

**CODE OF RULES**

**AVON YOUTH LEAGUE**

## **NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION**

1. **(A)** This Competition shall be designated the Avon Youth League and shall consist of not more than 16 teams per division from 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 the Form "D" to the Gloucestershire and Somerset County Football Associations. The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be the area formerly known as the County of Avon.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Gloucestershire and Somerset Football Association(s) and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding 16 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.

**(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.

**(C)** All Member Clubs must have F.A. Charter Standard Status. Any new Club applying to this League must commence the process of applying for the F.A. Charter Standard by the date of the A.G.M. prior to the start of the forthcoming season. (Written evidence will be required)

Any Charter Standard Club which has had the status removed or suspended during the playing season will not be eligible to play any of its fixtures and the points will be awarded to the opponents.

## **ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT**

2. **(A)** Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of an additional team(s) must be made in writing to the General Secretary on or before 30<sup>th</sup> April each year. Any team failing to complete 75% of its fixtures in any season shall (unless the conditions are beyond their control, or the majority of the accredited delegates present at an Annual General Meeting or a Special Meeting decide otherwise) be debarred from membership of the following season. Applications by new Clubs must be accompanied by a current balance sheet.

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.

**(B)** The Annual Subscription shall be £35.00 per team inclusive of 20 Registration Forms and Cup entrance fees, payable on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> September in each year.

**(C)** Each Club shall pay £50.00 for any team withdrawing from the League after the AGM each year. Any Club having an outstanding debt to the League at the time of the AGM may not be considered for acceptance into the League for the following season. The full League Council is to be made aware and shall decide.

**(D)** A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the Annual Subscription has been paid.

**(E)** Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by the first Sunday of August of its Gloucestershire or Somerset County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming Season, failing which they shall be fined £7.50. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its Headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition.

All Member Club's Nominated Officers and Team Managers shall sign and return to the General Secretary, by the 31st July prior to the commencement of the playing season, the League's Child Protection Policy Statement.

This statement is as published in the League Handbook and may be varied in accordance with the provision for Rule changes.

## **OFFICERS**

- 3 The Officers of the Competition shall be the President, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, General Secretary, Registration Secretary, Referees Secretary Fixture Secretary, Minutes Secretary, Results Secretary, Representative Match Co-ordinator, Social Secretary, Responsible Officer and Child Protection Officer to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. (N.B. Auditors are not Officers).

All Officers of the League and Representative Team Managers shall sign and return to the General Secretary, by the 31<sup>st</sup> July prior to the commencement of the playing season, the League's Child Protection Policy Statement.

This statement is as published in the League Handbook and may be varied in accordance with the provision for Rule changes.

## **MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION**

4. **(A)** The Competition shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association by a Management Committee comprised of the Officers and Members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. The League Management Committee may co-opt additional members to the Management Committee during the season where considered necessary to ensure the efficient running of the competition. All participants shall abide by the Football Association Regulations for safeguarding Children as determined by The Football Association from time to time.

**(B)** Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination. All other candidates for election as Officers or Members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two Member Clubs, not later than 30<sup>th</sup>

April in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting

**(C)** The Management Committee shall meet monthly to deal with business as it arises. Any Management Member failing to attend 3 consecutive Meetings without any satisfactory reasons being given shall be removed from the Committee. Extra Meetings may be held at the Chairman or Vice Chairman's discretion, to conduct the business of the League. Not less than seven days notice shall be given of any meeting.

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

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

**(E)** All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their nominated Officers. No correspondence or phone calls will be accepted from any other parties unless endorsed by the Club Secretary. Each Club shall forward to the General Secretary by 30<sup>th</sup> June the names of two Club Representatives, one of which must be the Club Secretary. Clubs not represented at these meetings will be fined £5-00. Clubs represented by delegates other than those nominated shall notify the General Secretary in writing prior to the commencement of the meeting. These Representatives will be expected to attend to their Club's and League's business. Any Club failing to attend 3 consecutive meetings shall be dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee. A Club failing to satisfactorily attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the League shall be fined a sum of £7.50 or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the Management Committee.

## **POWERS OF MANAGEMENT**

5. **(A)** The Management Committee may appoint 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. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of the Football Association or affiliated Association.

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

**(C)** Each Member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee Meetings and have one vote thereat, but no Member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such Member or to the Club so represented. (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 must be formally charged in writing and given the opportunity to present their case before the Management Committee. Financial penalties can only be imposed if included within the set penalties for breaches of Competition Rules. All breaches of the Laws of the Game, Rules and Regulations of The Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance with F.A. 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 must be notified in writing to those concerned within 14 days.

**(F)** Five Members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee and three Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by any sub-committee of the Competition.

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

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

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

Clubs, Officials or individuals committing a breach of this Rule will 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 Meeting or Special General Meeting called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Competition season.

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

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

6. (A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than the end of June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least two thirds of its Members are present and entitled to vote:-

1. To adopt Standing orders and to receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
2. To consider any business arising therefrom.
3. To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
4. Election of Clubs to fill vacancies (as recommended by the Management Committee).
5. Constitution of the Competition for ensuing season.
6. Election of Officers and Management Committee.
7. Appointment of Auditors.
8. Alteration of Rules, if any (of which notice has been given).
9. Fix the date for the commencement and conclusion of playing season.
10. Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.

**(B)** A copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least fourteen days prior to the meeting, and to the Gloucestershire and Somerset County Football Association(s).

**(C)** A signed copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Gloucestershire and Somerset County Football Association(s) within fourteen days of its adoption by the Annual General Meeting.

**(D)** Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Not less than 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. This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 17.

**(F)** All voting shall be conducted by a show of hands unless a ballot is demanded by at least two thirds 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 Full Member.

**(H)** Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £10.00.

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

### **AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED**

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

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

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

*(Note: The spaces above are intended for the inclusion of the signatures and addresses of officers and members).*

### **QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS**

8. **(A)** Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules, are not permitted 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 for Excellence.

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

(1) Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by their parent or guardian and by an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the Registrations Secretary not less than 14 days prior to the commencement of the playing season and whose completed registration counterfoil has been received by the Club prior to playing. Thereafter for all transfers and all player registrations prior to 31<sup>st</sup> November the period shall be not less than seven days prior to playing. From December 1<sup>st</sup>, FOR PLAYERS NOT PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED WITH A CLUB IN THIS LEAGUE, the period shall be not less than 3 DAYS PRIOR TO PLAYING. The registration document must incorporate any known serious medical conditions of the player and emergency contact details of the player's parents or guardians. These details must be available at matches and training events the player attends within the management of the Club or Competition. The parents / guardians of the player are considered to be non playing members of the club and are covered by FA regulations in respect of their conduct. The signature of player and parent / guardian confirms that the date of birth stated within the registration document is correct.

(2) The registration document must incorporate a current passport-size photograph of the player seeking registration. If a player's age is required for registration purposes a Competition must accept an original birth certificate or a photocopy. In cases where the birth certificate is not available a Competition is required to accept a photocopy of the player's passport or other official document issued by a Government Agency attesting to the player's date of birth. For such age groups as determined by the League Management Committee and as announced as the Annual General Meeting, together with the declaration from the Club's Officer signing the form declaring that they have seen proof of the player's date of birth. A second current passport-size photograph of the player seeking registration shall be attached to the counterfoil and a third to the identity card that shall be retained by the Team Manager. No game shall commence unless the identity cards are exchanged. Failure to produce the identity cards the fixture will be awarded to the opposition. Identity cards must be returned no later than 15 minutes after the final whistle. No player is allowed to take part in the game if his Identity Card is not available.

Any dispute regarding the validity of any player must be raised with an opposing club official no later than 15 minutes after the final whistle. FULL DETAILS of any such dispute to be received in writing by the REGISTRATION SECRETARY within 4 days of the match. A copy of this communication is also to be sent to the opposing club secretary.

Any dispute regarding the validity of any player must be raised within 15 minutes of the final whistle.

Matches, which are not played due to failure of teams to register sufficient players at the commencement of the season, will be dealt with in accordance with Rule 9(e).

Under 12 – the player must be under the age of 12 as at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in the playing season.

Under 13 – the player must be under the age of 13 as at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in the playing season.

Under 14 – the player must be under the age of 14 as at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in the playing season.

Under 15 – the player must be under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in the playing season.

Under 16 – the player must be under the age of 16 as at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in the playing season.

In accordance with the foregoing qualifications a player under the age of 14 as at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in 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 C4 (a) (v)).

**(C)** A player is not eligible to play in this Competition who receives any form or payment for playing, other than expenses as per Clauses 1, 2 and 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 for the actual expenses incurred during the course of their participation in or for any 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 player's 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".

**(D)** Clubs must, on demand from the Management Committee, produce corroborative evidence of date of birth of any player registered by them. All players must live in the area formerly known as County of Avon and attend schools in that area or District Council immediately adjoining that area. However, players who have previously been eligible, and have played in this League, who attend another school or college outside that area, but whose home address remains in that area, may at the discretion of the Management Committee, be allowed to continue to play in this League.

**(E)** A player having taken part in matches for any Club affiliated to any County Football Association shall not be allowed to join, be transferred to, or sign for a Club in the Competition without first proving to the officials of the intended Club that the player has discharged all reasonable financial

liabilities to the previous Club or Clubs, and a Club official may not accept such player's signature without first ascertaining whether such claims have been discharged to the satisfaction of the Club, or Clubs, for which the player last played.

**(F)** A book of 20 Registration Forms per team admitted to the League shall be obtained from the Registration Secretary no earlier than the AGM. Additional Registration forms shall be obtained from the Registrations Secretary on prepayment of 50 pence per form.

**(G)** The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes.

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

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

(i) Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same season without first being transferred.

(ii) Having signed for one Club in the Competition, sign for another Club in the Competition in that season except for the purpose of a transfer.

(iii) Submit a signed registration form for registration that the player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

(I) (i) The Management Committee shall have power to accept the registration of any player. The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player proved guilty of registration irregularities. (Subject to Rule 16).

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

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

(Note: Action under clause (ii) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any case be subject to an appeal to the Football Association. (For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the competition into disrepute can only be considered where the player has

received in excess of 112 day's suspension, or 10 matches in match based discipline, in a period of two 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 (Club A) shall submit a Transfer Form together with a stamp addressed envelope (SAE) to the Club for which the player is Registered (Club B). Should Club B object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the League Registrations Secretary (LRS) and to the player concerned within 7 days of receipt of the transfer form.

If there are no objections Club B shall sign the form and return it with the players identity card to Club A in the stamp addressed envelope provided. Club A shall then send Transfer Form, League Registration Form, old Identity card, new Identity card and £5.00 transfer fee to the League Registration Secretary.

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

If Club B fails to give written objection or return a signed Transfer Form within 7 days, Club A shall send Transfer Form, League Registration Form new ID and £5-00 transfer fee to the League Registration Secretary who may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or 7 days after receipt of such transfer as ruled by the Management.

A book of 20 Registration Forms per team admitted to the League shall be obtained from the Registration Secretary no earlier than the AGM. Additional forms can be obtained on request at 50p per form.

**(K)** A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 1<sup>st</sup> March except by special permission of the Management Committee.

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

In the event a Club has more than one team in an age group, each team must be clearly designated "A" and "B" etc. In such cases, players will be registered for one team only. No transfer will be permitted between that Clubs "A" and "B" teams without the Management Committee's permission.

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

In the event of a player without a written contract changing his status to that of a contract player with then same Club, another Club in the Competition or with a Club in another Competition his registration as a player without a written contract will automatically be cancelled and declared void. In order

to play in the League again either for his original Club or for another Club it will be necessary for him to be re-registered as required by rule.

**(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 three games for that team in this Competition in the current season.

**(O)** A player who has played for a team in the higher age group 3 times or more shall not in that season be eligible to play in a lower Division except by permission of the Management Committee.

**(P)**(i) Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players shall have the points gained in the match deducted from its total and may be fined and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

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

(iii) The Management Committee in exceptional circumstances 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 must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities.

Postponements will be dealt with in accordance with Rule 10.

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

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

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

### **CLUB COLOURS. CLUB NAME**

9. **(A)** Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 30<sup>th</sup> June who shall decide as to their suitability.

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

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

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

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the away team shall make the change. Any team not having a change of colours or delaying the kick-off by not having a change shall be fined £5.00.

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.

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

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

10. **(A)** The Annual General Meeting shall determine the commencing and concluding dates for the ensuing season which shall be in accordance with Football Association Rules. 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 the due date of the August meeting, must not be arranged for a date later than seven days preceding the concluding date determined by the Annual General Meeting.

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

Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their grounds in a playable condition. All matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee. If through any fault of the home team a match has to be replayed, the Management Committee shall have power to order the venue to be changed. No League or Cup match shall be played on any synthetic or artificial surface.

The Management Committee shall have power to seek expulsion of clubs that fail to provide adequate pitch and/or facilities these include adequate changing facilities with hot/cold running water, showers and toilet facilities (From the 2008-2009 Season).

All matches shall have a duration as set out below unless a shorter time (not less than 40 minutes) is mutually arranged by the two captains 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 as follows unless it is mutually agreed by all parties to reduce the time. For under 12, 30 minutes each half; for under 13, 14, 35 minutes each half and under 15 and under 16, 40 minutes each half.

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

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

The times of kick-off shall be fixed by the A.G.M. or the Management Committee, in the first instance the original fixtures shall be scheduled as set out below. Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time shall be fined a sum not exceeding £20 or be otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine.

The normal playing day of the week shall be Sunday. Sunday kick-offs shall be 10.30 a.m. for Under 12 and U13 Divisions and 2.00 p.m. for all other divisions. Kick-off time for midweek matches, evening and holiday matches shall be by mutual agreement and confirmed with the Fixture Secretary and the Referee. The League must obtain the permission of the Gloucestershire Youth Football Association for matches to be played on days other than Sunday.

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

The home team must provide at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. All Clubs reported under this rule to be fined £2 for each report received. The size of football to be used shall be: size 4 for those playing under 12, 13 and 14 age groups; size 5 for all other age groups. Goal nets must be used.

**(C)** Except by permission of the Management Committee all matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The Football Association and all relevant County Association / League Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of the (Fixtures) Secretary. Fixtures will be played as notified by the Fixture Secretary (with a minimum of 4 days notice). All League Fixtures to take preference over friendlies during the playing season. No friendlies to be played, unless with permission of the Fixture Secretary. Easter allocated tournaments to be notified to the Fixture Secretary before the October Meeting of the League for consideration by the Management Committee whose decision shall be final.

**(D)** The Secretary of the home Club must give notice in writing of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the Secretary of the opposing Club at least 2 clear days prior to the playing of the match where changes to the League Handbook have not been announced at a League Council meeting.

Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine of £7.50.

**(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 deliberately fielding a weakened*

*team in order to unreasonably reserve players for another game or to boost the strength of another or lower team. 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.)*

In the event of a Club playing in any match with less than 11 players they may be fined £2 for each missing player. A minimum of 9 players will constitute a team for a Competition match.

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

**No game shall be postponed other than for Ground Conditions or any of the following, which is scheduled for the same date:**

- 1) County Cup
- 2) Avon Youth League Cup

**OR a team having two or more players selected for any of the following, which is scheduled for the same date:**

- 1) The League Representative side
- 2) County Representative Team
- 3) County Schools Team
- 4) School Team
- 5) Attendance at substantiated school activities (see below)

***(Please note that a letter from the school with the name of the players attending must be sent in with the postponement form within 7 days of the original date of fixture. Failure to do so and the points will be awarded to the opposition)***

Club postponing to notify the Fixture Secretary and then the Secretary of the opposing Club.

In the event of a postponement e-mailed confirmation on the postponement / re-arrangement form **FROM THE HOME CLUB** with the new re-arranged date to be with the Fixture Secretary within 14 days of the original date of the fixture.

Failure to comply with the above Rule will leave the **HOME CLUB** liable to be fined a sum of £7.50 or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the Management Committee.

All postponements other than those in accordance with Rule 10(F) shall be subject to an administration fee of £15.00 and any other penalty as set out above.

Notice of postponement of any match must be given without delay by the postponing Club to the (Fixtures) 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.

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 14 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 abandoned matches and in a case where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee is 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 what other action they may deem necessary. In cases where a match has been abandoned by the conduct of both teams or their Club members the Management Committee shall rule all points for the match as void. No Fine(s) to be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match. Such action is subject to any disciplinary action taken by the appropriate County Football Association.

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

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 5 minutes before the start of the match.

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

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

## **REPORTING RESULTS**

11. **(A)** The Registration Secretary must receive within 4 days of the date played, the result of each Competition match in the prescribed manner. 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 incur a fine of £5.00 and/or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide.
- (B)** The Home Club shall e-mail the result (telephone in emergency only) of each match to the Results Secretary between 6.00pm and 7.00pm Sunday evening. In the event of an evening match the result must reach the Result Secretary in accordance with the above on the Sunday immediately following the date of the match. Failure to supply a result within the allotted time will render a club to a fine of £10 for each result for the first occurrence, £20 for each result for the second occurrence, £40 for each result for the third occurrence and thereafter the results secretary will warn the Club that the next failure may incur a points deduction.
- (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.

### **DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP**

12. **(A)** Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with 3 points to be awarded for a win and 1 point for a drawn match. The teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective Divisions at the conclusion shall be adjudged the winners. Matches must not be played for double points.

In the event of two or more teams being equal on points team rankings will be decided in any one or more of the following ways, in the order set out:-

- (i) Goal difference
- (ii) Goals scored
- (iii) Trophy to be shared OR a deciding match played under conditions determined by the Management Committee

For deciding matches, in the event of the scores in a special championship match played under conditions determined by the Management Committee being level at the end of the game extra time shall be played.

It shall be:-

U12, U13 & U14: 20 minutes extra time shall be played in two equal periods of 10 minutes.

U15 & U16: 30 minutes extra time shall be played in two equal periods of 15 minutes.

Should one of the teams score a goal during the period of extra time the match will be considered as finished and the team scoring the goal declared the winner. If no goal is scored during extra time, the winners will be

determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the International Board Decision contained in the Laws of Association Football.

**(B)** Promotion and Relegation shall be determined by the numbers in divisions and at the Management discretion prior to the commencement of the playing season.

(i) Should one or more teams withdraw from any one Division after the fixtures have commenced an equal number of teams to those withdrawing in that Division may not be automatically relegated.

(ii) Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the season may be filled on any of the following ways:

- (A) retention of otherwise relegated team(s)
- (B) additional promotion of the next ranked team(s) from the Division below
- (C) election

**(C)** In the event of a team not completing 75% of its fixtures for the season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting team shall be expunged from the Competition table.

It will be customary for the Clubs in the Under 12, 13, 14 and 15 Divisions to be invited to compete in the age group above for the next season, provided they have satisfactorily attended to the business of the League in the season being concluded.

No Club shall be guaranteed election into a Division in any season.

In the event of a Club withdrawing or withdrawing a team during the season its record shall be expunged, and the registration forms for all the boys who are registered for such team(s) be cancelled.

## **REFEREES**

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

**(B)** In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed Referee 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. A Substitute Referee form shall be completed by both clubs and received by the League Registration Secretary with the Match Result Form.

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

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

**(E)** The Management Committee at the commencement of each season shall determine referees fee. Fees and expenses shall NOT exceed the amounts laid down by the Gloucestershire Football Association Ltd.

The Home Club shall pay the Officials their fees and expenses immediately after the match.

Each Home Club shall contact the appointed Referee in the week prior to the game to confirm the fixture by no later than 9.00pm on the Friday, or be dealt with as the Management Committee deem fit

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

**(G)** A Referee not keeping his engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to his non-appearance, may be reported to the County Football Association with which he 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.

**(K)** Referees shall be supplied, each Season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.

#### **CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB**

14. **(A)** Every Club must notify the General Secretary before 1<sup>st</sup> May each year of its intention to continue in, or withdraw from the League one of its teams for the next season or incur a fine of £5 in default.

**(B)** A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its teams from the Competition after the Annual General Meeting for the following Season. Any Club infringing this Rule shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £50 per team and shall also be liable for its share of any call which may be made under Rule 5(B).

**(C)** The Management Committee shall meet as soon as possible after the closing date for applications for membership of the League to recommend

their nominated constitution for the League for the following season, and the teams who shall be candidates for election and/or re-election.

### **PROTESTS AND APPEALS**

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

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

(B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged in duplicate with the Secretary within 7 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 £15.00. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the enquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

(E) Protest of a Management Committees decision will be considered when the complaining Club shall deposit the sum of £15 together with a letter of protest within seven days of notification. All parties to a protest will be afforded an opportunity to make a statement when the protest is being heard and shall where possible receive 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 Club of any information which, if properly used, might have avoided the protest or complaint. The defaulting or losing Club may forfeit their deposit.

### **BOARD OF APPEAL**

16. Within 7 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 Gloucestershire Football Association, including a fee of £15.00, 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 ground of unconstitutional conduct.

A copy of the Appeal must be sent to the League General Secretary and the operation of the decision made by the League shall not be suspended pending the result of the Appeal unless the Board of Appeal or Council of the Gloucestershire Youth Football Association, through its Officers, orders such suspension.

A Board of Appeal appointed by the Gloucestershire Youth Football Association, shall deal with cases as they arise.

#### **EXCLUSION OF CLUBS, OR TEAMS** **MISCONDUCT, CLUBS, OFFICIALS, PLAYERS**

17. **(A)** At the Annual General Meeting, or Special General Meeting called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, Notice of Motion having been duly circulated on the Agenda, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude any Club or Team from further membership which must be supported by (more than) two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) 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 whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by (more than) two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

**(C)** Any official or member of a Club proved guilty of either misconduct, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a player or players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to expulsion or such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Clauses (A) and (B) of this Rule. The CLOSED Season is from 1<sup>st</sup> June to 30<sup>th</sup> June inclusive as per F.A. Handbook.

Any League Official, Club Official, or Club Member proved guilty of child abuse shall be liable to expulsion or other penalty as deemed necessary. Any person subject to charges relating to child abuse shall be liable to suspension or other penalty as the League Council and/or Management Committee may decide.

**(D)** Any team failing to complete 75% of its fixtures in any season shall (unless the conditions are beyond their control, or the majority of the accredited delegates present at an Annual General Meeting or a Special Meeting decide otherwise) be debarred from membership of the following season.

Any Club, which submits an Application Form containing false, misleading or incorrect information, will be liable to expulsion from the League.

### **TROPHIES and AWARDS**

18.(A) A Competition Cup or Trophy shall be vested in the Association sanctioning the Competition as Trustees. 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 may/shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

(B) Returnable Trophies to be returned to the League Secretary no later than 30<sup>th</sup> April suitably engraved and in a good clean condition, failure to do so the offending Club will be fined £10. Broken or lost trophies to be suitably repaired or replaced at the Clubs expense.

### **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

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

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

At least 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 fined £5.00.

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

### **ALTERATION TO RULES**

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

Notice of any proposed alteration to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the General Secretary by the 1<sup>st</sup> March in each year. Notice of any proposals together with any proposals by the Council or Management Committee shall be circulated to the clubs with the notice of the Annual General Meeting at least seven days before the date of the meeting. Amendments may be proposed and decided at the meeting and the final proposals shall be declared carried if the majority of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.

Proposed alterations to the Rules to be considered at a Special General Meeting shall be circulated with the notice of the Meeting and the proposed amendments may be voted on at the meeting. A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules, to be considered at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the Gloucestershire Youth Football Association fourteen days prior to the date of the meeting. Any alterations or additions decided upon at any meeting shall not become operative until the approval of the Association issuing sanction shall have been obtained.

All amendment to rules can only be implemented once approved by the appropriate sanctioning authority.

### **RULES BINDING ON CLUBS**

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

The League may (if permission is obtained) play representative matches with any clubs or leagues, for the benefit of the league funds, when players shall be chosen from league clubs.

Team selection is at the discretion of the representative manager. Such players must play for the league on such occasions unless an acceptable reason be given. No player chosen should play for his own club on such date without permission of the league. If TWO or more players from one team are selected the club shall be given permission to cancel a fixture, if requested, provided the representative match is on the same day as the league fixture. Clubs postponing to notify the Fixture Secretary and opposing club secretary.

### **FINANCE**

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

**(B)** All expenditure in excess of £100 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.

**(C)** The financial year of the Competition will end on 31<sup>st</sup> May.

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

**(E)** If the League was to dissolved, then any monies would be given to local charities, nominated by the League Committee.

## **AVON YOUTH LEAGUE**

### **STANDING ORDERS**

1. A person must stand whilst speaking, announce his name and club and address his remarks to the chairman.
2. No person is to speak more than twice on a question without the consent of the chairman.
3. The mover of a resolution shall have the right to reply.
4. No member is allowed to leave the meeting unless he receives the chairman's permission.
5. All matters relating to any other business must be tabled and in writing by 8:15pm on the night of the meeting.



In the event of the scores being level at the end of the period of extra time the match shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the International Board recommended procedures.

Cup Rule 8

In all other cases, the rules of the League shall apply. The Management Committee shall have jurisdiction over all matters concerning the Cup Competitions.

