



Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League

'Promoting the development of girl's football in Hertfordshire'

Affiliated to the Hertfordshire Football Association

Established 2008

Handbook 2010 - 2011

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Member Clubs 2009-2010

Barnet Azzurri	Royston Town Youth
Bedford Ladies	St Albans City Youth
Bedwell Rangers	St Albans Rangers
Borehamwood Youth	St Joseph Youth
Bury Rangers	Stevenage Borough Youth
Comet Sports	Watford Ladies
Croxley Guild	Welwyn Pegasus
Evergreen FC	
Garston Ladies	
Harpenden Colts	
Hatfield Town Youth	
Headstone Manor	
Hemel Hempstead Youth	
Hitchin Hearts Belles	
Kings Langley	
Knebworth Youth	
Letchworth Garden City Eagles	
Panshanger FC	

Constitution 2010-2011

Under 9s (5 a side)	Under 10s (7 a side) Division One	Under 10s (7 a side) Division Two	Under 11s (7 a side)
Bedwell Rangers	Garston Ladies Mets	Bedwell Rangers	Bedwell Rangers
Bury Rangers Reds	Hitchin Hearts Belles	Croxley Guild	Borehamwood Ladies
Comet Sports	Hoddesdon Owls	Garston Ladies Diamonds	Bury Rangers Reds
Garston Ladies	Knebworth Youth		Bury Rangers Whites
Hitchin Hearts Belles	Royston Town Youth	Kings Langley	Garston Ladies
Kings Langley	St Albans City North	St Albans City South	Harpenden Colts
Watford Ladies	Watford Ladies	Welwyn Pegasus	Hitchin Hearts Belles
			St Albans City North
			St Albans City South
			Watford Ladies
Under 12s (7/9 a side)	Under 13s (9 a side) Division One	Under 13s (9 a side) Division Two	Under 15s (11 a side)
Bedford Ladies	Bedwell Rangers Scorpions	Barnet Azzurri Dolphins	Bedwell Rangers
Croxley Guild	Bury Rangers Reds	Bedwell Rangers Dragons	
Garston Ladies	Evergreen FC	Garston Ladies Diamonds	Knebworth Belles
Harpenden Colts	Garston Ladies Mets	Headstone Manor	Hatfield Town Youth
Royston Town Youth	Hitchin Hearts Belles	Hemel Hempstead	Harpenden Colts
St Albans City	Stevenage Borough	Panshanger FC	Hemel Hempstead
St Albans Rangers	St Joseph Youth	St Albans Rangers	Letchworth Garden City Eagles
Watford Ladies Hornets	Watford Ladies Harts	Watford Ladies Wasps	Stevenage Borough
		Bury Rangers Whites	Watford Ladies
			Welwyn Pegasus

Notes to Secretaries & Managers

1. Home club Secretaries must contact their opposite number at the away club to confirm the fixture, no later than **9pm on the Tuesday** before the match (Rule 10 D)
2. Please ensure any ref used is qualified and registered with Herts FA. Please remember to pay the Referee immediately after the match (Rule 13 C)
Unless the League appoints Assistants, each Club **MUST** appoint one linesperson each for all 9 and 11 a side games
3. Referees must be presented with **TWO** match balls at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off.
4. Both teams must send result card to their Age Specific Fixtures Secretary within 3 days of game being played
5. All clubs must ensure that the photo card registrations for all of their players are at the ground for all matches. The Committee will conduct random checks on cards during the season.
6. Clubs are requested to keep the League Secretary aware of where they will be playing their matches in the competition.
7. All correspondences between the League and the Clubs should be from League Secretary to Club Secretary. This is with the exception of the following but the league secretary must still be copied in.
 - a) Moneys owed, Club Secretaries should contact League Treasurer
 - b) Child Welfare Issues, CWO and Club Secretaries should contact League Child Welfare Officer
 - c) League Fixtures, Cup and Shield fixtures Club Secretaries and Managers should contact Age Relevant Fixtures Secretaries.

Respect



The amended Respect Codes of Conduct and associated sanctions for season 2010/2011

Young Players

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

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

When playing football, I will:

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

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

I may:

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

In addition:

- My club, County FA or The FA may make my parent or carer aware of any infringements of the Code of Conduct

The FA/County FA could impose a fine and suspension against my club

Spectators and parents/carers

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

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

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

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

I will:

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

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

I may be:

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

In addition:

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

Match Officials

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

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

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

I will:

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

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

I may be:

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

Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials

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

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

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

On and off the field, I will:

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

When working with players, I will:

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

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

I may be:

- Required to meet with the club, league or County Welfare Officer
- Required to meet with the club committee
- Monitored by another club coach

- Required to attend a FA education course
- Suspended by the club from attending matches
- Suspended or fined by the County FA
- Required to leave or be sacked by the club

In addition:

My FACA (FA Coaches Association) membership may be withdrawn

Match Day Delegate

It shall be the responsibility of every team in Youth Football to provide a match delegate, any team failing to do so shall be liable to a fine of at least £10.00.

Role Of The Match Delegate

Both clubs home and away, must nominate a responsible adult/member of their club to act as Match Delegate on the day of the game. Where possible, this should **NOT** be the team manager or coach, but another adult who is at the match.

The responsibility of the Match Delegate will be to:

- Upon arrival at the venue, the Match Delegate from the home team will ask their opponents, who their Match Delegate is and make introductions to each other.
- Together, they will then report to the match referee at least 15 minutes before the start of the game and introduce themselves to him or her.
- The primary responsibility of the home team Match Delegate to look after the referee before, during and after the game until he or she leaves the ground. It would be appropriate if the home and away team delegates did the job together.
- This would include, showing the referee where the changing rooms and toilets are, directing them to the correct pitch, possibly offering a drink at half time and after the game and ensuring that their fees are paid.
- During the game, each delegate will be responsible for the behaviour of all club members and spectators. If the referee needs to he/she will, during a stoppage in play, approach the match delegate to assist him/her in dealing with any problems that may occur. The Match Delegate is not exempt from being reported for mis-conduct.
- Filling in match result cards, checking opponents registration cards, confirm result with the match official and sign result card. It would also be good practice for the Match Delegate to ensure that the referee is able to leave the ground safely.
(Club official or match day delegate to perform this task)
- The FA **Respect Programme** must be considered by the delegate at all times, and a report form is provided for any issues to be reported to the County Association.
- The Hertfordshire FA is totally committed to equality and the County Association Equality Policy must be emphasised and observed at all times.

Diary for 2010 / 2011 season.

Please note all Saturdays during the season will be filled with either League games or Cup and Shield games unless a County Cup game has been scheduled for your team on that weekend.

September

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Managers Meeting	7	8	9	10	11 Start of Season Tournament	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Wk1	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Wk2	26
27	28	29	30			

October

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2 Wk3	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Wk4	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Wk5	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Wk6	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Wk7	31

November

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6 Wk8	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 Wk9	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Wk10	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Wk11	28
29	30					

December

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4 Wk12	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Wk13	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Wk14	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Break	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1 Christmas Break	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 Wk15	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Wk16	16
17 Managers Meeting	18	19	20	21	22 Wk17	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Wk18	30
31						

February

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5 Wk19	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 Wk20	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 U8s & U9s Festival Wk21	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Wk22	27
28						

March

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5 Wk23	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 Wk24	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Wk25	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Wk26	27
28	29	30	31 <i>Intention form return deadline</i>			

April

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2 Wk27	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Wk28	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Easter Break	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Easter Break	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Wk29	

May

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 Cup and Shield Finals	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 End of Season presentation	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6 A.G.M	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Summary List of Fines, Charges and Fees

RULE	OFFENCE DETAILS	FINE AMOUNT
2 (A) (ii)	Team withdrawn after the date of the AGM and before the start of the scheduled start of the season, then the Club will be liable for 50% of the Entry Fee.	
2 (E)	Failure to notify General Secretary of Club affiliation number	£20
5 (H)	Failure to satisfactory attend to the business and /or correspondence of the competition	£20
5 (I)	Fines not paid within 14 days of issue	£10
5 (I)	Fines not paid within 21 days of issue	£10
5 (N)	Failure of Member Club to be represented at General meeting	1 st offence £10 2 nd offence £15 3 rd offence £20
6 (H)	Failure of Member Club to be represented at AGM without a satisfactory reason	£20
8 (E)	Failure to send player registration card to general secretary when requested	£10
8 (I) (i)	Player transfer fee	£5
8 (Q)	Failure to provide player registration cards at start of game	£25
8 (O) (i)	A Team playing an unregistered/ineligible player shall have points deducted and may be fined and/or dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee	Max £25
8 (R)	Notification of objection to player	£10 deposit with written notification
9 (A) (iv)	Failure of home team to provide change of colour kit	£5
10 (B) (v)	Kick off later than 10 minutes after scheduled kick off	£5
10 (C) (i)	Failure to notify Management of County Competition Fixture	£10
10 (D)	Failure to phone the away team and match official by Tuesday 9.00pm prior to Saturday/Sunday fixture	£10
10 (E) (ii)	Failure to provide sufficient players on match day	£2 per each missing player
10 (F) (i)	Failure to fulfil a Competition fixture [points/tie awarded to the opposition]	Max £25
11 (A)	Failure to send result card to fixtures secretary within 3 days of game	£10
11 (B) (i)	Failure of home team to text the result of each League match to Fixtures secretary by 6:00 pm on the day of the match. This includes all postponed and abandoned fixtures with a PRN number	£10
11 (B) (ii)	Failure of home and away teams to text the result of Cup or Shield games to the fixture secretary of the age group by 6:00pm on day of the match. This includes all postponed and abandoned fixtures with a PRN number	£10
11 (C)	Incomplete or incorrectly completed result card	£20
13 (C)	Failure to provide assistant referees	£10
13 (H)	Failure to send referee report within 7 days of match	£5
14 (A)	Failure to notify of withdrawal from Competition before AGM	£25
14 (C)	Team withdrawing membership of the Competition after AGM and after the arrangement of fixtures.	£50
15 (D)	All appeals must include payment of:-	£10
15 (E)	Failure to attend a discipline hearing	£20
18 (A) (vi)	Failure to return a trophy in good condition/engrave with the season and club name by 1 March each year	£40

19 (A) (iii)	Failure of Club to be represented at an SGM	£20
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RULE 1: NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

(A) This Competition shall be designated the Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League and shall consist of not more than 60 Clubs who shall be Full Member Clubs

(i) All such Member Clubs must be affiliated to the relevant Football Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on the Form "D" to the Hertfordshire County Football Association. The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be that within a 25 mile radius of Welwyn Garden City or outside of Hertfordshire at the management's discretion.

Existing member clubs with permanent grounds outside Hertfordshire shall retain membership of the League.

(ii) This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Hertfordshire Football Association(s) and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions in the following age groups:

Under 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18

(iv) 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.

(v) The competition will provide 11-a-side football for players who have attained the age of 14 as at midnight 31st August in a playing season, 9-a-side football for players who have attained the age of 12 as at midnight 31st August in a playing season and Mini-Soccer for players who have attained the age of 9 years but not the age of 12 years as at midnight on 31st August in a playing season. 5-a-side football will be provided for players who have attained the age of 7.

(vi) The Management Committee shall have the power to decide or adjust constitutions of the Divisions.

(vii) All clubs are to actively promote The Respect Campaign

RULE 2: ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

2(A) (i) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition must be made in writing by the last day of April in each year to the Secretary and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee the amount of which shall be determined at the AGM, and which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

(ii) Team withdrawn after the date of the AGM and before the start of the scheduled start of the season, then the Club will be liable for 50% of the Entry Fee.

(iii) 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.

2(B) The Annual Subscription shall be determined at the AGM for clubs and shall be payable on the player registration evening in each year.

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

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

2(E) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by player registration evening of each year of its Hertfordshire County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming Season, failing which they shall be fined £20. 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.

2(F) All payments to the Competition [League] must be in the form of a cheque drawn on the Club's account, and no cash will be accepted.

RULE 3: OFFICERS

3(A) (i) The Officers of the Competition shall be the Chairperson, Deputy-Chairperson, General Secretary, Treasurer, Child Welfare Officer, Fines Officer, Fixtures Secretaries, Registration Secretary and any other officers that may be considered necessary for the efficient running of the League to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. (N.B. Auditors are not Officers).

(ii) The Presidents and Vice Presidents are honorary positions and are not members of the Management Committee. They are traditionally appointed in recognition of their past service to the League and are experienced in the procedures of running a League. As they are not members of the Management Committee they have no voting rights but should be regarded as a valuable resource upon which the Management Committee can call upon for advice and assistance.

RULE 4: MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

4(A) The Competition shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association by a Management Committee comprised of the Officers and any other 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 Football Association

4(B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination. The Appointment of the President and any Vice Presidents will take place after they have been nominated and received the votes of a majority of delegates at an AGM. Once appointed they do not require annual re-election and can only be removed if they tender their resignation or if removed from office in accordance with Rule 17.

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

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

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

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

4(E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Club Secretary first, or in their reported absence, a nominated Officer of their Club.

RULE 5: POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

5 (A) the Management Committee may appoint such other sub-committees as they may consider necessary and may delegate such of their powers, as they deem necessary to such committees. The decisions of all such committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Chairperson, Deputy-Chairperson, General Secretary, and Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of all sub-committees. The management committee shall have the power to deal only with matters within the competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of the FA or affiliated association.

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

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

5(D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition, including any not provided for in the Rules. Except where these Rules provide for the imposition of a set penalty any Club, Official 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. 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, with the exception of Clubs playing at step 7 of the football pyramid and the FA Women's Premier League, the maximum fine permitted for any breach of a competition rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the competition must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

5(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.

5(F) 5 [five] Members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee and 3 [three] Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by any sub-committee of the Competition.

5(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.

5(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 £20 and shall not be allowed to play or take part in the business of the Competition until the order has been complied with, and a reason for the delay has been furnished to the Secretary who shall submit it to the Management Committee for its adjudication, or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the Management Committee.

5(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, and in particular, fines not paid within the 14 days will be increased by £10, fines not paid after 21 days will be increased by a further £10, and a club failing to pay a fine or charge within 28 days of the original date of posting shall be reported to the Hertfordshire F.A. No report shall be sent to the Hertfordshire F.A. if an appeal has been lodged.

5(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.

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

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

5(M) Leagues who organise Mini Soccer for teams playing Under 7 and Under 8 football may not, with the exception of Rules 6, 11d, 14 and 19 fine clubs for breaches of League Rules.

5(N) A club failing to be represented at a General Meeting may be fined £10 [ten] for the first offence, £15 [fifteen] for the second offence, £20 [twenty] for the third offence, and failing to be represented at three consecutive meetings shall be dealt with as the Management Committee may determine.

RULE 6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6(A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 30 June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least 65% of 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 there from.
- (iii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
- (iv) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies (as recommended by the Management Committee). No club will be elected if it has any outstanding discipline fines or other financial liabilities to the League at the time of the AGM
- (v) Constitution of the Competition for ensuing season.
- (vi) Election of Officers and Management Committee.
- (vii) Appointment of Auditors.
- (viii) Alteration of Rules, if any (of which notice has been given).
- (ix) Fix the date for the commencement and conclusion of playing season.
- (x) Fix the annual subscription and referees' fees for the coming season,
- (xi) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an

Annual General Meeting.

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

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

6(D) Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an Annual General Meeting, and other General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only for each delegate attending. Officers present shall have one vote but shall not vote in the election of officers unless they are representing a club. Not less than 7 [seven] days' notice shall be given of any Meeting.

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

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

6(G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Full Member Club unless the individual is also appointed to vote as a representative of a group of Associate Member Clubs.

6(H) Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £20.

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

RULE 7: AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

7(A) The Chairperson 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 _____ (Chairperson) and
B _____ of _____ (Secretary) of the
_____ Football Club have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League 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 Chairperson and /or Secretary on the above Agreement must be notified to the Hertfordshire 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).

RULE 8: QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

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

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

8(B) A registered youth playing member of a Club is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has been issued with a valid league registration card, and has: -

Been registered with the Registrations Secretary 3 [three] days prior to playing and whose completed registration counterfoil has been received by the Club 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 registration document must incorporate 2 current passport-size photographs of the player seeking registration together with proof of the player's date of birth in the form of photocopy of an original birth certificate, passport, or medical card.

The qualification dates for the competition shall be as follows:

Mini Soccer:-

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

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

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

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

Youth Football

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

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

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

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

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

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

Under 17 – the player must be under the age of 17 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 18 – the player must be under the age of 18 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

In accordance with the foregoing qualifications a player under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31st 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 C.4 (a) (v)).

8(C) A team shall not include any player who has taken part in any more senior competition matches during the current season unless a period of 14 days has elapsed.

For the purpose of this Competition a more senior competition shall be defined as Home Counties League.

8(D) 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. Whilst serving in any branch of Her Majesty's Regular Forces, a player must first obtain the consent of her Commanding Officer before signing a registration form to play for a Club.

8(E) Registration forms shall be obtained from the committee, 16 registration forms will be supplied per team, and thereafter at £1 per form. Replacement registration cards to replace lost ones will be charged at £2 each.

The registration card of a player who is suspended for more than seven days shall be surrendered to the general secretary together with a SAE for its return. The registration card is to be posted to the general secretary on the date on which the suspension commences. The player's registration with the Competition is regarded as having been withdrawn on the date the suspension commences. The registration card shall be retained by the general secretary for the duration of the suspension, and will be returned to the player's club secretary when the suspension ends. Failure to send the registration card to the general secretary on the occasion of the imposition of a suspension shall result in a fine of £10 being imposed on the club for whom the suspended player is registered.

(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 Club priority of registration shall decide for which Club the player shall be registered. The general secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

8(G) 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 willfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

8(H) (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 at their discretion proved guilty of registration irregularities. (Subject to Rule 16).

(iii) The Management Committee shall have power 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 relevant County FA

(Note: Action under Clause (iii) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct on the field of play until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute and 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 days suspension or 10 matches in match based discipline, in a period of 2 years or less from the date of the first offence

8(I) Procedure for transfer of a player from one club/team to another (subject to The Football Association Rules dealing with players without a written contract).

(i) The Club the player wishes to transfer to should obtain a transfer form and new Registration documents from the registration secretary.

(ii) The Club that the player wishes to transfer to should then complete Sections 1 and 2 of the transfer form and send it to the registration secretary together with a fee of £5 [five pounds] payable to 'HGFPL' and a SAE. NB. the 'new' club must have contacted the players' present club to inform them of the intended transfer. The form must also be signed by the player and the players current Manager to ensure that he is also aware of the players wish to transfer to another Club/Team.

(iii) The registration secretary will then send the transfer form to the players present Club Secretary for their completion of Section 3. The transfer form and the players existing League Registration Card should be returned to the registration secretary as soon as possible i.e. within 7 days.

Should this Club object to the transfer on the grounds of 'financial obligations' they must inform the general secretary and the Chairperson by telephone within 48 hours of receipt, to be followed by written confirmation within 7 days. Any objections on the grounds of an 'illegal approach', the complaint should be made in writing within 7 days, direct to the Hertfordshire Football Association for their adjudication, with a copy sent to the general secretary and the chairperson.

(iv) Upon receipt of the present Clubs consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within the time allowed [7 days], The Registration Secretary with consultation with the Chairperson may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who will then be deemed eligible to play for the new club from that date.

(v) The Club Secretary of the present team must advise the New Club Secretary on the transfer form whether the player has played in a League Cup or Special Match (County Cup etc) prior to the date of the transfer in the current season as any player may not play for more than one team in the League Cup or Special Matches (County Cup etc) within the League in any one season.

If a team has folded during the current Season, and the player has played for the folded team in a League Cup game, this must be referred to the Management Committee for their adjudication as to whether the player may be allowed to play for the new team in a League Cup game.

8(J) A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after the end of February, except by special permission of the Management Committee. No player will be permitted a transfer between the start of the HGFPL season and the 30th September.

8(K) 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.

8(L) 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.

8(M) A player shall not be eligible to play for a team in a League Cup match, any special championship, or promotion or relegation deciding match (as specified in Rule 12(A)) unless the player has played 2 [two] games for that team in this Competition in the current season, or has been registered for that team in the League for two weeks [14 days] or has received special permission from the League Management Committee. In the case of postponed, drawn or replayed matches only those players shall be allowed to play who were eligible on the original date fixed for the completion of the fixture.

- 8(N)
- 1 Each 5 a-side team shall be restricted to 10 (ten) players within the competition.
 - 2 Each 7 a-side team shall be restricted to 14 [fourteen] players within the competition.
 - 3 Each 9 a-side team shall be restricted to 16 [sixteen] players within the competition.
 - 4 Each 11 a-side team shall be restricted to 18 [eighteen] players within the competition.

8(O) (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 a maximum of £25 and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(i) In addition the team may have points deduced from its total at the discretion of the management committee and may be dealt with in any further manner which is thought fit.

(iii) The Management Committee may, at its discretion, award any points deducted from a Club under this Rule to the opponents in the match in question, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.

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

8(P) (i) Priority must be given at all times to school and school organizations activities.

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

(iii) Children under 15 shall not play in a team 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.)

8(Q) Registration cards must be given to the person in charge of the opposing team prior to every competitive HGFPL match. Proven failure to produce cards will result in a fine of £25, and the match being awarded to the opposing team, the offending team does not have the right to appeal. In the event of one or both clubs being unable to produce their Registration cards the match is to be played and both clubs are required to submit a written report within 24 hours to the fixture secretary and a copy to the general secretary detailing in full the circumstances for the non-production of the cards.

Any individual player whose identity card is not made available will not be permitted to participate in the match.

8(R) In the event that a manager is not satisfied with a player's identity as shown on their card, the game should be played. The concerned manager should make his / her objection known to the Fixture secretary by telephone within 24 hours and should submit within 7 [seven] days via their Club Secretary the grounds of the objection together with a deposit of £10 [the conditions of Rule 15(D) will apply] and if requested, shall attend a hearing. The identity card in question shall be produced at the hearing by a club official.

8(S) It is the responsibility of the Team Manager to ensure that his / her players are registered in time to play the first fixture bearing in mind the delays likely at this time of the year. Failure to register sufficient players will result in the match being awarded to the opponents and /or the Club being liable to any fine that the League Management Committee shall deem appropriate.

RULE 9: CLUB COLOURS. CLUB NAME

9(A) Every Club must register the color of its shirts and shorts with the General Secretary by the player registration evening of each year, who shall decide as to their suitability.

(i) Goalkeepers must wear colours, which distinguish them from other players and the referee.

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

(iii) 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 [seven] days before the match.

(iv) 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.

(v) 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 must be numbered, and no two shirts shall have the same number.

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

RULE 10: 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 30 April, must not be arranged for a date later than seven days preceding the concluding date determined by the Annual General Meeting.

(i) Fixtures will be issued by the Fixtures Secretaries.

(ii) The Fixtures Secretaries shall have the power to arrange or re-arrange any fixture provided that notice [on the telephone if necessary] is given to the Secretaries of the clubs or nominated managers of the teams affected by the fixture in question no later than 9.00 pm on the Tuesday prior to the date of the proposed fixture or fixture alteration.

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

i) 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.

ii) 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.

iii) 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 managers in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves.

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

<i>Age</i>	<i>Format</i>	<i>Max Squad Numbers</i>	<i>(Duration of play)</i>	<i>Notes</i>
U8s	5 v 5	10	4 equal ¼'s of 10mins	Size 3 ball
U9	5 v 5	10	4 equal ¼'s of 10mins	Size 3 ball
U10	7 v 7	14	25mins Each Way	Size 4 ball
U11	7 v 7	14	25mins Each Way	Size 4 ball
U12	7 v 7	14	30mins Each Way	Size 4 ball
U12	9 v 9	16	30mins Each Way	Size 4 ball
U13	9 v 9	16	35mins Each Way	Size 4 ball
U14	11 v 11	18	35mins Each Way	Size 4 ball
U15	11 v 11	18	40mins Each Way	Size 5 ball
U16	11 v 11	18	40mins Each Way	Size 5 ball

9v9 RULES

FA 11-a-side Laws will apply.

Pitch Dimensions:-

FA recommendations can be found in Herts FA County Handbook 2010 / 2011 page 38

For Mini-Soccer the maximum duration of play shall be two halves of 20 minutes each way. The maximum playing time in one day for U7 and U8 age groups is 40 minutes and for U9 and U10 age

groups is 60 minutes

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

(v) The times of kick-off shall be fixed by the AGM or the Management Committee, or by the home club. No match shall kick off earlier than 10.00 am or later than 2pm (or 1.30pm during the months of November, December, January and February), unless the Management Committee so decides, or gives express permission. Any Club failing to commence 10 [ten] minutes after the appointed time shall be fined a sum not exceeding £5 or be otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine. Any delay exceeding 20 [twenty] minutes from the agreed kick-off time shall deem the game as a non-fulfilment. The offending team will be dealt with as appropriate [Rule 10]

Continuing breach of rules on this point will result in the club being requested to explain its failings to the Management Committee at a convened meeting.

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

(i) 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. Goal nets must be used as well as corner flags.

(ii) Respect Barriers or cones must be set at least 1 metre from the touchline for all spectators to stand behind for ALL games.

10(C) (i) 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 Cups. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of their opponents and the Fixtures Secretary.

(ii) If a team is notified that it is to play an FA or County FA Competition fixture on the same day as a league or League Cup match the Club concerned shall notify the appropriate Fixture Secretary within 48 hours of receiving such notification, and the League or League Cup match may be postponed. If an FA, County FA or match is postponed, the appropriate Fixture Secretary must be notified within 24 hours of that match of the re-scheduled date. A Club failing to comply with this instruction shall be fined £10.

10(D) The Secretary or Team Manager of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the match officials and to the Secretary or Manager of the opposing Club at least 4 [four] clear days prior to the playing of the match [i.e. by 9.00 pm the previous Tuesday in relation to a Saturday/Sunday match. The notice required in relation to midweek matches is 48 hours. Where the away team has not received notice from the home team by 9 pm on the Tuesday prior to a Saturday/Sunday fixture, the manager or secretary shall notify the Fixtures Secretary by email within 24 hours.

Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine of £10.

10(E) (i) 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 MUST 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.)

(ii) In the event of a Club playing in any match with less than 11 [eleven] players they may be fined £2 for each missing player. A minimum of 9 [nine] players will constitute a team for a Competition match (11 a-side), for 9 a-side 7 [seven] players will constitute a team and for 7 a-side Mini Soccer 5 (five) players will constitute a team

10(F) (i) Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to fulfill a published Competition Fixture they may be fined £25 [twenty five pounds], and the points or tie awarded to the opposition, at the discretion of the Management Committee. Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent's ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

(ii) Notice of postponement of any match must be given without delay by the postponing Club (or notice of a Club being unable to fulfill any match) 48 hours prior to the match by the Club or as soon as possible to the Fixtures Secretary, the Secretary or Manager of the opposing Club and the match official/s. If a match needs to be postponed because of a school competition, a letter from the school must be provided by the club at least 7 days before the date of the fixture.

When the Club gives notice to the Fixtures Secretary they will be supplied with a 'Postponement Reference Number' (PRN). The Club will then inform the opposing delegated person of the PRN No.

E.g. U15/001/A would indicate that the U15s Fixtures Secretary had issued a PRN, as the Home Team had been unable to field 9 players. See below:

Home Team unable to field players	as per 10(E) (i)	A
<i>(Fixture will not necessarily be rescheduled. An appeal must be submitted)</i>		
Away Team unable to field players	as per 10(E) (i)	B
<i>(Fixture will not necessarily be rescheduled. An appeal must be submitted)</i>		
Pitch not playable (cancelled by Referee)		C
Pitch not playable (cancelled by Grounds man)	D	
Match conflicts with Herts County FA Competition		E
Match conflicts with authorised Outside Competition	F	
Match conflicts with League Cup Match	G	
Match conflicts with Inter league Match	H	
Other Reason (give explanation)	I	

10(F) (iii) Any Club failing to comply shall be fined £10 and dealt with by the Management Committee who may inflict any further penalty it may deem suitable.

(iv) Where a club lodges an appeal in accordance with Rule 15(F) in connection with the non-fulfillment of a scheduled fixture, the Management Committee or designated sub-committee may order the match to be re-scheduled, and the fine be reduced or withdrawn if the Committee is satisfied that the reason for the non-fulfillment was outside the control of the disciplined club.

(v) A team, which fails to fulfill 3 (three) or more fixtures during a season will be suspended from further participation in the League until the club concerned submits a written explanation to the

Management Committee as to the reason for its non-fulfillment of its fixtures. The report should be submitted within 7 days to the Secretary in any event. Failure to do so may result in further action being taken under Rule 5[H]

(vi) 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 mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Fixtures Secretary within 14 [fourteen] 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.

(vii) 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 are satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one team or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the match to the opponents and/or take what other action they may deem necessary. In cases where a match is abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams or their Club members, the Management Committee shall rule all points for the match void- no fines can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match.

10(G) (i) A team may at its discretion use 7 (Seven) substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from 7 [seven] players and 5 [five] in the U8 & U9 age groups with the permission of the Referee. Entry onto the field of play will only be allowed during a stoppage in play.

For Mini-Soccer - any number of substitutions may be used at any time with the permission of the referee. Entry onto the field of play will only be allowed during a stoppage in play. A player who has been replaced may return to the play as a substitute for another player. A team must not have a squad greater than double the size of its team in any age group.

For Youth Football - for teams in the under 16 age group and below, a player who has been substituted herself 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.

(ii) The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than 10 minutes before the start of the match.

(iii) 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.

10(H) The half time interval shall be a minimum 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.

10(J) In the event of a team having a HGFPL representative match and that team has 2 [two] or more players, or a goalkeeper unavailable in the squad, that club may apply to the appropriate Fixture Secretary at least 5 [five] days prior to the match for a postponement of the HGFPL match. This also applies to clubs with players selected for County.

The Management Committee can select any number of players from any club as League representatives, and any player selected for the Representative squad shall not be allowed to play any other football on that day unless permission is granted by the Management Committee.

10(K) The Management Committee reserves the right to hold Supplementary Competitions. Entry will be at the Management Committee's discretion, and any such competition will be held in accordance with the League rules.

10(L) The Management Committee may for any reason instruct teams to play two short games on one day. In these circumstances the minimum times set out in Rule 10 shall apply. In addition, the Management Committee may also instruct that matches be played mid-week.

RULE 11: REPORTING RESULTS

11(A) The Fixture secretary of the relevant age group must receive a Result Card for each published fixture without fail by the Thursday after game, with 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 £10 for each offence and the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decides. Result Cards are not required for postponed matches but PRN numbers & notice of postponement must be texted to the Fixture secretary of the relevant age group on the day of the match.

11(B) (i) The Home Club shall text the result of each match to Fixtures Secretary by 6.00 pm on the day of the match. This shall include all abandoned fixtures. The results of midweek matches must be sent by text to the fixtures secretary by the weekend of the week in which the match/es were played in the usual way. Any failure under this clause will result in a fine of £10.

(ii) Each club secretary or representative shall text the results of all League Cup/Shield Competition fixtures, both home and away to the fixture secretary of the age group concerned no later than 6.00 pm on the day of the match. This shall include all postponed and abandoned fixtures. Any failure under this clause [B] will result in a fine of £10.

(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 deliberately submits an incomplete form or incorrect information. The minimum fine imposed in such circumstances shall be £20

(D) Leagues are not permitted to collect result sheets or compile any playing data for fixtures they organise for U7 and U8 Mini Soccer. They may require a Club to confirm that a set fixture has been played. A maximum fine of £5 may be imposed for a breach of this Rule.

RULE 12: DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

12 (A) (i) Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn match. The teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective Divisions at the conclusion shall be adjudged the winners. Matches must not be played for double points. In mini Soccer points can only be awarded for Under 9 competition onwards.

(ii) In the event of two or more teams being equal on points deciding match/es may be played under conditions determined by the Management Committee to decide team rankings. Goal difference does not count in this competition.

(iii) 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. If the scores are level after the period of 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.

(iv) 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 League table.

RULE 13: REFEREES

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

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

13 (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. (for all 9/11 a side games) Failure to do so will result in a fine of £10 being imposed on the defaulting Club.

13(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

13(E) Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be entitled to charge standard class public transport expenses or private car expenses of 20p per mile incurred together with the following match fees:-

5 a-side	£15
7 a-side	£20
9 a-side	£25
11 a-side	£25

Fees for double header games shall be fee + ½ to be split between both teams

Registered Referees appointed by the Management Committee as Assistant Referees will be entitled to the half fee as the above subject to any limits laid down by the sanctioning Association(s).

The Home Club shall pay the Officials their fees and expenses before or immediately after the game.

13(F) In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to half 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.

13(G) A Referee not keeping his or her engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Association with which he or she is registered.

13(H) (i) 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.

Guide to Ref Marks:-

Mark Range	Comment
100-86	The referee demonstrated very accurate decision-making and controlled the game very well using management and communication skills effectively to add value to the game
85-76	The referee demonstrated accurate decision-making and controlled the game well using management and communication skills to contribute positively to the Game.
75-61	The referee demonstrated reasonably accurate decision-making and despite some shortcomings generally controlled the game well
60 and below	The referee demonstrated shortcomings in the accuracy of decision-making and control which affected the game.

(ii) If the referee is awarded a mark of 60 (sixty) or less, the club must submit a report to The Discipline Committee [plus a copy to the Referee Secretary] within 7 [seven] days of the date of the match. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £5.

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

13(I) In the event of the designated referee being unable to officiate at a League Cup or Shield Competition a replacement referee must be sought through the Referee Secretary or Fixture Secretary of the age group concerned.

13(J) Not applicable to this competition

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

13(L) All Referees will be required to show their I.D card to verify they are registered and affiliated to their county FA. Any match official must be fully compliant with the FA Safeguarding Children Guidelines

RULE 14: CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

14(A) After 31st December in the current Season a Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfillment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the General Secretary/s in writing by 31st March each Season or be liable to a fine not exceeding £25.

14(B) All Clubs wishing to remain in membership of the Competition for the following Season must

confirm their intention to do so, in writing, to the Secretary by 30 April.

14(C) A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its teams from the Competition after the arrangement of fixtures 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).

14(D) In the event of a Member Club which is an un-incorporated association withdrawing and/or disbanding it shall be immediately liable to discharge all its financial and other obligations to the Competition.

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

RULE 15: 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.

ii) Referees must notify General Secretary of any pitch objections lodged with him / her before games within 3 days of match.

15(B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged in duplicate with The General Secretary within 7 [seven] days (excluding Sundays) of the match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A Member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of her Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

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

15(D) No protest of whatever type shall be considered by the Management Committee, unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the General Secretary a sum of £10. 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.

15(E) All parties to a protest, appeal, or complaint must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement when the protest, appeal, or complaint is being heard and must have received 7 [seven] days notice of the hearing, together with a copy of the submission. When dealing with a protest, appeal, 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.

A club failing to attend a hearing when ordered to do so, will result in a maximum fine of £20 at the discretion of the Management Committee. The Management Committee may reimburse reasonable travel expenses, as it deems necessary

RULE 16: BOARD OF APPEAL

16(A) Within 14 days of the posting of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee or the Competition a Club, Official or Player against whom action is taken may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars in duplicate with the Secretary of the Hertfordshire Football Association, including a fee of £35 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.

16(B) A copy of the appeal must be sent to the General Secretary of the Competition, and the operation of the [Sub] Committee shall not be suspended pending the result of the appeal unless the Board of Appeal or the Council of the Hertfordshire Football Association through its officers orders such suspension.

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.

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

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

17(B) At the Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club or team of a Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by (more than) two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) 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.

17(C) Any official or member of a Club proved guilty of either a breach of rules, 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.

17 (D) Any team failing to complete 75% of its fixtures in any season shall (unless the conditions are beyond their control or the accredited delegates present at the AGM or special general meeting decide

otherwise by a majority of two-thirds of votes cast) can be debarred from membership the following season.

17(E) At the AGM, or SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the Provisions of Rule 19, Notice of Motion having been duly circulated, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to withdraw the honorary positions of President or Vice President from a named holder of such a position which must be supported by two thirds of those present and voting. Voting on this point will be conducted by ballot.

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

18(A) (i) Competition Cup or Trophy shall be vested in the Association sanctioning the Competition as Trustees. If a Competition were discontinued for any cause the Cup or Trophy shall be returned to the Donor, if the conditions attached to it so provide, or otherwise dealt with as the Association may decide.

(ii) The Treasurer of the Competition shall be responsible for the insurance of all the trophies belonging to the Competition.

(iii) At the close of each Competition awards may be made if the funds of the Competition permit.

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

"I A _____, the Honorary Secretary of _____FC, member of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of _____Cup or Trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the Cup or Trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before _____. If the Cup or Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair."

(v) No trophy can be won outright.

(vi) A club failing to return a trophy in good condition by 1 March each year, or failing to engrave the trophy with the season and Club name shall be fined a sum of £40 for each offence, and shall be liable for the cost of restoration to the condition at the time of presentation.

RULE 19: SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

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

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

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

Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote for each delegate only. Not less than 7 [seven] days' notice shall be given of any Meeting.

(iii) Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without

satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £20.

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

RULE 20: ALTERATION TO RULES

20 (A)(i) 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.

(ii) Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the General Secretary by 31st of March in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by the 15th April, and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 1st May. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.

(iii) A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the sanctioning Football Association 7 [seven] days prior to the date of the meeting.

(iv) 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.

RULE 21: 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. These can be found on www.thefa.com

RULE 22: FINANCE

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

22(B) All expenditure in excess of £50 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.

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

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

LEAGUE CUP / SHIELD COMPETITION RULES

U8 and U9s will not participate in the above named competitions.

1. All teams will participate in the first round of the League Cup.
2. All teams who do not progress through the first round of the League Cup will participate in the League Shield.
3. Timings for all games will be:-

Age Group	Time each way	Extra Time
U10	20 minutes	10 minutes
U12 (7 a side)	25 minutes	10 minutes
U12 (9 a side)	25 minutes	10 minutes
U14	30 minutes	10 minutes

- If scores are level after extra time 5 penalties will be taken by each team.
 - If scores remain level after extra time and penalties, sudden death penalties will be taken.
4. Ball sizes as per HGFPL Rules
 5. Pitch sizes as HGFPL Rules
 6. Referee fees as per HGFPL Rules.
 7. Assistant referees will be allocated by the league for all League Cup and Shield Finals.
 8. Non-Fulfilments as per HGFPL Rules
 9. Result reporting as HGFPL Rules.

Trophies

The HGFPL are legal owners of all League Cup and Shield trophies and as such once the winners have been ascertained they shall be handed the trophy on their signing of the following document:-

“We..... The Manager andSecretary ofFootball Club having been declared winners of the..... Cup /Shield accept the said Cup/Shield and will return the said Cup / Shield to the HGFPL League Secretary by the first day of March next in good order and condition. If Cup / Shield is destroyed, lost or damaged whilst in our care we agree to refund the League the full cost of the Cup/ Shield or the cost of repair. We also agree to have the Cup/Shield engraved before return.”

A fine of £40 will be imposed on any Club failing to return the Cup/ Shield by first day of March and any costs for repairs, cleaning or engraving will be charged to the responsible Club.

FA Mini Soccer Handbook

Updated May 2008

The Best Introduction to the world’s greatest game

September 1999 saw the implementation of Mini-Soccer for all children under 10 years of age.

As a result of nearly three years consultation and co-operation between all bodies involved with children’s football, boys and girls are now introduced to the game on smaller pitches with scaled down goalposts and fewer players.

The Football Association deems Mini-Soccer the most appropriate and fun introduction to football by providing quality experiences for all young players.

It allows greater involvement in the game, with more touches, dribbles and passes.

Mini-Soccer: Meeting the needs of children

“The children are more important than the activities in which they are engaged. The game is not the thing, the child is.” (Physical Education for ages 5-16 - Department of Education and Science, August 1991).

The main theme throughout Mini-Soccer is to meet the needs of children. 11-a-side association football does not meet these needs. Children need a modified game that fits their needs; too often children are modified to meet the requirements of a game. Mini-Soccer modifies association football without losing the essence of the game.

Mini-Soccer is the appropriate introduction to football. All available research and observation shows that children will have more fun and learn more playing a game with smaller teams and modified rules. Mini-Soccer is, therefore, a game children can actually play rather than struggling to understand a game created for adults.

If children are to enjoy and take part in soccer they need to:

- Feel success
- Take an active part in the game
- Learn to play as a team
- Understand the Laws
- Develop soccer skills
- Be able to take part whatever their ability
- Develop their fitness

Mini-Soccer sets out to meet those needs. It allows children to succeed and take part in something that is still recognisably football.

Mini-Soccer recognises the fact that younger children perform better in smaller teams with simple Laws.

Mini-Soccer, however, is more than another version of five-or six-a-side football for the following reasons:

1. It recognises that children do not perform as adults and therefore its Laws, researched and piloted by The Football Association, meet the needs of children.
2. It has all the features of ‘real’ football to children.
3. It doesn’t set unrealistic expectations. Many adults do not know what can be expected of children and so emphasise the result at the expense of performance. Mini-Soccer helps by defining the targets for children at different ages.
4. It sets a standard for behaviour on and off the pitch.
5. Mini-Soccer is for all children regardless of their ability. It is intended for girls and boys, and young footballers with disabilities and learning difficulties.

In an age when so much of children’s leisure time is as organised as their study, Mini-Soccer offers

something special: a game that children can organise themselves! With relatively little instruction, children can play and enjoy a game which is suitable for a wide ability range and gives everyone a chance to take part.

If you find this hard to believe, just set up a game with some children and WATCH!

Guidance for the Laws of Mini-Soccer

The Laws have been piloted and aim to be simple and as near to 'real' football as possible. The games require only a 'game-leader' who is urged to be as flexible as possible with the youngest children.

The children will need the Laws explained to them as the game proceeds (e.g. handball, in/out of play).

It will also be necessary to demonstrate in certain instances how to re-start the game (e.g. throw-ins).

What can children expect from adults?

Remember that children are often easily led, anxious to please and prone to over-enthusiasm, and so plenty of praise and positive reinforcement is needed, especially with beginners.

Children find it hard to understand negative instructions and easier to understand positive reinforcement and this can frequently mean playing down the result and playing up the performance. This reduces the child's anxiety and decreases their worry about failing. Remember that children do not mean to make mistakes; we should accept mistakes as a necessary part of learning.

Make sure the players play by the Laws. The majority of children at these ages will not knowingly infringe the Laws of the game. Finally, work with other adults, not against them, and by so doing reinforce positive attitudes among the children.

Interference from the touch line

Whilst the fun and friendly atmosphere created by Mini-Soccer should keep such instances to a minimum, there may be situations where comments and abuse from adults, parents and managers is made from the touch line.

This could be directed at the referee, but also at the players.

What can be done?

Stay calm; do not get into disagreement; report the matter to relevant club or league officials; set a positive responsible example.

Remember The FA's **RESPECT** campaign.

Referees – Mini-Soccer game leaders

The referee has an important role to play in Mini-Soccer. Carrying out their duties without favour, they should create a playing environment which is fun for all those taking part. The referee should encourage fair play, fun, respect for others, development of skills and team work, and understanding of the Laws of the game.

The Laws of the game should be a guide for the referee in Mini-Soccer with the spirit of the Laws being more important than the letters of the law. Appreciation of the needs of the child is essential.

9v9

During the 2002/03 season a number of leagues approached The FA regarding the possibility of moving to 9v9 at under 11.

The FA organised a number of Regional Mini-Soccer Consultation Meetings to review Mini-Soccer and to discuss ideas for the future development of the game.

The consultation also led to the introduction, within FA rules, for the 9v9 game for children who have reached the age of 10 on 31st August.

The 9v9 option is available from U11-U14.

When 9v9 is played The FA recommends the following:

Follow 11v11 laws of the game, except:

- Size of pitch: use junior size pitch 80m x 50m and junior goals 16' x 7'. It has been agreed by The FA that for season 2008/09, the use of any sized goals will be permissible for the 9v9 game, whilst a transitional period continues to exist in this format of the game. However, there is recognition that the 16' x 7' goals are most suitable during matches and as such clubs should be encouraged to make the most of the Football Foundation's funding to gain this size of goal. From season 2009/10, only goals sized 16' x 7' will be permissible.
- Substitutes: Maximum squad of 18 with repeat substitutions allowed
- Playing Time: Maximum 35mins each way
- Anything not covered above, FA standard code of rules for youth leagues apply

The FA hopes that, where facilities allow leagues will make use of the 9v9 option to assist the players' development.

**The Football Association Laws for Mini-Soccer
For Players (Both Boys and Girls over the age of 6 and Under 10)
[Updated by The FA Council on 15th May 2008]**

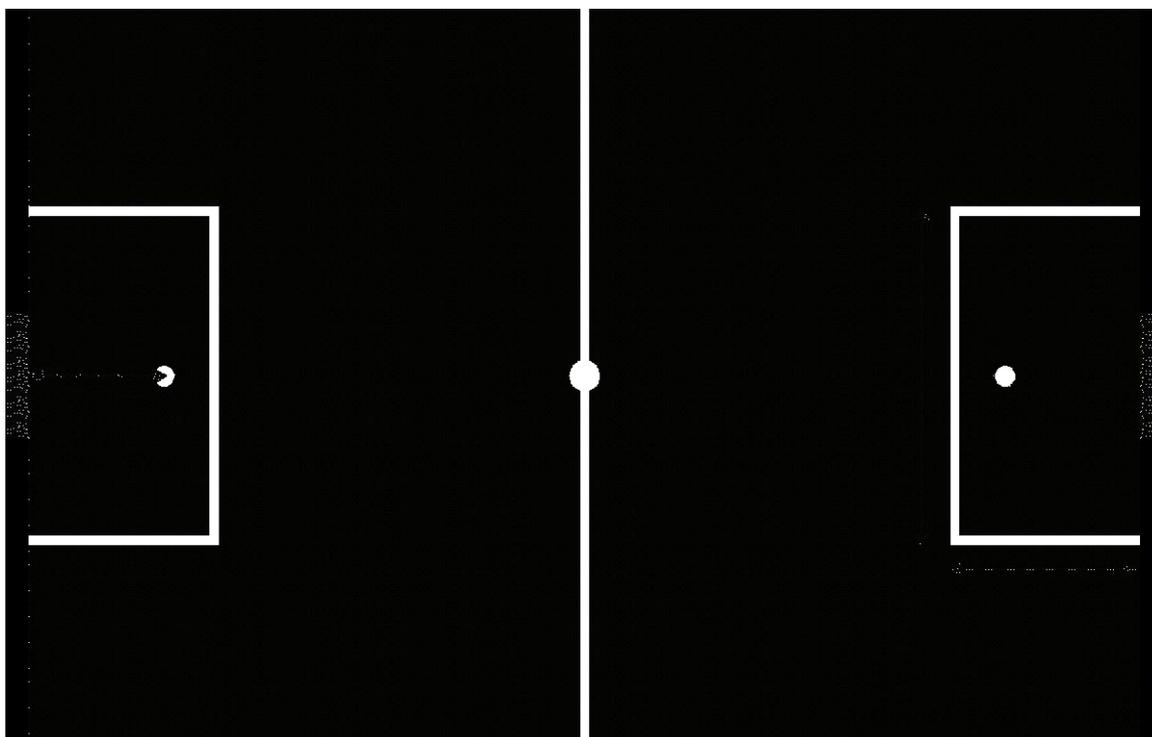
Please note: Where Leagues operate Under 11 Mini-Soccer events, they must follow these Laws.

Please remember:

Under 7's or Under 8's are not permitted to play in leagues where results are collected or published or winner trophies are presented, this is deemed to be detrimental to the development of the player and the game and will not be sanctioned. To play in a KO Cup game or a game where points are awarded, or results collected, a player must have achieved the age of 8 on or before 31st August.

Except where other provision, is made, the Laws of Association Football apply. Each Law is numbered to correspond with the appropriate Law of the Game. These Laws are mandatory unless special permission is granted by The Football Association.

**Law 1
Playing Area**



WARNING

Please ensure that The FA Goalpost safety guidelines are observed.

Size of Pitch

	Under 10s/9s		Under 8s/7s	
	Metres	Yards	Metres	Yards
Width	Min 27.45	Min 30	Min 18.30	Min 20
	Max 36.60	Max 40	Max 27.45	Max 30
Length	Min 45.75	Min 50	Min 27.45	Min 30
	Max 54.90	Max 60	Max 45.75	Max 50

Penalty Area

Length 9.15m – 10 yards; Width 16.47m – 18 yards

Penalty Mark

The penalty mark is 7.32m (8 yards) from the goal line opposite the centre of the goal.

Halfway Line

The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The centre mark is indicated at the mid-point of the halfway line.

Goal Size

The distance between the posts is 3.6m (12ft) and the distance between the lower edge of the cross bar and the ground is 1.88m (6ft).

Law 2

The Ball

The ball should be size 4 for U9/U10.

Size 3 for Under 8's.

It should be safe and made of leather or another suitable material.

Law 3

Number of Players

Number Per Team (including goalkeeper)	
Under 10s/9s	6v6 or 7v7
Under 8s/7s	4v4, 5v5, 6v6 or 7v7

Where the appropriate facilities are available, The FA would encourage leagues and competitions to use the smaller number of players at the youngest age group.

Players must play with and against players only from their own age range, as per Football Association and Competition rules.

Players should not be allowed to begin to play until the season of their 7th birthday.

Each team must not have a squad greater than double the size of the team per age.

Any number of substitutes, without being named, may be used at any time with the permission of the referee or game leader. Entry into the field of play will only be allowed during a stoppage in play. A player who has been replaced may return to the playing area as a substitute for another player.

Law 4

Playing Equipment

Players must wear shin guards and goalkeepers must wear a distinguishing playing strip.

Shin guards must be covered entirely by stockings.

Law 5

Referees

The Authority of the Referee

Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the Laws of the game in connection with the match to which they have been appointed.

Powers and Duties

The Referee:

- Enforces the Laws of the game
- Controls the match in co-operation with the assistant referees/time keeper
- Ensures that the ball meets the requirements of Law 2
- Ensures that the players' equipment meets the requirements of Law 4
- Stops, suspends or terminates the match at their discretion for any infringements of the Laws
- Stops, suspends or terminates the match because of outside interference of any kind
- Stops the match if, in their opinion, a player is seriously injured and ensures that they are removed from the field of play
- Ensures that any player bleeding from a wound leaves the field of play
- Allows play to continue when the team against which an offence has been committed will benefit from such an advantage
- Penalises the original offence if the anticipated advantage does not ensue at that time

Referees

- Take disciplinary action against players guilty of cautionable and/or sending-off offences
- Take action against team officials who fail to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and may, at their discretion, expel them from the field of play and its immediate surrounds
- Ensure that no unauthorised persons enter the field of play
- Restart matches if they have been stopped

Decisions of the Referee

The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play are final.

The referee may only change a decision on realising that it is incorrect or, at his/her discretion provided that play has not restarted.

Law 6

Timekeeper/Scorer/Assistant Referee

Duties

A person may be nominated to assist the referee to:

- Record goals scored
- Act as timekeeper and signify to the referee by an agreed signal when the time of each half has expired
- Suspend time on an instruction from the referee for all stoppages and add that time to the end of each half
- Supervise the use of rolling substitutes
- Carry out any other duties as prescribed by the referee

If an independent timekeeper/scorer is not nominated, these duties are the responsibility of the referee.

Law 7

Duration of the Game

In any one day, no player shall play more than the stipulated period given below:

- Under 7 & Under 8's-40Minutes
- Under 9 & Under 10's- 60 Minutes

Each league/competition will determine its own playing time within the maximum time permitted. The half time interval must not exceed 5 minutes.

Law 8

Start and Restart of Play

Procedure

A kick-off is taken at the centre of the playing area to start the game and after a goal has been scored. Opponents must be 4.5m (5 yards) away from the ball, and in their own half of the field. The ball must be played forward.

In Mini Soccer a goal cannot be scored directly from a start or restart of play.

Special Circumstances

A dropped ball to restart the match, after play has been temporarily stopped inside the penalty area, takes place on the penalty area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when the play stopped.

Law 9

Ball In and Out of Play

Ball Out of Play

The ball is out of play when:

- It has wholly crossed the goal line or touch line whether on the ground or in the air
- Play has been stopped by the referee

Ball In Play

The ball is in play at all other times, including when:

- It rebounds from a goal or post, crossbar or corner flag post and remains in the field of play
- It rebounds from either the referee or an assistant referee when they are on the field of play

Law 10

Method of Scoring

Goal Scored

A goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar, provided that no infringement of the Laws of the game has been committed previously by the team scoring the goal.

Winning Team

The team scoring the greater number of goals during a match is the winner. If both teams score an equal number of goals, or if no goals are scored, the match is drawn.

Competition Rules

For matches ending in a draw, competition rules may state provisions involving extra time, or other procedures approved by the International FA Board to determine the winner of a match.

Please note this must be included within the maximum participation time.

Law 11

Offside

There is no offside.

Law 12

Fouls and Misconduct

In Mini-Soccer all free kicks are direct.

A free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following offences in a manner considered to be careless, reckless or using excessive force:

- Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
- Trips or attempts to trip an opponent
- Jumps at an opponent
- Charges an opponent
- Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
- Pushes an opponent

A free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following offences:

- Tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball, making contact with the opponent before touching the ball
- Holds an opponent
- Spits at an opponent
- Handles the ball deliberately (except for the goalkeeper within his/her own penalty area)
- Plays in a dangerous manner
- Impedes the progress of an opponent
- Prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his/her hands
- Commits any other offence, not previously mentioned in Law 12, for which play is stopped to caution or dismiss a player

Penalty Kick

A penalty kick is awarded if any of the above offences is committed by a player inside his/her own penalty area, irrespective of the position of the ball, provided it is in play.

A free kick is awarded to the opposing team if the goalkeeper:

- Takes more than 6 seconds to release the ball from his/her hands
- Touches the ball again with his/her hands after it has been released from his/her possession and has not touched any other player
- Touches the ball with his/her hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him/her by a team mate
- Touches the ball with his/her hands after he/she has received it directly from a throw in taken by a team mate

For all these offences, the free kick should be taken from the penalty area line, parallel with the goal line, at the nearest point to the offence.

Cautionable Offences

A player is cautioned and shown the yellow card if he/she commits any of the following seven offences:

- Is guilty of unsporting behaviour
- Shows dissent by word or action
- Persistently infringes the Laws of the Game
- Delays the restart of play
- Fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick or free kick

- Enters or re-enters the field of play without the referee's permission
- Deliberately leaves the field of play without the referee's permission

Sending Off Offences

A player is sent off and shown the red card if he/she commits any of the following seven offences:

- Is guilty of serious foul play
- Is guilty of violent conduct
- Spits at an opponent or any other person
- Denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity, by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his/her own penalty area)
- Denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or penalty kick
- Uses offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
- Receives a second caution in the same match

Law 13

Free Kicks

For all free kicks opponents must be 4.5m (5 yards) from the ball.

Law 14

Penalty Kicks

A penalty kick is awarded for offences, as described in Law 12.

Position of the Ball and the Players

All players except the defending goalkeeper and kicker must be outside the penalty area and at least 4.5m (5 yards) from the penalty mark.

The ball must be kicked forward.

Infringement/Sanctions

If a player or players commit an offence at the taking of a penalty kick his/her team shall not be allowed to gain an advantage (i.e. the kick is retaken or the goal is disallowed depending on which team offended).

If a player of both the defending and the attacking teams offend, the kick shall be retaken.

Law 15

Throw-in

A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in.

A throw-in is awarded:

- When the whole of the ball passes over the touch line, either on the ground or in the air
- From the point where it crossed the touch line
- To the opponents of the player who last touched the ball

Procedure

At the moment of delivering the ball, the thrower:

- Faces the field of play

- Has part of each foot either on the touch line or on the ground outside the touch line

A throw-in:

- Uses both hands
- Delivers the ball from behind and over the player's head
- The throw-in is awarded to the opposing team if any of these requirements are not carried out

The thrower may not touch the ball again until it has touched another player. If he/she does, a free kick will be awarded against them. The ball is in play immediately when it enters the field of play.

Law 16

Goal Kick

Procedure

A player of the defending team kicks the ball from any point within the penalty area.

Opponents must remain outside the penalty area and at least 4.5m (5 yards) from where the kick is taken until the ball is in play.

Law 17

Corner Kicks

The opposing players must remain at least 4.5m (5yards) from the ball until it is in play.

The kicker may not touch the ball again until it has touched another player. If he/she does, a free kick is awarded against them.

The ball is in play immediately when it enters the field of play.

The Responsible Football Coach/Manager

Code of Conduct for Football

1. Coaches/Managers must respect the rights, dignity and worth of each and every person and treat each equally within the context of the sport.
2. Coaches/Managers must place the wellbeing and safety of each player above all other considerations, including the development of performance.
3. Coaches/Managers must adhere to all guidelines laid down within the Constitution and the Rules of The Football Association.
4. Coaches/Managers must develop an appropriate working relationship with each player based on mutual trust and respect.
5. Coaches/Managers must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
6. Coaches/Managers must encourage and guide players to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
7. Coaches/Managers must ensure that the activities they direct or advocate is appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of players.
8. Coaches/Managers should, at the outset, clarify with the player (and where appropriate, their parents) exactly what is expected of them and also what they are entitled to expect from their

coach.

9. Coaches/Managers must co-operate fully with other specialists (e.g. other coaches, officials, sports scientists, doctors, physiotherapists) in the best interests of the player.

10. Coaches/Managers must always promote the appropriate Code of Conduct and positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play) to players, parents and spectators alike. Never condone violations of the Laws of the game, behaviour contrary to the spirit of the Laws of the game or relevant rule and regulations or the use of the prohibited substances or techniques.

11. Coaches/Managers must consistently display high standards of behaviour and experience and be a role model for players, parents and spectators.

Goalpost Safety

Remember to use all equipment, not just goalposts, safely at all times

It has been agreed by The FA that for season 2008/09, the use of any sized goals will be permissible for the 9v9 game, whilst a transitional period continues to exist in this format of the game. However, there is recognition that the 16' x 7' goals are most suitable during matches and as such clubs should be encouraged to make the most of the Football Foundation's funding to gain this size of goal. From season 2009/10, only goals sized 16' x 7' will be permissible.

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

1. For safety reasons, goalposts of any size (including those which are portable and not installed permanently at a pitch or practice field) must always be anchored securely to the ground.
2. Portable goalposts must be secured as per the manufacturers' instructions.
3. Under no circumstances should children or adults be allowed to climb on, swing or play with the structure of the goalposts.
4. Particular attention should be drawn to the fact that if not properly assembled and secured, portable goalposts may overturn.
5. Regular inspections of goalposts must be carried out to check that they are properly maintained.
6. Portable goalposts should not be left in place after use. They should be dismantled and removed to a place of secure storage.
7. Nets should only be secured by plastic hooks or tape and not by metal cup hooks. Any metal cup hooks should be removed and replaced. New goalposts should not be purchased if they include metal cup hooks that cannot be replaced.
8. Goalposts which are "home made" or which have been altered from their original size or construction should not be used. These have been the cause of a number of deaths and injuries.

9. There is no BS/CEN or PAS standard for wooden goals and it is unlikely that wooden goals will pass a load or stability test. The FA recommends that wooden goals should be replaced when necessary with compliant goalposts.

For reference, you should note that The FA and BSI developed a standard for future purchases of mini-soccer goalposts – BS8462 (2005). Copies of this standard are available from BSI.

The FA together with representatives from the industry, sports governing bodies and Government have prepared guidelines for pitch users and pitch providers together with technical parameters for goalpost manufacturers. It is anticipated that details of these will feature on the FA's website - www.TheFA.com



View details of all the latest results and fixtures of the Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League on <http://full-time.thefa.com/Index.do>

Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address: <http://full-time.thefa.com/Index.do?selectedSeason=6805611&selectedDivision=5897507>

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Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League

Season:
2008 - 2009

Division:
U9s

Hit Counter:
17705

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LEAGUE HOME

Season: 2008 - 2009 Division: U9s

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Festival Details

2nd Festival of the season will be held at Panshanger FC, Welwyn Garden City on 18th October.

LEAGUE TABLE

POS		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Knebworth Youth FC	4	4	0	0	4	12
2	Hitchin Hearts Belles FC	4	3	0	1	2	9
3	Garston Ladies FC	4	0	1	3	-3	1
4	Watford Ladies Hornets	4	0	1	3	-3	1

Table Detail

RECENT RESULTS 7 days

SAT 11 OCT 2008

Cup Watford Ladies Hornets 5 - 2 Stevenage Borough

Cup St Albans Rangers FC 5 - 0 Knebworth Youth FC

UPCOMING FIXTURES 7 days

SAT 25 OCT 2008 00:00

Garston Ladies FC v Watford Ladies Hornets

Hitchin Hearts Belles FC v Knebworth Youth FC

Players U10

Click here to have your say about behaviour in football

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