

Berkshire Youth Development League



Constitution & League Rules Season 2011 - 2012

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RULES

1. NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

(A) This Competition shall be designated the Berkshire Youth Development League and shall consist of not more than one hundred (100) Clubs who shall be Full Member Clubs.

All such Member Clubs shall be affiliated to an affiliated County Football Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on the Form "D" to the Berks & Bucks County Football Association. The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be within fifteen (15) miles of Woodley Town Council Offices, Woodford Park.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Berks & Bucks Football Association and the constituent Teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in Divisions, each not exceeding twelve (12) in number.

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

The Competition shall provide Mini-Soccer for players who have attained the age of six (6) years but not the age of eleven (11) years as at midnight 31st August in a playing season, and provide 11-a-side football for players who have attained the age of ten (10) as at midnight 31st August in a playing season.

(B) At the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the compilation of the Divisions at their discretion. When necessary this Rule shall take precedence over Rule 12.

2. ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

(A) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) shall be made in writing to the Secretary by 30th April and shall be accompanied by an Entry Fee of £50.00 per Team, which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

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

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

(B) The Annual Subscription shall be £50.00 per Team, together with an additional fee of £20.00 per team for 5 and 7 a-side football per match, and £22 per team for 11 a-side football per match, payable on or before the day of the match. The Annual Subscription shall be non-returnable in the event of a Team withdrawing from the League.

(C) Each Club shall, upon election, pay a Deposit of £0.00, which shall be returnable to Clubs on leaving the Competition provided they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all orders of the Management Committee.

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

(E) Clubs shall advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 31st July of its County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming Season, failing which they shall be fined a sum not exceeding £10.00. Clubs shall advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its Headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition.

(F) Annual Registration of teams and players for:
Non Competitive U7s & U8s - £50 per team registration, no additional charge for player registration.

Competitive 7 asides U9s , U10s & U11s - Annual team registration £50 per Team. Max 12 players can be registered @ £1 per player = £12
Total registration cost @ start of season = £62

Competitive 11 asides , U12s, U13s, U14s, U15s & U16s - Annual team registration £50 per team. Max 20 players can be registered @ £1 per player = £20
Total registration cost @ start of season = £70

ALL OF THE ABOVE CHARGES WILL BE SENT OUT AS INVOICES on 1st June 2011 and will be payable by 30th June 2011

Teams failing to register and pay the entry fees by the dates stated above will not be included within the BYDL for the start of the 2011/12 season

(G) Match Costs

Non Competitive & Competitive Small sided matches for 7 aside teams are £20 per match including Referee and Pitch per team

Leagues normally have 10 teams therefore normally there will be 18 games per season

Invoices will be sent out twice yearly (Aug & Dec)

First invoice will be sent out 1st August 2010 for the first 10 league games @ £20 = £200 for small sided games and £22 = £220 for 11 aside games. All fees will be payable by 31st Aug 2010

Please note: As long as the Treasurer is given at least 7 days prior notice teams playing small sided games can elect to pay the site coordinator weekly at the venue prior to the games commencing.

Invoice 2 will be sent out on the 1st Dec and will be for the remaining league games (10 team leagues would equal 8 games remaining) and would be payable by 31st December 2010

Competitive 11aside matches are £20 per team per match played, plus £20 for the referees fee for U12s, U13s & U14s & £22 for the referees fee for U15s & U16s (Referees fees are to be split equally between the two teams and paid to the referee before the match commences)

Each league would normally consist of 10 teams in each division therefore each team would play 18 league games a season (plus cup/plate games)

NO PAYMENTS FOR 11aside FOOTBALL IS ACCEPTED ON A WEEKLY BASIS APART FROM REFEREES COSTS THAT ARE PAID DIRECTLY TO THE REFEREE

Invoice 2 will be sent out 1st Dec and will be for the remainder of league games (10 team leagues would equal 8 games remaining) and would be payable by 31st December 2010

Invoices for cup and plate games are normally sent out once a team has been eliminated from the competition. This invoice is payable within 7 days of date of invoice.

Any other charges for example "fines" are sent out as and when the treasurer is informed by the fixture or referees secretary and are payable within 7 days of date of invoice.

3. OFFICERS

The Officers of the Competition shall be the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Registration Secretary, Referees Secretary and Fixture Secretary to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. (N.B. Verifiers of Accounts are not Officers). The Management Committee shall have the right to appoint divisional secretaries and venue coordinators as associate officers to the league. Associate officers may be invited to be members of sub-committees as the Management Committee sees fit.

4. MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

(A) The Competition shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association by a Management Committee comprised of the Officers and three (3) members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

All participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by the Association from time to time.

(B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination. All other candidates for election as Officers or Members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two (2) Member Clubs, not later than 31st 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

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

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

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

(E) All communications received from Clubs shall be conducted through their nominated Officers.

5. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

(A) The Management Committee may appoint Subcommittees and delegate such of their powers, as they deem necessary. The decisions of all such Sub-Committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification.

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

(C) Each Member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee Meetings and have one (1) vote thereat, but no

Member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such Member or to the Club so represented. (This shall apply to the procedure of any Sub-Committee).

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

(D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition, including any not provided for in the Rules. Except where these Rules provide for the imposition of a set penalty any Club, Club Official (limited to Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer) or Player alleged to be in breach of a Competition Rule shall be formally charged in writing and given the opportunity to present their case before the Management Committee. Financial penalties can only be imposed if included within the set penalties for breaches of Competition Rules. All breaches of the Laws of the Game, Rules and Regulations of The Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance with Football Association Rules by the appropriate Association.

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

Decisions of the Management Committee shall be notified in writing to those concerned within seven (7) days.

(F) Five (5) Members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee and three (3) Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by any Sub-Committee of the Competition.

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

(H) A Club having failed to comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee, or failing to satisfactorily attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition, shall be liable to be fined a sum not exceeding £10.00 or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(I) All fines and charges shall be paid within fourteen (14) days of the date of posting of the written notification.

Clubs, Officials or individuals committing a breach of this Rule may be fined £5.00 and shall incur such penalties as the Management Committee may impose.

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

Competition.

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

(L) The Management Committee may from time to time hold a meeting of Clubs for administrative purposes only. Each Club shall be empowered to send one (1) delegate to attend such meetings. Clubs failing to be represented may be fined a sum not exceeding £20.00.

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

(N) Leagues who organise Mini-Soccer for Teams playing Under 7 and Under 8 football may not, with the exception of Rules 7, 11(E), 14 and 19, fine Clubs for breaches of League Rules.

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 30th June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least twenty (20) 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 therefrom.
- (iii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
- (iv) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies (as recommended by the Management Committee).
- (v) Constitution of the Competition for ensuing season.
- (vi) Election of Officers and Management Committee.
- (vii) Appointment of Verifiers of Accounts.
- (viii) Alteration of Rules, if any (of which notice has been given).
- (ix) Fix the date for the commencement and conclusion of playing season.
- (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.

(B) A copy of the duly verified Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting, and to the Berks & Bucks County Football Association.

(C) A signed copy of the duly verified Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Berks & Bucks County Football Association within fourteen (14)

days of its adoption by the Annual General Meeting.

(D) Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send two (2) delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Not less than fourteen (14) days notice shall be given of any Meeting.

(E) Clubs who have withdrawn their Membership of the Competition during the season being concluded or who are not continuing Membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the season being concluded.

(F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least one third 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 (1) Full Member Club.

(H) Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given may be fined a sum not exceeding £20.00.

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

7. AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

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

"We, A, _____ of _____ (Chairman) and
B _____ of _____ (Secretary) of
the _____ Football Club have been provided
with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Berkshire Youth Development
League and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, if elected or
accepted into Membership, to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to
accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of
the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16.

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

(Note: The spaces above are intended for the inclusion of the signatures and

addresses of officers and members).

8. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

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

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

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

Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition Registration Form in ink, countersigned by his/her parent or guardian and by an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the Registration Secretary forty-eight (48) hours prior to playing and whose completed registration counterfoil has been received by the Club prior to playing. The registration document shall incorporate any known serious medical conditions of the player and emergency contact details of the player's parents or guardians. These details shall be available at matches and training events the player attends within the management of the Club or Competition.

The registration document shall incorporate two (2) current passport-size photograph of the player seeking registration together with proof of the player's date of birth.

No individual player registrations cards are required for Under 7's & Under 8's Mini Soccer. Each team must complete a team sheet at the start of the season showing players' names, DOBs and schools. The site coordinators will keep these and any amendments must go through the coordinator who will update the form

(C) The qualification dates for the Competition shall be as follows:

(i) Mini-Soccer

To play in a knockout Cup game or where points are awarded, or results collected, a player shall have achieved the age of 8 on or before 31st August.

Under 7 - the player shall have attained the age of 6 but shall be under the age of 7 as at midnight on 31st August in a playing season.

Under 8 - the player shall be under the age of 8 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 9 - the player shall be under the age of 9 as at midnight on 31st August in

the playing season.

Under 10 - the player shall be under the age of 10 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 11 - the player shall be under the age of 11 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

(ii) Youth Football

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

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

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

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

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

In accordance with the foregoing qualifications a player under the age of 14 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season shall not play in a match where it may be possible that any other player is older or younger by two (2) years or more.

(D) Opposing Team Managers shall exchange Registration Cards before a match and return them at the end of the match. If not complied with, no protest regarding player eligibility shall be considered. Referees will be asked to advise the League if registration cards are not exchanged.

A League Officer may request to see Registration Cards at any time. A refusal shall be dealt with by the Management Committee in the same manner as a Team fielding ineligible players according to Rule 8(P) below. When a Team Manager has been requested to show Team Registration Cards he shall produce them prior to the completion of the match. Failure to comply shall be deemed a refusal.

(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 another Club in the same Competition without first proving to the officials of the intended Club that the player has discharged all reasonable financial liabilities to the previous Club or Clubs, and a Club official may not accept such player's signature without first ascertaining whether such claims have been discharged to the satisfaction of the Club, or Clubs, for which the player last played.

(F) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes.

In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one (1) 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.

(G) On registering for the Competition, each team will be issued with 20 Registration documents for Youth Football, and 12 for Mini-Soccer, at a cost of £1.00 per form. Additional registration documents can be obtained from the Registration Secretary at a cost of £2.00 per form.

The maximum number of players registered with any one (1) Team is:

- a. Youth football - twenty (20).
- b. Mini-Soccer – twelve (12)

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

- (i) Play for more than one (1) Club in the Competition in the same season without first being transferred.
- (ii) Having signed for one (1) Club in the Competition, sign for another Club in the Competition in that season except for the purpose of a transfer.
- (iii) Submit a signed registration form for registration that the player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

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

(ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player or may fine any player, except those under 18 years of age, at their discretion who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities. (Subject to Rule 16).

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

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

(Note: Action under Rule 8(I)(iii) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute and shall in any case be subject to an Appeal to The Football

Association. For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the Competition into disrepute can only be considered where the player has received in excess of one-hundred and twelve (112) days suspension or ten (10) matches in match based discipline, in a period of two(2) years or less from the date of the first offence.)

(J) Subject to The Football Association Rules dealing with players without a written contract when a player desires a transfer, the Club the player wishes to transfer to shall submit a transfer form to the Registration Secretary accompanied by a fee of £5.00. 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 (7) days of receipt of the transfer form. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within seven (7) 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.

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

(K) A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 28th February except by special permission of the Management Committee.

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

In the event a Club has more than one (1) Team in an age group, each Team shall be clearly designated "A" and "B" etc. In such cases, players shall be registered for one (1) Team only. A player so registered shall be allowed to play for his Club in a younger or older age group within the provisions of Rule 8 (B).

(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 the inspection of any duly appointed Member Club representative at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged.

Registrations are valid for one (1) season only.

(N) A player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding match (as specified in Rule 12(A)) unless the player has played two (2) games for that Team in this Competition in the current season.

(O) A player who has played for a Team five (5) times or more shall not in that season be eligible for transfer to another team of the same Club, in a lower division,

except by permission of the Management Committee.

(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 and shall be fined £50.00 and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(ii) In addition the Team may have three (3) points deducted from its total at the discretion of the Management Committee and may be dealt with in any further manner which is thought to be fit.

(iii) The Management Committee may, at its discretion, award the points available in the match in question to the opponents, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.

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

(Q) (i) Priority shall be given at all times to school and school organisations activities.

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

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

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

9. CLUB COLOURS, CLUB NAME

(A) Every Club shall register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 31st May who shall decide as to their suitability.

Goalkeepers shall wear colours, which distinguish them from other players and the Referee.

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

Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify the colours in which they shall play to its opponents at least seven (7) days before the match.

If, in the opinion of the Referee, two (2) Clubs have the same or similar colours, the Home Team shall make the change. Any Team not having a change of colours or delaying the kick-off by not having a change shall be fined a sum not exceeding £10.00.

The Secretary of the Competition may request shirts to be submitted if complaints are received as to lack of distinguishing colours, and the Management Committee may refuse to permit any shirts or shorts as they think fit. Shirts shall be uniquely numbered.

(B) Any Club wishing to change its name and/or colours shall 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

(A) The Annual General Meeting shall determine the commencing and concluding dates for the ensuing season, which shall be in accordance with Football Association Rules. No Club shall be compelled to play after the concluding date.

Original fixtures arranged by the Fixture Secretary, or at a meeting specially convened for that purpose, to be held no later than 1st September, shall not be arranged for a date not later than seven (7) days preceding the concluding date determined by the Annual General Meeting.

(B) (i) All 11 a- side (Youth Football) matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board.

(ii) All 7 a-side (Mini-Soccer) matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of Mini Soccer as set down by the Football Association.

All venues shall be supplied by the League.

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

Each Club shall have their Teams managed by a responsible adult.

All matches shall have a duration as set out below, unless a shorter time (not less than thirty (30) minutes) is mutually arranged by the two (2) Managers in consultation with the Referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves.

The duration of play shall be:

Mini-Soccer

Under 7	40 minutes	(20 minutes each half)
Under 8	40 minutes	(20 minutes each half)
Under 9	40 minutes	(20 minutes each half)
Under 10	40 minutes	(20 minutes each half)
Under 11	50 minutes	(25 minutes each half)

No player under the age of eight (8) as at midnight 31st August in any season shall be permitted to play more than forty (40) minutes in any one (1) day in this Competition.

No player over the age of eight (8) but under the age of ten (10) as at midnight 31st August in any season shall be permitted to play more than sixty (60) minutes in any one (1) day in this Competition.

Youth Football

Under 12	60 minutes	(30 minutes each half)
Under 13	70 minutes	(35 minutes each half)
Under 14	70 minutes	(35 minutes each half)
Under 15	80 minutes	(40 minutes each half)
Under 16	80 minutes	(40 minutes each half)

No player under the age of seventeen (17) as at midnight on 31st August in any season shall be permitted to play more than one (1) game or, in the event the Competition allows the playing of a double-header, ie: two (2) separate matches, one-hundred (100) minutes per day in this Competition.

A list of fixture dates shall be published by the League prior to the beginning of the season and teams shall be expected to fulfil any fixture on any of the published dates. Notification of fixtures will appear on the League website. Clubs/Teams must check the website up until 12:00 on each Thursday to find out if they have a fixture that weekend.

Fixture cancellations due to inclement weather will be published on the website up until 07:30 on the day of the fixtures. Clubs/Teams are responsible for checking to ensure that their matches are still on under these circumstances. After 07:30 they should contact the relevant Fixture Secretary/Venue Coordinator.

The times of kick-off shall be between 8-45am and 12:30pm on Saturdays and between 6:00pm and 7:00pm on weekday evenings in April. Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time may be fined a sum not exceeding £20.00 or be otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine. The kick-off times shall be determined by the Management Committee.

Referees shall order matches to commence at the appointed time and shall report all late starts to the Competition.

In the event of non-appearance of a Team the opposition shall remain at the ground until fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled kick-off time.

The Home Team shall provide at least two (2) footballs fit for play and the Referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. Failure to comply may result in a fine of £5.00. The size of football to be used shall be:

Size 3 for under 7 and 8 playing Mini Soccer.

Size 4 for under 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 playing Mini-Soccer.

Size 4 for under 11, 12, 13 and 14 playing Youth Football.

Size 5 for Under 15 and 16 playing Youth Football.

Goal nets shall be used.

(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 shall be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of the Fixture Secretary.

(D) Every Club shall play its best available qualified Team or Teams in all matches in the Competition.

(Note: The intention of this Rule is not to interfere with normal Team selection by Clubs, but to prevent Clubs deliberately fielding a weakened Team in order to unreasonably reserve players for another game or to boost the strength of another or lower Team. It is NOT intended that Clubs SHALL field higher Team players in lower Teams when the higher Team has no engagement. If, in the opinion of the Management Committee, the substance or spirit of the Rule is obviously being disregarded, the Club or Clubs concerned may be called to account for its/their actions and shall be subject to such decisions as the Management Committee may determine, despite the fact that Rule 8 has not been infringed.)

For Mini-Soccer 7 aside a minimum of five (5) players constitute a Team for a Competition match.

For Youth matches a minimum of eight (8) players shall constitute a Team for a Competition match.

In the event of a Club playing a match with less than seven (7) players in Mini-Soccer and eleven (11) players in Youth football they may be fined £5.00 for each missing player.

(E) In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have power to inflict a fine not exceeding £20.00, order them to pay the full costs of officials and the full costs of the pitch hire, deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them, except for the award of goals.

In the event of a team not attending a match to fulfil a fixture, the non-offending Club shall remain in attendance at the ground for 15 minutes from the scheduled kick-off time.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Management Committee shall have power to order a match to be played on a substitute ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture shall, without delay, give notice to the Fixture Secretary, the Referee 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 Club wishing to postpone a match shall give a minimum of 14 days notice to the Fixture Secretary, the Referee 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.

Under the provision of rule 8(Q), a club shall be entitled to postpone a match due to school activities, provided that for:

- i. Mini-soccer, at least 2 players shall be attending the school activities.
- ii. Youth football, at least 3 players shall be attending the school activities.

Any Club wishing to postpone a match due to school activities shall give a minimum of 7 days notice to the Fixture Secretary, the Referee Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the match officials. In addition, written vidence from the school shall also be submitted to the League Secretary and the Fixture Secretary. Any Club failing to comply shall be dealt with by the Management Committee who may inflict any penalty it may deem suitable.

In the event of a team not being able to fulfil a fixture due to excessive illness/injury, the Club shall provide written evidence to the Fixture Secretary within seven (7) days of the scheduled match to substantiate any application for postponement.
N.B. For 7 aside Mini-Soccer a minimum of five (5) players constitute a Team. For 9 aside a minimum of 7 (seven) players shall constitute a Team. For Youth Football a minimum of eight (8) players shall constitute a Team .

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 Fixture Secretary within seven (7) days, the Management Committee shall have power to order the match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date.

The Management Committee shall review all matches abandoned and in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Team or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the match to the opponent and/or take what other action they may deem necessary. Such action is subject to any disciplinary action taken by the appropriate County Association. In cases where a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams, or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule all points for the match as void. The costs of any replay shall be charged to the offending club or clubs.

(F) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use five (5) substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from five (5) players.

For Mini-Soccer up to five (5) substitutes, without being named, may be used at any time with the permission of the Referee. Entry on to the field of play shall only be allowed during a stoppage in play. A player who has been substituted himself becomes a substitute and may replace another player at any time.

For Youth Football teams in the Under 16 age group and below, up to five (5), named substitutes may be used. 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 prior to the start of the match.**

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

(G) The half time interval shall be of five (5) minutes duration, but it shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the Referee.

(H) There shall be **no** scheduled fixtures set during the official school half-term that

falls in October. The two (2) Saturdays that fall either side of the official half-term in February shall be used for scheduled fixtures.

- (I) A spectator line consisting of a line of cones or some other barrier shall be placed adjacent to each touchline at a minimum distance of 1m from the touchline for the whole length unless the area adjacent to the touchline is smaller than 3m. The penalty for failing to provide a spectator line shall be a fine of up to £20 per match.

Where a spectator line or other spectator barrier is provided then no spectators shall persistently stand or otherwise remain in any area where the spectator line is not present unless invited to do so by the Referee. The only person permitted to cross the spectator line or barrier shall be one manager and one coach from each team plus the players and the match officials and Club Assistant Referees. If any other person crosses the spectator line or barrier then at the next stoppage in play the Referee will warn the manager of the offending team. If the offence is repeated a second time then at the next stoppage in play the Referee shall warn the manager of the offending team that the offence will be reported to the league. Any team reported to the Management Committee for allowing spectators to cross the spectator line or barrier shall be liable to a fine of up to £30 per offence and shall be dealt with as the Management Committee see fit.

Unless invited to do so by the Referee the only persons permitted to stand or otherwise remain within 10m of either goal shall be one manager and one coach from each team plus the players and the match officials and Club Assistant Referees. If any other person stands or remains within 10m of either goal then at the next stoppage in play the Referee will warn the manager of the offending team. If the offence is repeated a second time then at the next stoppage in play the Referee shall warn the manager of the offending team that the offence will be reported to the league. Any team reported to the Management Committee for allowing spectators to stand or remain within 10m of either goal shall be liable to a fine of up to £30 per offence and shall be dealt with as the Management Committee see fit.

11. REPORTING RESULTS

(A) The Fixture Secretary shall receive within four (4) days of the date played, the result of each Competition match in the prescribed manner. This shall include the forename(s) and surname of the Team players (in block letters) in registration order, names of each first-aider on duty, signature of both Team Managers and also the Referee markings required by Rule 13, or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to do so shall incur a fine of £5.00 and/or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide.

(B) The Home Club shall telephone the result of each match to the Fixture Secretary by 19:00 hours on the day of the match. Failure to comply a fine not exceeding £20.00 shall be imposed.

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

(D) If Clubs or Teams persistently fail to submit Result Sheets that Club shall be suspended by the Management Committee from the Competition until all outstanding Result Sheets have been received containing the correct and relevant information. Such suspension shall commence from the Monday following the Management Committee Meeting. All matches under such suspension shall be dealt with under Rule 10(F).

(E) Leagues are not permitted to collect Result Sheets or compile any playing data for fixtures they organise for Under 7 and Under 8 Mini-Soccer. They may require a Club to confirm that a set fixture has been played. A fine not exceeding £5.00 may be imposed for a breach of this Rule.

12. DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

(A) Under 7 and Under 8 Sections shall be non-competitive. Under 9 to Under 16 Sections shall be competitive

(B) Team rankings within the Competition shall be decided by points. Points shall be awarded as follows:

- (i) Mini-soccer - three (3) points to be awarded for a win and one (1) point for a drawn match.
- (ii) Youth football – three (3) points to be awarded for a win and one (1) point for a drawn match.
- (iii) The Teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective Divisions at the conclusion shall be adjudged the winners.
- (iv) At the end of each season, the club with the most points is crowned champion. If points are equal, the results from the two games that the teams have played against each other including the total goals scored will determine the winner. If still equal and teams are deemed to occupy the same position for the championship or for relegation, a playoff match decides rank (competition rules for play off matches will apply).

(C) Promotion and Relegation of teams shall be applied as the Management Committee sees fit.

13. REFEREES

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

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

(C) The Management Committee may, if they consider it desirable, or upon application by the two competing Clubs, appoint Assistant Referees, if available, to any match. Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee. Failure to do so shall result in a fine of £5.00 being imposed on the defaulting Club.

The Home Club shall provide suitable Club Assistant Flags.

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

(E) Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be entitled to charge the following match fee inclusive of expenses:-

(i). Youth football, under 12, 13 and 14 – Referee: £20.00. Registered Referees appointed by the Management Committee as Assistant Referees: £10.00, subject to any limits laid down by the sanctioning Association(s).

(ii) Youth football, under 15 and 16 – Referee: £22.00. Registered Referees appointed by the Management Committee as Assistant Referees: £11.00, subject to any limits laid down by the sanctioning Association(s).

(ii). Mini-Soccer – Referee: £10.00.

For Youth Football, the Home Club shall pay the Officials their fees before the match with the cost of the Officials' Fees equally shared by both Clubs. For Mini-Soccer, officials' fees are included in the match costs and these shall be paid to the venue coordinator or League Treasurer prior to the start of a match.

(F) In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to half fee. Where a match is not played owing to one (1) Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Officials, if they attend the ground, their full fee.

(G) A Referee not keeping his engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to his non-appearance, may have his name removed from the list of Referees and the fact reported to the County Football Association with which he is registered.

(H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The Football Association, award marks to the Referee for each match and the name of the Referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed Form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.

The Competition shall keep a record of referees' markings and, on the Form provided, by the prescribed date each season, shall submit a summary to the Berks & Bucks County Football Association.

(J) Each season, Referees and Assistant Referees shall be supplied with a copy of the Competition Rules, free of charge.

14. CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

(A) After 31st December in the current Season a Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a Team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition shall notify the Secretary in writing by 31st May each Season or be liable to a fine not exceeding £20.00.

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

(C) A Team withdrawing having played 75% of League matches shall retain its record for that season, but the points shall be awarded to opponents for all outstanding matches. A Team withdrawing having played less than 75% of League matches shall have their record expunged.

(D) The Membership for the coming season having been decided, the Competition shall have the right, irrespective of other provisions in this Rule, to refuse to permit

a Club to withdraw its Team(s) in order to join another Competition and may hold the Club to all of its engagements.

(E) In the event of a Member Club or Team, 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, including any pitch and officials' fees for outstanding matches to which the Competition is contracted.

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

15. PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS

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

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

(B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which shall contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) shall be lodged in duplicate with the Secretary within three (3) days (excluding Sundays) of the match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A Member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

(C) Any dispute occurring between Clubs in the Competition shall be referred for determination by the Management Committee whose decision shall be binding upon all parties subject to Rule 16.

(D) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a

sum of £10.00. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club, or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint, to pay the expenses of the enquiry, or to order the costs to be shared by the parties.

(E) All parties to a protest or complaint shall be afforded an opportunity to make a statement when the protest or complaint is being heard and shall have received seven (7) 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 fourteen (14) days of the posting of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee or the Competition a Club, Official or Player against whom action is taken may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars in duplicate with the Secretary of the Berks & Bucks Football Association, including a fee of 25.00, for adjudication of a Board of Appeal. The grounds of appeal shall be in accordance with FA Rules. The Board of Appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited and shall decide by whom the costs of the appeal shall be borne. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned.

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

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

(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 shall be supported by (more than) two-thirds of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot.

(B) At the Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club or Team of a Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which shall be supported by (more than) 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.

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

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

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

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

“We A _____ and B _____, the Chairman and Secretary of _____ FC, members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of Berkshire Youth Development League 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 31st March for Youth Football trophies and 31st January for Mini-Soccer trophies. If the Cup or Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the cost of its thorough repair or the cost of its replacement .”

Failure to return the said Trophy by the agreed date shall incur fine up to, but not exceeding £50.00.

The winning Club shall be required to have the trophy engraved with the winning team’s details and shall be liable for all associated costs. Failure to ensure that a trophy is engraved before its return shall incur a fine of £10.00 plus the cost of the Competition having the trophy engraved.

All trophies belonging to the Berkshire Youth Development League shall be returned to the Secretary within seven (7) days of a Club withdrawing from the League or not continuing in membership.

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 fourteen (14) days notice shall be given of either meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.

Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send two (2) delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one (1) vote only. Not less than fourteen (14) days notice shall be given of any Meeting.

Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined a sum not exceeding £20.00.

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

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

20. ALTERATION TO RULES

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

(B) Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary by 28th February in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals from the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 15th March and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 31st March.

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 two-thirds of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.

(C) A copy of the proposed alterations and proposed amendments to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the Berks & Bucks Football Association by not later than 14th April.

A copy of the proposed alterations and proposed amendments to be considered at a Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the Berks & Bucks Football

Association by no later than twenty-eight (28) days prior to the date of the meeting.

(D) Any alterations or additions decided upon at any meeting shall not become operative until the approval of the Berks & Bucks Football Association 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 shall abide by any issued Football Association Code of Conduct.

22. FINANCE

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

(B) All expenditure in excess of £100.00 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two (2) Officers nominated by the Management Committee.

(C) The financial year of the Competition shall end on 31st May.

(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.

23. HANDBOOK

Each Club shall provide information relating to the Club for use in the League Handbook and for use on the League Website. These details shall usually be provided by Clubs on the annual entry forms. Failure to supply the requested information shall incur a fine of £10.00.

One copy of the League Handbook shall be issued, free of charge, to each Team Manager and Club Secretary.

24. LEAGUE WEBSITE

The League Website shall not display information of a personal nature, or of a nature likely to cause any future security issue for the League, its Officials, Member Clubs and Member Club personell.

25. FIRST AIDERS

Each Team shall ensure that a qualified First Aider and correct First Aid Equipment is present and available at all matches.

26. COACHING QUALIFICATIONS

For under 9 teams or older, all Team Managers must have attained a recognised, FA Coaching Qualification. For under 7 and 8 teams, all Team Managers must have attained a recognised, FA Coaching Qualification or have signed up to attend one during the current season.

27. LEGAL REPRESENTATION

An Association, Competition, Club, Director, Manager, Club Official, Referee, Assistant Referee, or Player may be legally represented at a Personal Hearing or at an appeal, complaint, claim or enquiry, only with the written consent of the County Football Association.

28. CODE OF CONDUCT

(A) The League is committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct which incorporate the “Spirit of Football” as set out in Rule 29 and apply to all matches played under the auspices of the League.

(B) Clubs are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the “Spirit of the Game” as well as within the Laws.

(C) No Players, Club Officials and Supporters may intimidate or assault, or attempt to intimidate or assault a Referee, another Player or Spectator.

(D) No Players, Club Officials and Supporters shall use insulting, offensive or abusive language or gestures or deliberately attempt to distract an opponent.

(E) Players, Officials, Members, Supporters and Employees of the League and of Member Clubs shall adhere to the FA Code of Conduct, which prohibits racially, or sexual abusive comments and/or actions against any person.

(F) Players, Officials, Members, Supporters and Employees of the League and of Member Club shall adhere to the FA Child Protection Guidelines, which is committed to developing a culture in which children can play football in a safe and enjoyable environment.

(G) Clubs shall take adequate steps to ensure the good behaviour of their members and supporters at all times.

(H) Failure to comply with this instruction shall result in disciplinary action being taken against the offender(s) as specified in the League's Disciplinary Rules and Procedures.

29. THE SPIRIT OF FOOTBALL

(A) Managers/Coaches and Referees together set the tone for the conduct of a football match. Every player is expected to make an important contribution to this.

(B) The Spirit of the Game involves Respect for your Opponents, your own Captain and Team, the Referee and the Games' traditional values.

(C) It is against the Spirit of the Game to dispute a Referee's decision in any way, to direct abuse towards an opponent, Referee or any other person, including Racial and Sexual Abuse. It is also against the Spirit of the Game to indulge in cheating or any sharp practice.

(D) There is no place for acts of violence of any kind on or off the field of play.

CUP COMPETITION RULES

1. The Competition shall be known as the Berkshire Youth Development League Cup. The title of the Competition may be preceded by the name of a sponsor, should such be sought and a suitable arrangement entered into by the League for this Competition.
2. The Competition shall be open to all teams participating in Youth Football in the Berkshire Youth Development League. Each team shall be entered automatically, with Teams from all Divisions in an age group placed in the same draw.
3. No entrance fee shall be charged.
4. The Officers and Management Committee of the Competition shall be as for the League.
5. The provisions of the League Rule 8 shall govern the qualification of players, except that any player transferred from one (1) Club to another shall not be eligible to play for a new Club if he has played for his former Club in the same Competition in the same season. In the event of a tie being postponed, for any reason, only those players who were qualified on the date of the original match shall be eligible to play in the re-arranged tie.
6. Any Team playing an illegible player or players or an unregistered player or players shall be fined £50.00 for each such player and the match shall be awarded to their opponents.
7. In the event of the scores in any match being level at the end of normal time, then extra time of twenty (20) minutes (ten (10) minutes each way) shall be played. If the scores are still level at the end of extra time, then the winner shall be determined by the taking of penalty kicks, from the penalty spot, in accordance with the procedures adopted by the International Board.
8. The duration of play shall be:

Under 12	60 minutes	(30 minutes each half)
Under 13 and Under 14	70 minutes	(35 minutes each half)
Under 15 and Under 16	80 minutes	(40 minutes each half)

The half time interval shall not exceed five (5) minutes without the Referee's permission.
9. The Semi-Final and Final ties shall be played on dates and at venues as arranged by the Management Committee.
10. Referees and Assistant Referees shall be appointed by the Referee Secretary.

11. Any Team withdrawing from the Competition shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £20.00.
12. Individual mementoes shall be presented to the players of each Team that plays in the Final tie.
13. Except where otherwise specified in the foregoing, the Competition shall be subject to the Rules of the League and matches played in conformity therewith.

CHILD PROTECTION

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

8. For the purposes of these Regulations, The Association shall act through its Council or any Committee or Sub-Committee thereof, including the Board.
9. Notification in writing of an order referred to above shall be given to the person concerned and/or any Club with which he is associated as soon as reasonably practicable.
10. The applicable standard of proof shall be the civil standard, of the balance of probability. The more serious the allegation taking into account the nature of the misconduct alleged and the context of the case the greater the burden of evidence required to find the matter proved. Save that for charges pursuant to The Football Association's Child Protection Policy, where the welfare and protection of children shall be paramount and the test shall be whether more likely than not.