provide a safe environment and friendly atmosphere where everyone involved has the opportunity to have an enjoyable football experience and that players have the opportunity to develop to their potential in terms of both their football and whole life skills.
2. Clubs will be responsible for the conduct and of everyone associated with their club including, officials, players, members and spectators and should ensure that everyone, including match officials and opposition officials, players and spectators are treated with dignity and respect.
3. All clubs are expected to have their own code of conduct that mirror the League's aims and engender a spirit of sportsmanship and fair play.
4. Acts of Racism, threatening behavior or foul and abusive language will not be tolerated.
5. Alcohol is banned from the touchline.
6. Teams are asked to report any alleged incidents of misconduct to the Disciplinary Committee Secretary using the Incident Report Form.
7. Any alleged acts of misconduct by a club, team or individual will be subject to investigation by the League's Disciplinary Committee and if found guilty will be liable to penalties as set out in the Leagues Rules and will may also attract Disciplinary points as outlined below. Where the circumstances warrant it, teams or individuals could be expelled from the League.
8. All on the field incidents will be subject to investigation by the Staffordshire F.A.

Mystery Supporters

9. Every Sunday, at least one of game will be 'visited' by one of our mystery supporters. These people, whilst not an active or visible member of the Committee, is a Committee Representative, and will select games at random to visit on our behalf.
10. Within seven days of that game, the League will receive a written report, highlighting the conduct of the teams, supporters, 'Staff' and linesmen. This report will be kept on file with the League, and a copy of it will be sent, good, bad or indifferent, to both teams involved.

Team of the Month

11. Teams are asked to recognise general attitude, sportsmanship, hospitality or other special achievements by nominating teams for the Team of the Month Award. Each month, at the General (Monthly) League Meeting, the successful team will be awarded the Team of the Month trophy and match ball (sponsored by Ron Flowers Sports Shops).

Team of the Season

12. Each season three teams will receive special team of the season awards. These awards are for Special Achievement, Fair Play and the Management Committee Award, which will be awarded to the team whose attitude, and approach most closely reflects the League's aims.
13. Everyone associated is asked to embrace the Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Code in the spirit it's intended, and make this a league that we can all be proud to be part of. As always, the 'law abiding' teams have nothing to fear from our stringent policies against misconduct.

DISCIPLINARY CODE

1. The Disciplinary Code penalises teams who fail to maintain the standards of conduct and behaviour set out in the Code of Conduct.
2. Teams attracting disciplinary points will be “named and shamed” in each month’s magazine, “Off the Post”, where a monthly ‘Top Ten’ of points accumulated will be published.
3. The basis of the system involves a penalty point scheme, which operates alongside the standard League Rules/ fines, NOT replacing them. Penalty points are awarded for breeches of League Rules, or misconduct, with the number of points varying, (see table below) depending on the severity of the offence.
4. Each teams holds it’s own account, so a club with multiple teams will hold multiple ‘accounts’. Thus one ‘bad’ team would not necessarily reflect on the whole Club.
5. Each team will start with a clean sheet, but, if over a season, a team accumulates 30+ points, that team will be invited to a Disciplinary Meeting to justify such a total, and possibly be charged with bringing the League into disrepute.
6. Likewise, every further ten points accumulated could incur a similar charge, and should a team exceed the 50-point mark could have points deducted or may even be expelled from the League.

PENALTY POINTS TABLE/SCALE

Proven Manager/spectator misconduct	(up to)	10 points
Manager/ spectator cautions		3 points
Player dismissals (as per FA misconduct guidelines)	(up to)	6 points
Player cautions (as per FA misconduct guidelines)		1 point
Playing of unregistered/ ineligible player		3 points
Late payment of fines		2 points
Non Attendance (without notice) at League Meetings		2 points
Non fulfilment/ Late cancellation of fixture		2 points

CHILD PROTECTION REGULATIONS

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 behavior, 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 Football 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 Football Association of:
 - 3.1 notification that an individual has been charged with an Offence; or
 - 3.2 notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the Police Social Services or any other authority relating to an Offence; or
 - 3.3 any other information which causes The Football Association reasonably to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children then The Football 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 Football Association shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:
 - 4.1 Whether a child 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 Football Association or any other authority or body to proceed unimpeded.
5. The period of an order referred to in Regulation 3 above shall not be capable of lasting beyond the date upon which any charge under the Rules of The Football 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 Football Association shall bring and conclude any proceedings under the Rules of The Football 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 Football Association and The Football 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 Football 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/she is associated as soon as reasonably practicable.