



# ROYSTON CROW YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FOUNDED 1971

AN ENGLAND FOOTBALL ACCREDITED LEAGUE

## League Rules

To aid navigation, an index is included at the end of this document.

### Definitions

1. (A) In these Rules:

**"England Football Accredited Club"** means a Club which holds a current Accreditation under the FA's Club Accreditation Program.

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

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

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

**"Club Accreditation Program"** means the England Football Accredited program, or any other program introduced by The FA to replace it.

**"Club Portal"** means the system used by Clubs to affiliate teams as determined by The FA from time to time.

**"Competition"** means Royston Crow Youth Football League.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

“**Player**” means any Contract Player, Non-Contract Player or other player who plays or who is eligible to play for a Club.

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

“**Rules**” means these rules under which the Competition is administered.

“**Sanctioning Authority**” means the Hertfordshire County Football Association Limited.

“**Scholarship**” means a Scholarship as set out in The FA rules.

“**Season**” means the period of time between an AGM and the subsequent AGM.

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

“**SGM**” means a special general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

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

“**The FA**” means The Football Association Limited.

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

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

“**Youth Football**” means those participating at ages under 11s to under 18s.

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

## Governance Rules

### Competition Name and Constitution

2. (A) The Competition will be known as Royston Crow Youth Football League (or such other name as the Competition may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A Club which ceases to exist or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall thereupon automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.
- (B) This Competition shall consist of not more than 75 Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority.
- (C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be within a 25 mile radius as the Crow flies centred on Royston.
- (D) The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Competition acting (save where otherwise specifically mentioned herein) through the Management Committee in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of The FA.
- (E) All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a member of the Competition to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee in relation thereto, subject to the provisions of Rule 7.



(F) The Rules are taken from the Standard Code of Rules for Youth Competitions (the “Standard Code”) determined by The FA from time to time. In the event of any omissions from the Standard Code then the requirements of the Standard Code shall be deemed to apply to the Competition.

(G) All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association.

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

(H) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

(i) The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (to include those contained in the Equality Act 2010).

(ii) This Competition and each Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise.

(iii) Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.

(I) Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including, but not limited to, England Football Accredited and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(J) All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The FA from time to time.

(K) Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing at a particular age group in the Competition in any other competition (with the exception of FA and County FA Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. A Club must immediately inform the Competition of the details of any fixture(s) in any other competition in which the Club has entered, for which written consent of the Management Committee has been obtained.

(L) At the AGM or a SGM called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the constitution of the divisions at their discretion. When necessary this Rule shall take precedence over Rule 22.

(M) Any Club seeking membership of The Competition must have in place a formal Constitution and Committee Structure consisting of the minimum of the following Officers: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Child Welfare Officer.

(N) Each Member Club is required to have an e-mail address operated by the Club Secretary. Please note that this should be accessible at all times and as such Business Addresses which are not available at weekends do not meet the requirement for this Rule.

(O) Any Club seeking membership, or to remain a member of the Competition must be an England Football Accredited Club in accordance with The FA’s Club Accreditation Programme. Clubs who are not an



accredited must become an England Football Accredited Club within one season of membership being accepted. Clubs who cease to be accredited must regain accreditation within one season.

### Club Name

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

### Entry Fee, Subscription, Deposit

4. (A) Applications by Clubs for admission to the Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same Club must be made in writing to the Secretary by 1<sup>st</sup> June and must be accompanied by an entry fee per Team as set out in the Fees Tariff, which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

At the discretion of the voting members present applications, of which due notice has been given, may be received at the AGM or a SGM or on a date agreed by the Management Committee.

- (B) The annual subscription shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Club and Team and shall be payable on or before 1<sup>st</sup> July in each year.
- (C) *Not applicable to this Competition*
- (D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the entry fee, annual subscription and Deposit (if required) have been paid.
- (E) Clubs must ensure that all its teams participating in the Competition are recorded as affiliated on the Club Portal for the forthcoming Playing Season by the following date 31<sup>st</sup> August. Clubs must advise the Competition Secretary in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, its Officers and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (F) An all-female team can apply to the Competition to play an age group down in a mixed gender competition, subject to rule 8A(iii) & (iv) and provided the team has obtained approval from its Sanctioning Authority.

### Management, Nomination, Election

5. (A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and four members who shall all be elected at the AGM.
- (B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination provided that the Officer notifies the Secretary in writing not later than 30<sup>th</sup> April in each year.

All other candidates for election as Officers of the Competition or members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the secretaries of two Clubs, not later than 1<sup>st</sup> July in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the AGM.

- (C) The Management Committee shall meet as and when required, save that no more than three calendar months shall pass between each meeting.

On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Management Committee.



- (D) Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.
- (E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Officers and sent to the Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (F) Management Committee Members should not be contacted before 9.00 a.m. or after 9.30p.m. Where the enquiry relates to a specific Club matter, contact should only be made by the Club Secretary.
- (G) Any member of the Management Committee absent from three consecutive Management Committee Meetings, or designated Committees, without giving a satisfactory explanation in writing, shall be considered to have resigned their seat and the Management Committee may proceed to fill the vacancy in accordance with Rule 6(G).
- (H) Any Person seeking election to the Management Committee is required to have an e-mail address. Please note that this should be accessible at all times and as such Business Addresses which are not available at weekends do not meet the requirement for this Rule.
- (I) No two Ordinary Members shall represent the same club.

## Powers of Management

- 6. (A) The Management Committee may appoint Sub-Committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all Sub-Committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of the Football Association or affiliated Association.
- (B) Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any Club which may have withdrawn during the season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the season.
- (C) Each Member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee Meetings and have one vote thereat, but no Member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such Member or to the Club so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest. (This shall apply to the procedure of any Sub-committee).  
  
In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.
- (D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition. Any action by the Competition must be taken within 28 days of the Competition being notified.

With the exception of Rules 6(I), 8(H) and 9, for all alleged breaches of a Rule the Management Committee shall issue a formal written charge to the Club concerned. A Rule Contravention Form (RCF) shall be issued to meet this requirement. The Club charged shall be given 7 days from the date of notification of the charge to reply. In such reply a Club may:

- (i) (Where the fine associated with a Rule breach is fixed) Accept the charge without mitigation and pay the Fine; or



- (ii) Accept the charge and submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
- (iii) Accept the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or
- (iv) Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
- (v) Deny the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case at a hearing before the Management Committee.

Where the Club charged fails to respond within 7 days, the Management Committee shall determine the charge in such manner and upon such evidence as it considers appropriate.

Where required, hearings shall take place as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of the reply of the Club as more fully set out above.

Having considered the reply of the Club (whether in writing or at a hearing), the Management Committee shall make its decision and, in the event that the charge is accepted or proven, decide on the appropriate penalty (with reference to the Fines Tariff where applicable).

The maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £100 and, when setting any fine, the Management Committee must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

All breaches of the Laws of the Game or the Rules and Regulations of The FA shall be dealt with in accordance with FA Rules by the appropriate Association.

- (E) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7.

Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 7 days.

- (F) 50% of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any Sub-Committee thereof.
- (G) The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill, in an acting capacity, any vacancies that may occur amongst their number.
- (H) A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee, and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (I) Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision.

Any Club failing to do so will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.



- (J) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or Competition Match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.
- (K) The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the AGM or SGM called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Playing Season.
- (L) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

### Protests, Claims, Complaints, Appeals

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





- (iii) permit new evidence; or
- (iv) impose deadlines as are appropriate.

Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee.

- (G) No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

## Annual General Meeting

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





- (ii) Any Club that has submitted a valid application to join the Competition for the forthcoming season must have the opportunity to be put forward for membership and to have a vote taken on their membership application.
- (I) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM.
- (J) Where a Competition is an incorporated entity, the Officers of the Competition shall ensure that the Articles of Association of the Competition are consistent with the requirements of these Rules.

## Special General Meetings

9. Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call a SGM.

The Management Committee may call a SGM at any time.

At least seven (7) days' notice shall be given of a meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.

Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.

Any Club failing to be represented at a SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs.

## Agreement to be Signed

10. Each Club shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the Competition together with the application for membership for the coming Season, or upon indicating that the Club intends to compete.

"We, (A), (name) [ ] of (address) [ ] (Chairman)/Director and (B) (name) [ ] of (address) [ ] (Secretary/Director) of [ ] Football Club (Limited) have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the [ ] Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, if elected or accepted into membership, to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7."

The agreement shall be signed by:

- (i) Where a Club is an unincorporated association, the Club chairman and secretary; or
- (ii) Where a Club is an incorporated entity, two directors of the Club.

Any alteration of the chairman and/or secretary of the Club on the above agreement must be notified to the County Football Association(s) to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary.

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

## Continuation of Membership, Withdrawal of a Club

11. (A) Any Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a Team from the Competition must do so at least 7 days before the AGM. This does not apply to a Club moving in accordance with Rule 22(B). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.



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

### **Exclusion of Clubs or Team, Misconduct of Clubs, Officers, Players, Management Committee**

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

### **Trophy**

- 13. (A) The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the cup or trophy:-

“We A [name] and B [name], the Chairman and Secretary of [ ] FC (Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of [ ] cup or trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the cup or trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before 1<sup>st</sup> February. If the cup or trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair.”

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

- (B) At the close of each Competition awards may/shall be made to the Winners and Runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.
- (C) Cups or Trophies must be returned to the League Management Committee no later than 1st February of the following season.  
  
Failure to comply will result in a fine as determined by the Management Committee as set out in the Fines Tariff.
- (D) Cup or Trophy Winners are required to engrave the Cup or Trophy appropriately before return to the Secretary of the League in accordance with the terms of the agreement in Rule 13 (A).



Failure to comply will result in a fine as determined by the Management Committee as set out in the Fines Tariff. The Management Committee also reserves the right to recharge the cost of engraving a cup or trophy to the defaulting club.

## Alteration to Rules

14. Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at a SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. Any alteration made during the Playing Season to these Rules shall not take effect until the following Playing Season.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by April 30<sup>th</sup> in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by the date of SGM and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> May. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or SGM shall be submitted to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA (as applicable) at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

## Finance

15. (A) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.
- (B) All expenditure in excess of £1,000 shall be approved by the Management Committee.
- (C) The financial year of the Competition will end on 31<sup>st</sup> May.
- (D) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be audited/verified annually by a suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

## Insurance

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

Failure to comply with Rule 16(A) or 16(B) will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

## Dissolution

17. (A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a SGM by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant SGM.
- (B) In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.
- (C) The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:



- (i) Any surplus assets, save for a trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or Affiliated Association or The Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the Sanctioning Authority.
- (ii) If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the Sanctioning Authority may decide.



## Match-based Rules

### Qualification of Players

18. (A) (i) A registered youth playing member of a Club is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has registered through the Player Registration System.

If a Club attempts to register a player via the Player Registration System but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via the Player Registration System, the registration will not be processed.

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

- (B) (i) Contract Players are not permitted in this Competition with the exception of those Players who are registered under contract with the same Club who have a Team operating at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System, or Tiers 1-4 of the Women's Pyramid System.

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

- (ii) A Player registered with a Premier League or EFL Academy under the Elite Player Performance Plan contained within Youth Development Rules will not be permitted to play in this Competition, except for those in the under 11 age-group and below where consent has been given by the relevant Premier League or EFL Academy (such consent can be withdrawn at any time). Trial players are not considered to be registered with a Premier League or EFL Academy for these purposes and therefore the prohibition on playing in the Competition does not apply to them. The relevant Premier League/EFL Academy remains responsible for managing the frequency of the player's playing time. Details of the Youth Development Rules are published on The FA website. A Player registered with an

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

Format	Minimum Number
5v5	5
7v7	7
9v9	9
11v11	11

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

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

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

Notwithstanding the above, a child is permitted to play up in the age group above their chronological age group, irrespective of any changes of format or competition structure, save that a child who attains the age



of 6 after 31 August is permitted to play only in the Under 7 age group, and may not play in the Under 8 age group, for that Playing Season. Girls in all female teams may also be permitted to play an age group down in accordance with Rule 4(F).

The age groups that children are eligible to play in are set out in the table below, subject to Rule 4(F), along with the permitted football formats for each of those age groups. For the purposes of this Rule 18(C), provisions relating to playing in specified age groups shall include participating in training as well as playing in matches. Children shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match between sides of more than the stated number of players, according to their age group:

Age on 31 August of the relevant Playing Season	Eligible Age Groups	Maximum Permitted Format	Minimum Pitch Sizes		Maximum Pitch Sizes		Recommended Goal Sizes in feet	Ball Size
			Yards	Metres	Yards	Metres		
6	Under 7	5v5	30 x 20	27.45 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12 x 6	3
	Under 8		30 x 20	27.45 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12 x 6	
7	Under 8	5v5	30 x 20	27.45 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12 x 6	3
	Under 9	7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	
8	Under 9	7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
	Under 10		50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
9	Under 10	7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
	Under 11	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
10	Under 11	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
	Under 12		70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	
11	Under 12	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
	Under 13	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	
12	Under 13	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	4
	Under 14		90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	
13	Under 14	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	4
	Under 15		90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	
14	Under 15	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	5
	Under 16		90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	
15	Under 16	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	5
	Under 17		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	
	Under 18		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	
16	Under 17	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5
	Under 18		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	
	Open Age		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	

- (D) A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered, if applicable.
- (E) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes taking into account the following.
  - (i) A Player shall not be permitted to register for more than one Club subject to the exceptions set out in Rule 18 (E)(iii) below.
  - (ii) In the event of a Player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club in the Competition, the valid registration submitted first shall take precedence. The Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the Player of the fact of the previous registration subject to the exceptions set out in Rule 18 (E)(iii) below.
  - (iii) A Player is only permitted to register for more than one Club provided that:



- a. The Team(s) in which the Player plays in are not in the same age group; or
- b. Except for the purpose of a transfer.

And the Player meets the requirements in Rule 18(C).

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

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

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

- (G)
- (i) The Management Committee shall accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rule 18(G)(ii) and (iii) below.
  - (ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player, the exercise of such power being without prejudice to the Management Committee's ability to fine a Club at its discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) that has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 7).
  - (iii) The Management Committee shall have the power to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 7) subject to the right of appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. Where the Management Committee does not have enough information to enable it to make a decision pursuant to the above power, it may apply, in its absolute discretion, to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA for further information.

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

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

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

- (H) Subject to compliance with FA Rule C2(a) when a Club wishes to register a player who is already registered with another club it shall submit a transfer form (in a format as determined by the Competition) to the





Competition accompanied by a fee as set out in the Fees Tariff. Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to the club for which the player is registered. Should this club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the player concerned within 3 days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within 3 days, the Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or 1 day after receipt of such transfer.

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

- (I) A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 31<sup>st</sup> March except by special permission of the Management Committee.
- (J) A Club shall keep a list of the Players it registers and a record of all matches in which those Players have played for the Club, and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee.

In the event a Club has more than one Team in an age group, each Team must be clearly identifiable but not designated 'A' or 'B' or 1st or 2nd. In such cases, Players will be registered for one Team only. A Player so registered will be allowed to play for their Club in a younger or older age group within the provisions of Rule 18(C).

In age groups Under 7 to Under 11, players may be registered as a squad, but they must be allocated to a specific Team but may play across the Teams in the Squad.

For Mini Soccer this is restricted to a maximum of 2 Players at any time, and for Under 11 a maximum of 3 Players is allowed. This flexibility is at the Competition's sole discretion and if breached the Management Committee are empowered to redraw this flexibility for a Team. They should only play for one Team on any day. A player may be dual-registered with two Teams at any one time, and to be eligible to play, a registration must be submitted and accepted through the Player Registration System.

- (K) A register containing the names of all Players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Registrations Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of an Officer of the Club at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.

In the event of a Non Contract Player changing their status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition or with a club in another competition their registration as a Non Contract Player will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 18(B)(i).

- (L) A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding Competition Match (as specified in Rule 22(A)) unless the Player has played 6 Competition Matches for that Team in the current Playing Season.
- (M) A Team shall not include more than 3 Players who have played in 6 or more senior Competition Matches during the current Playing Season unless a period of 21 days has elapsed since they last played. 21 clear days is counted by excluding the day when the relevant Player last played and the day when the Player intends to play again.

For the purpose of this Rule senior competitions are the Eastern Junior Alliance and Junior Premier League.

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



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

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

- (O) (i) Priority must be given at all times to the activities of schools and school organisations. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (ii) The availability of children must be cleared with their head teacher (except for Sunday league competitions).
- (iii) A child under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31 August in the relevant Playing Season, shall not be permitted to play in a Competition Match during that Playing Season where any other Player is older or younger than that child by two years or more.
- (P) If a Club wishes to cancel a Player's registration within the Competition, it must make a request via The FA's electronic player registration system giving the reasons for the request. The Competition may either approve or decline the request.
- If a Player's registration is cancelled, he/she will not be eligible to play in the Competition for a period of 2 days from the date of cancellation.
- (Q) Each Team may register a maximum of 20 players except at Under 18 where they may register up to 25 Players. Any additional registrations will subject to approval by the Management Committee.
- (R) (i) Team Managers must have with them up-to-date information on all of their Players registered on Player Registration System with photographic id, either by hard copy or electronically, that the person in charge of the opposing Team may request to see prior to every competitive Royston Crow Youth Football League and League Cup Match. In the event of a failure to produce such information if requested, the Match will be played nonetheless.
- Proven failure to produce such information will result in a Fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff and the Match be awarded to the Opposition regardless of the result.
- (ii) Any individual Player who does not appear on Player Registration System will not be permitted to participate in the Match.



## Club Colours

19. Every Team must register the colour and design of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> July who shall decide as to their suitability.

Any Team wishing to change the colour(s) and/or design(s) of its shirt(s) and short(s) during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the Management Committee in advance of making that change.

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

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

Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents the colours in which they will play (including the colours of the goalkeeper jersey) at least 3 days before the Competition Match.

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

Shirts bearing different numbers must be worn by all Players (including Substitutes) of all competing Teams in the Royston Crow Youth Football League (second strips included). Any Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

## Playing Season, Conditions of Play, Times of Kick-Off, Postponements, Substitutes

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

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

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

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

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

Overhead netting is allowed for 5v5 and 7v7 mini soccer if the overhead netting height is at a minimum of 6m.

No overhead netting is allowed for 9v9 and 11v11 affiliated matches.



Overhead wires used to support pitch divider netting are ideally removed for affiliated matches but if they cannot be removed then discretion is given to the match official to restart the match in accordance with the laws of the game.

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

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

Age Group	Minimum Duration of play per quarter (minutes) (Mini-soccer)	Maximum Duration of play per quarter (minutes) (Mini-soccer only)	Minimum duration of play per half (minutes)	Maximum duration of play per half (minutes)	Maximum playing time in one day in all organised development fixtures (minutes)	Maximum playing time in one day in all tournaments and trophy events / festivals (minutes)	Competition structure
Under 7 and Under 8	5	10	10	20	40	60	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 2 week periods (6 weeks)
Under 9 and Under 10	10	12.5	20	25	60	90	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 4 week periods (12 weeks)
Under 11	N/A	N/A	20	30	80	120	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 6 week periods (18 weeks)
Under 12	N/A	N/A	20	30	80 (if applicable)	120	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 13 and Under 14	N/A	N/A	25	35	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 15 and Under 16	N/A	N/A	25	40	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table



Under17 and Under 18	N/A	N/A	25	45	120	180	Any varieties including one season long league table
----------------------	-----	-----	----	----	-----	-----	--

Competition Matches for age groups from U7 to U10 can be played in either quarters or halves.

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

For trophy events, the Competition may award mementos.

The times of kick-off shall be fixed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs prior to the scheduled date of the Competition Match with written notification given to the Competition at least 3 days prior.

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

The times of kick-off for Saturday and Sunday fixtures shall not be earlier than 10.00 a.m. nor later than 3.00 p.m. except between 1st November and 31st January when they shall be not later than 1.30 p.m. unless all parties agree to play the match under floodlights. The times of kick-off for midweek fixtures must be between 6.30 p.m. and 8.00 p.m., unless by mutual agreement of both Clubs.

Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time may be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff or be otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine.

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

- (B) Except by permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a Competition Match with the consent of the Fixtures Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

Clubs competing in Development Leagues may mutually agree to bring forward or move back a Match with the consent of the relevant Divisional Fixture Secretary. Matches moved as a result of this must be rearranged by the Clubs within 7 days.

If Clubs are unable to agree a date, this must be referred to the Divisional Fixtures Secretary by the postponing Club, who will decide whether to rearrange or void the fixture.

- (C) An Officer of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the Ground, time of kick-off and kit colours (including goalkeeper) to the Match Officials, an Officer of the opposing Club, and the Divisional Fixtures Secretary for the Age Group at least 5 clear days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. The opposing Club must confirm receipt and give notice of its kit colours (including goalkeeper) at least 3 days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. If either is not provided, the relevant Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition. The Home Team must



advise the Away Team as to whether or not a qualified and currently registered Referee will be refereeing the game.

Kick Off times for the Under 16 and 18 Age Groups must be set 10 days in advance of the fixture date, and entered on Full Time, except where a change of fixture falls within this time frame, when it must be input within 24 hours of the notification of the change.

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

The Away Club shall seek and acknowledge receipt of such particulars and confirm acceptance of the Match within 48 hours of receipt.

Where circumstances do not allow confirmation by e-mail, Matches may be confirmed by telephone before 9.00 p.m. at least five days prior to the playing of the Match, but if a message is left on either an answerphone or with anybody other than the designated Secretary or Fixture Secretary, a subsequent phone call should be made to confirm the message has been received. All details as required for the MCF must be given when confirming the Match and the Divisional Fixtures Secretary must also be informed.

(D) The minimum number of Players that will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is as follows:

<b>Format</b>	<b>Minimum Number</b>
5v5	4
7v7	5
9v9	6
11v11	7

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

(E) (i) In competitions where points are awarded, home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall decide whether it should either:

(a) award the points from the Competition Match in question to the Club's opponent (without the awarding of goals)

OR

(b) order the Competition Match to be reschedule. The Management Committee shall also have the power to order the rescheduled Competition Match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent Club's Ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

In addition, the Management Committee may at its discretion order one or more of the following (if appropriate):

- (a) Impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff),
- (b) Deduct points from the defaulting Club,
- (c) Order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents.

(ii) Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a Competition Match has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the Fixtures Secretary, the Competition Referees Appointments Secretary, the secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials.



In the event of a Team failing to appear at a Ground by the appointed Kick Off time without prior notification to their Opponents, the Team in attendance should attempt to contact the Team to ascertain the reason for their non-appearance. They should also notify the Divisional Fixtures Secretary of their Opponent's failure to appear. They should then wait for a minimum period of 30 minutes before leaving unless instructed by the Divisional Fixtures Secretary to leave. Teams failing to appear in this manner will be issued with a Rule Contravention Form for non-fulfilment of fixture.

- (iii) In the event of a Competition Match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Fixtures Secretary within 7 days the Management Committee shall have the power to order the Competition Match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and the Clubs involved agree, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand.

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

- (iv) The Management Committee shall review all Competition Matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a Competition Match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Team or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the Competition Match to the opponent. In cases where a Competition Match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule that neither Team will be awarded any points for that Competition Match and it shall not be replayed. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned Competition Match.
- (v) The Management Committee shall review any Competition Match that has taken place where either or both Teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by The FA or Affiliated Association. In each case the Team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible players in accordance with Rule 18(N)(i) above. Where both Teams were under suspension the Competition Match must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.

- (F) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use substitute Players in any Competition Match.

For Under 11s - Under 18s – a Club may use up to 5 from 5 substitute Players. A Player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace any Player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

For Mini-Soccer – 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 play as a substitute for another Player. A Team must not have a match day squad greater than double the size of its team in an age group.

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





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

- (G) The half time interval shall be of 5 minutes' duration, but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the Referee.
- (H) The Teams taking part in Under 7s to Under 11 or Youth Football shall identify a Team captain who shall wear an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of their teammates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (I) Where a suspension imposed in relation to a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) upon a Club by The FA or Affiliated Association is not lifted, and/or the Club does not provide confirmation from The FA or Affiliated Association that such suspension is lifted to the Competition Secretary by 12:00 (noon) 2 days before a fixture, that fixture will be treated as an unfulfilled fixture and dealt with in accordance with Rule 20(E)(i).
- (J) No fixtures will be scheduled for the Christmas period Saturday & Sunday (2 weeks in total) or for Easter Sunday. Fixtures will be issued for the period September to May and clubs should be available to play every weekend as fixtures can be set by Divisional Fixture Secretaries up to 9pm on the Monday before the weekend. Fixtures during other school holidays during the Playing Season are set at the discretion of the Fixture Secretary.
- (K) Where a team becomes aware of a school trip/event at short notice, meaning that the team will then have less than the required number of players to participate in a fixture (see Rule 20 (D)), they may request a free week (from their allocation in Rule provided they give 7 days' notice to the Fixture Secretary. The request must be accompanied by a letter from the School/School Organisation detailing the names of the Players unable to play on the published fixture date.

If the opposition incurs unrecoverable pitch hire costs as a result of a free week granted under this rule, the requesting Club will be required to reimburse these costs.

- (L) Notice of Postponement of any Match must be given without delay by the Secretary or Fixture Secretary of the postponing Club to the Divisional Fixture Secretary, the Referees Secretary, the Secretary of the Opposing Club and the Match Officials. Any Club failing to comply shall be dealt with by the Management Committee who may inflict any penalty it may deem suitable. The only exception to this Rule is when a Team is requesting a "free week" the notice period required is 28 days.

The Secretary of the Opposing Club, shall be advised the reason for Postponement. The Opposing Club has seven days from receipt of this notification to make comments in writing on the Postponement to the League Divisional Fixture Secretary. Clubs that fail to meet this requirement will have no further right of appeal.

- (M) No League or League Cup Match may be postponed or cancelled without the prior agreement of the relevant Divisional Fixture Secretary. Postponements for the following reasons shall be allowed:
  - a. Having Players involved in International, County or League Representative Competitions
  - b. County Cup Competitions
  - c. Unplayable pitches



d. Exceptional circumstances

All requests for Postponements, for the reasons stated above, shall be treated as a postponement subject to the following clauses:

Requests for Postponements, for reasons other than 'a' to 'c' above shall be treated initially as a Cancellation and a Rule Contravention Form shall be issued for non-fulfilment of the fixture under this Rule. Confirmation of the decision that Rule 20 (E) has been breached will be made by the Management Committee based upon the evidence submitted.

- (N) Evening Matches shall be played as required by the League. Evening Matches may be played on any day (Monday to Friday inclusive) by prior mutual arrangement of the two Clubs involved. In the event of a dispute, the Management Committee shall order the Match to be played on the Wednesday.
- (O) (i) Each home Club shall make arrangements for the provision of Designated Areas for Spectators. This area can be marked by an additional painted line, the use of cones, a roped off area or use of a temporary spectator barrier referred to hereafter as the Respect Barriers. The area for Spectators should start two metres from the touchline on one side of the pitch. Each area should run the full length of the pitch. It is recognised, however, that the alignment of some public pitches does not allow for this arrangement in which case other appropriate arrangements should be made.

In addition, a defined Technical Area should be made to house the Management Team and substitutes as with the DSA. There should be a minimum of 2 or maximum of 3 Adults in the Area with the Players, and these must be attached to the Team on the Club Portal and have the appropriate Safeguarding qualifications and holds a current DBS. These would consist of the Manager, Assistant or Coach and a registered First Aider.

Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (ii) Spectators from both Teams shall stand on one side of the Pitch and all Managers, Coaches and Substitutes shall stand on the opposite side, behind the Respect Barriers.

In addition, there must be a 3-metre exclusion zone either side of the Halfway Line that must be kept clear at all times during the match.

Any Club unable to comply with this requirement must notify the League Secretary immediately. Failure to observe this Rule may result in a fine as shown in the Fines Tariff.

- (III) Under no circumstances is a Manager, Coach or Spectator allowed to stand behind the goal, it is the responsibility of the Match Delegate to make sure this does not happen.
- (iv) Each Team must provide a Match Delegate (adult) for every Royston Crow Youth Football League or League Cup Match, who should report to the Match Referee prior to kick-off. Reported failure to provide a Youth Match Delegate will result in a Club being fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

## Reporting Results

21. (A) The Registration/Results Secretary must receive within 1 days of the date played, the result of each Competition Match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the Team and also the referee markings required by Rule 23, or any other information required by the Competition. The following information must be provided:

- (i) Referees Name and Marks



- (ii) FA Respect Marks
- (iii) FA Pitch marks
- (iv) League Team Sporting Marks
- (v) League Adult Sporting Marks
- (vi) Confirmation of the use of Respect Barriers
- (vii) Player Statistics
- (viii) The Final Result

For assistance in filling in this Form, please use this FA link for guidance:

<https://grassrootstechnology.thefa.com/support/solutions/articles/48001158765-completing-match-returns-on-full-time-match-stats-results-sheets->

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

- (B) Both Clubs shall use FA Full Time to notify the result of each Competition Match, including details of postponed or abandoned matches, to the designated Results Portal within 24 hours of the date played. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be submitted via FA Full Time. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (D) The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect but NOT publish results or any grading tables for fixtures involving Under 7s, Under 8s, Under 9s, Under 10s, and Under 11s. Any Competition failing to abide by this Rule will be dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and any Club failing to abide by this Rule will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect and publish results for trophy events.
- (E) The Competition may require a Club to confirm that a set fixture has been played. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (F) Any Club who submits a Sporting Award of **'40'** or less shall forward to the League Welfare Officer a written explanation within FOUR days of the Match in question being played. Such reports MUST be submitted on a correctly completed Royston Crow Youth Football League Low Sporting Mark Report Form and be countersigned by the Club Secretary. Any Club in default of this Rule will be fined and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- (G) Any Club who submits a Adult Behaviour Mark of **'40'** or less shall forward to the League Welfare Officer a written explanation within FOUR days of the match in question being played. Such reports MUST be submitted on a correctly completed Royston Crow Youth Football League Low Adult Behaviour Mark Report Form and be countersigned by the Club Secretary. Any Club in default of this Rule will be fined and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

## Determining Championship

22. (A) In Competitions where points are awarded, Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn Competition Match. The Teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the end of the Playing Season shall be adjudged the winners. Competition Matches must not be played for double points.



In the event of two or more Teams being equal on points at the end of the Playing Season, rankings may be determined by a deciding match or matches played under conditions determined by the Management Committee, or the position shared.

- (B) *Not applicable to this Competition.*
- (C) *Not applicable to this Competition.*
- (D) In the event of a Team withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the Playing Season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting Team shall be expunged from the Competition table. For the purposes of this Rule 22 (D) a completed fixture shall include any Competition Match(es) which has been awarded by the Management Committee.
- (E) Wherever possible "Play-Off Matches" will be played on either of the last two Sundays in May and will be played at a neutral Ground with three match Officials appointed by the League.
- (F) The duration of play for "Play-Off Matches" is in accordance with Rule 20 (A) of the League Competition Rules. If the scores are level at the end of normal time, the game will be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark as laid down by the International Football Association (see Schedule C).
- (G) In the event of a Club failing to keep this engagement the Management Committee shall have power to award the Match to their Opponents by the giving of 3 points thus providing an outright Winner for the Division, and deal with the defaulting Club under the provisions of Rule 20(E)(i).
- (H) The Management Committee may order at its discretion that Matches order Teams to play 'double headers'. In this case two consecutive Matches are played at the same venue. The length of each Match shall not be less than that stated in Rule 20(A). Players are entitled to a break of 15 minutes between the two games. These Matches are to be treated as two entirely separate entities. For each Match three points may be awarded for a win and one for a draw.

The time to be played for each Match in a Double Header is arrived at by adding the normal playing time to the permitted period of extra-time that would be played in a Cup Match for that Age Group. This is then divided half and then divided again into two equal halves.

Therefore, playing times are as follows:-

Under 11 to Under 14 - Two games of 20 minutes each way.

Under 15 & Under 16 - Two games of 25 minutes each way

Under 18 - Two games of 30 minutes each way

- (I) In the event of a League appointing a Referee to officiate at both matches, the Fee payable will be one and a half times the standard Fee for that Age Group, as set out in Schedule 1 Fees, and this cost will be shared between the competing Clubs.

## Match Officials

- 23. (A) Registered referees (and assistant referees where approved by The FA or County FA) for all Competition Matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Authority.
- (B) In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that Competition Match, have the full powers, status and



authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any open age competition and individuals under the age of 14 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any Competition Match. Referees between the ages of 14 and 16 are only eligible to officiate in competitions where the Players' age band is at least one year younger than the age of the referee, for example a 15 year old referee may only officiate in competitions where the age banding is 14 or younger.

- (C) Where assistant referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club assistant referee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) being imposed on the defaulting Club.
- (D) The appointed referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground in all Competition Matches and that decision shall be final, subject to the determination of the Local Authority or the owners of a Ground, which must be accepted.
- (E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Authority, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff.

Match Officials will be paid their fees and/or expenses by the home Club before/immediately after the Competition Match, unless otherwise ordered by the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (F) In the event of a Competition Match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to full fee plus expenses/half fee plus expenses/expenses only. Where a Competition Match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Ground, their full fee and expenses. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (G) A referee not keeping their engagement and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Affiliated Association with which they are registered.
- (H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The FA, award marks to the referee for each Competition Match and the name of the referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on FA Full Time. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.

Any Club who submits a Referee's Mark of '60' or less shall forward to the Referees' Secretary and League Welfare Officer a written explanation within FOUR days of the Match in question being played. Such reports MUST be submitted on a correctly completed Royston Crow Youth Football League Referee Low Mark Report Form and be countersigned by the Club Secretary. Any Club in default of this Rule will be fined and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

- (I) The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided by the prescribed date each Season, shall submit a summary to The FA/County FA.
- (J) *Not applicable to this Competition.*
- (K) Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.
- (L) Nobody under the age of 18, unless they are a qualified and registered Referee, may officiate at any Royston Crow Youth Football League 11-a-side matches. The only exception to this rule shall be a registered Trainee Referee



- (M) Except with the permission of the League Referees Secretary, Referees appointed by the League to officiate at any League or League Cup Match may not be withdrawn from the Game by, nor may the Referee be replaced by, either of the Clubs involved. In all cases, details of venues and kick-off times must be confirmed to the appointed Referee not later than five days before the scheduled date of the Match.
- (N) If, in the judgement of the Management Committee, a Club or Clubs selects or changes a kick-off time to avoid the use of an appointed Referee or fails to notify details of venues or kick-off times, as required above with the intention of causing the non-appearance of the Referee, the action will be treated as the Club(s) withdrawing or replacing the Referee and the Management Committee will, at its discretion, apply the Fine(s) and such other punishment it thinks appropriate to the breach of this Rule.
- (O) Where Clubs have a League appointed Referee, who when contacted is unable to take the appointment due to the KickOff time given by the Club, it is the Home Club's responsibility to inform the Referees' Secretary of this to enable the Referee to be reallocated to another Match.
- (P) Clubs failing to advise Match Details to the appointed Referee by 9.00 p.m. no later than five days before the scheduled date of the Game, or as soon as is practical for re-scheduled fixtures shall be fined as per Rule 20(C), and Clubs withdrawing or replacing an appointed Referee, or causing the non-appearance of an appointed Referee, shall be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).
- (Q) If the Home Team is unable to provide a Qualified Referee and their Opponents have a Qualified Referee travelling with them, they shall take precedence over any non-qualified Referee.
- (R) 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. The fees for Assistant Referees are normally shared between the two Clubs. Assistant Referee match fees are set out in the Fees Tariff.



## Cup Competition Rules

### Nomenclature and Constitution

1. (A) The Competition shall be called the Royston Crow Youth Football League Challenge Cup. Entry is mandatory for all Clubs registered in the League in all Age Groups, and only the League Management Committee has the right to remove a Club from the Competition. No entry forms are requested and entry to the Competition is automatic upon the acceptance of a Club to the League.
- (B) Any Club failing in its obligations with regard to this Competition shall be deemed guilty of misconduct.

### Qualification of Players

2. (A) As League Competition Rule 18.
- (B)
  - (i) Once a Player has actively participated in the Competition within an Age Group, and/or for a Club, then that Player is forbidden to play in the same Competition in another Age Group and/or for another Club, in except where a Club/team has withdrawn from the League after the First Round, or Preliminary Round, and all records have been expunged thereby releasing the Player to play for another Club.
  - (ii) At Under 10 & 11 the League runs two invitation Trophy Event Competitions, The President's Cup, The Calvert Trophy, The Derek Gates Cup & The Kim Bailey Trophy. Teams will be notified of their entry in to either Competition by the Divisional Fixture Secretary. Once a Player has played in one Competition, they are automatically cup-tied for the other. These matches are subject to the same Rules in respect of postponements as for those in Standard Leagues.
  - (iii) From time to time the League may choose to run "subsidiary" Cup Competitions at any Age Group. Entry into such Competitions will be by invitation only and Teams will be notified of their entry by the Divisional Fixture Secretary. Player eligibility for such Competitions is determined by the Club they have already played for in any other Cup Competition or in accordance with Rule 2(B)(i).

Where it is considered to be in the interests of the Competition for either the Challenge or Subsidiary Cups to have a different format, and specific rules are not covered in this document, details of approved formats are included in the Appendix "Alternative Cup Competition Formats" and any other alternative rules or formats applicable to the Competition shall be notified to all participating Clubs by the Management Committee prior to commencement of the Competition.

- (C) All Players in Cup Competitions must be registered playing Members of their Club in accordance with League Rule 18. Players must have been registered at least seven (7) days prior to the match and, in the case of the Semi-Final and Final ties, have played in a minimum of three League fixtures (including League Cup) for their Club in that Season.

The only exception to this is in Development Leagues where Players are only required to have been registered with their Club for seven (7) days prior to the match.

In the event of the game being abandoned or a postponement being required, only those players eligible at the date of the first game shall be eligible to play.

- (D) In the Semi-Final and Final Tie the competing Club must notify their Opponents and the Registration Secretary at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the tie, or within 48 hours of the tie being set if less than 14 days' notice is possible, with the names and FAN numbers of the Players from which the Team will





be selected. More than 16 players may be listed on this notification, but League Rule 20 (F) still applies in respect of the number of substitutes that may be named on the day of the match.

Objections must be received in writing by the League Secretary and the Opposing Club not less than 24 hours before the stipulated time for the tie.

- (E) Any Team guilty of playing ineligible Players, as covered in Rule 18 will automatically be disqualified from the Competition and will be fined or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the League Management Committee.
- (F) All actions will be subject to right of appeal in accordance with Rule 15(F) of the League Rules.

### **Draw**

- 3. The ties shall be drawn and the Competition Matches played as the Management Committee may determine, and immediately after each draw the League Fixture Secretary should inform each Club drawn, the name of the Club against which it has been drawn.

### **Match Officials**

- 4. (A) As League Competition Rule 23.
- (B) In the Final ties, Referees and Assistant Referees will receive mementoes in lieu of a match fee.

### **Choice of Ground**

- 5. Unless otherwise mutually agreed, the Club which is in each instance the first drawn in the ballot shall have the choice of ground.

Clubs shall not mutually arrange to play a match in lieu of a Cup tie. If a match is played to a conclusion, it must be a Cup tie. Postponed and abandoned matches will be rearranged by the League Fixture Secretary.

### **Club Colours**

- 6. In the event of two Clubs, in the opinion of the Referee, having the same or similar colours, the Away Team shall make the change, except in the Final ties when both Teams will change. Each Team must have change colours available.

### **Match Receipts and Expenses**

- 7. In all ties, except the Semi Finals match, receipts will be retained by the Home Club. In the Final Tie, proceeds will be retained by the League.

### **Duration of Play**

- 8. The duration of play is according to Rule 20 (A) of the League Competition Rules.

Except in the Semi-Final and Final ties the duration of the match can be reduced by no more than 10 minutes divided equally between the two halves, subject to agreement of the Referee and Opposing Managers.

If the scores are level at the end of normal time the game will be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark as laid down by the International Football Association (see appendix).

### **Reporting of Results**

- 9. The Match result should be communicated to the League in accordance with Rule 21 of the League Competition Rules.



## Protests

10. In all cases of protest or dispute, Rule 7 of the League Competition Rules will apply.

## Matters Not Covered

11. Matters not covered by these rules arising in connection with the Competition shall be dealt with by the Management Committee whose decision shall be final.

All points expressly not covered in these Cup Competition Rules, the league Competition Rules will apply.



## Appendix 1 – IFAB Procedure for Taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark

The International Board at its Meeting on 27th June, 1970 accepted a proposal by the Federation Internationale de Football Associations that the practice of drawing lots to determine which two teams in a drawn match should proceed to a later stage of a Knock Out Competition or receive the Trophy (if any) be discontinued and be replaced by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark which shall not be considered part of the match, subject to the following conditions.

1. If the Referee feels there is an issue with safety or pitch conditions. If neither of these factors are relevant, the referee shall toss a coin and state if its head we will use that goal and if its tails it will be the other.
2. The Referee shall toss a coin, and the Team whose Captain wins the toss shall take the first kick.
3. (A) Subject to the terms of the following paragraphs (C) and (D) both teams shall take five kicks.  
If one team is down on the required number of players due to dismissals or injuries, their opponents must equate the numbers of players taking the kicks and the player/players not participating wait off the field of play.  
(B) the kicks should be taken alternatively.  
(C) If, before both teams have taken five kicks, one has scored more goals than the other could, even if it were to complete it's five kicks, the taking of kicks shall cease.  
(D) If, after both teams have taken five kicks, both have scored the same number of goals, or have not scored any goals, the taking of kicks shall continue. In the same order, until such time as both have taken an equal number of kicks (not necessarily five more kicks) and one has scored a goal more than the other.
4. The Team which scores the greater number of goals, whether the number of kicks taken in accordance with the terms of the foregoing paragraph 3(A), 3 (C), or 3(D) shall qualify for the next round of the Competition, or shall be declared the winner of the Competition as the case may be.
5. (A) With the exception referred to the following paragraph (B) only the players on the field of play at the end of the match, which shall mean at the end of extra time in so far as a match in which extra time is authorised is concerned, and any who, having left the field of play temporarily, with or without the Referee's permission, are not on the field of play at that time, shall take part in the taking of the kicks.  
(B) Provided that their team has not already made use of the maximum number of substitutes permitted by the rules of the competition under which the match was played, a goalkeeper who sustains an injury during the taking of the kicks and who, because of the injury is unable to continue as goalkeeper may be replaced by a substitute.
6. Each kick shall be taken by a different player and not until all eligible players of any team, including the goalkeeper or the named substitute by whom he was replaced in terms of paragraph (5) as the case may be, have each taken a kick may a player of the same team take another kick.
7. Subject to the terms of paragraph (5) any player who is eligible may change places with their goalkeeper at any time during the taking of the kicks.
8. (A) Other than the player taking the kick from the penalty mark and the two goalkeepers, all players shall remain in the centre circle whilst the taking of kicks is in progress.



- (B) The goalkeeper, who is a colleague of the kicker shall take up position within the field of play but outside the penalty area at which the kicks are being taken,
  - (C) All Managers, Coaches, substitutes and non-playing personnel should remain off the field of play until the procedures are completed.
9. Unless stated to the contrary in the foregoing paragraphs 1 to 8, the Laws of the Game and the International Board decisions relating thereto shall, in so far as they can, apply at the taking of the kicks.

NB In the event of light failing before the end of the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, the result shall be decided by the drawing of lots.



## Appendix 2 – Alternative Format for Cup Competitions

If it is considered to be to the benefit of the Competition, the Management Committee may authorise the use of different formats instead of a straight knockout for the Royston Crow Youth Football League Challenge or Subsidiary Cup Competitions at all Age Groups.

These may take either a Divisional Group Format where Teams are placed into Divisions for the Group Stages and Group Winners and Runners-up, dependant on the number of Teams entered, will play off against each other to progress to a Final.

Alternatively, the Knockout Cup Format could be extended to allow ties are played on a home & away basis.

Unless stated below all Rules relating to these Competitions will be the same as outlined in the “All Cup Competition Rules”.

### Rules specific to Divisional Group Format:

- Teams will be drawn into Divisions for the Group Stage in which each Team will play each other once.
- Team rankings within the Division will be decided by points with three points awarded for a win and one point for a draw.
- Progression out of the Group Stage will be based on the Team(s) gaining the highest number of points.
- In the event of there being Teams with the same number of points, progression in the Tournament will be decided in the following way:
  - (i) On the “head-to-head” result between the Teams.
  - (ii) If this is the same, then by goal difference.
  - (iii) If this is the same, by highest number of goals scored.
  - (iv) By the toss of a coin
- Depending on the number of Divisions in the Competition the Group Winners will be drawn into a Quarter-final or Semi-final tie to decide progression into the Final.
- After the Group Stage all matches revert to a straight knock-out basis and if scores are level at the end of normal time the game will be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark as laid down by the International Football Association (see appendix).

### Rules specific to Teams playing each other Home and Away:

Progression through to each Round will be based on the result over the two Matches as follows:

- Team gaining the highest number of points.
- If this is the same, then by goal difference.
- If this is the same, by highest number of goals scored.
- By the taking of kicks from the Penalty Mark



## Schedule A – Fees Tariff

<b>RULE</b>		<b>AMOUNT</b>
Rule 4 (A)	Entry Fees for Teams to Royston Crow Youth Football League:	
	Under 7 – Under 8 (per team)	£30.00
	Under 9 – Under 10 (per team)	£35.00
	Under 11 – Under 12 (per team)	£50.00
	Under 13 – Under 18 (per team)	£60.00
Rule 4 (B)	Annual Subscription (per club)	£20.00
Rule 7 (C)	Protest/Appeal Fee	£25.00
Rule 7 (F)	Appeal Fee	£25.00
Rule 18 (S)	Deposit regarding objection to a Player's eligibility	£20.00
Rule 23 (E)	Match Officials Fees:	
	Referee for Under 11s or Under 12s	£25.00
	Referee for Under 13s or Under 14s	£30.00
	Referee for Under 15s or Under 16s	£35.00
	Referee for Under 17s or Under 18s	£40.00
	Registered Referees appointed by the Management Committee as:	
	Assistant Referees for Under 11s or Under 12s	£12.00
	Assistant Referees for Under 13s or Under 14s	£15.00
	Assistant Referees for Under 15s or Under 16s	£18.00
Assistant Referees for Under 17s or Under 18s	£20.00	

Note: All items to be read in conjunction with and subject to League Rules.



## Schedule B – Fines Tariff

<b>RULE</b>		<b>AMOUNT</b>
Rule 2 (G)	Failure to Affiliate	£25.00
Rule 2 (I)	Failure to comply with FA Initiatives	£25.00
Rule 2 (K)	Unauthorised entry of Teams to outside Competitions	£25.00
Rule 3	Failure to obtain consent for change of Club name	£20.00
Rule 4 (E)	Failure to ensure teams are recorded as affiliated in the club portal	£25.00
Rule 5 (E)	Communications conducted by persons other than nominated Officers	£25.00
Rule 6 (H)	Failure to comply with an instruction of the Management Committee	£25.00
Rule 6 (I)	Failure to pay Fine within 14 days' notice	Max. £50.00
Rule 8 (H)	Failure to be represented at an Annual General Meeting	£50.00
Rule 9	Failure to be represented at a Special General Meeting	£30.00
Rule 10	Failure to submit the required written Agreement or Notify changes of signatories	£25.00
Rule 11 (A)	Failure to provide notice of withdrawal before deadline	£20.00
Rule 11 (B)	Failure to commence/complete season	£40.00
Rule 13 (A)	Failure to submit the written agreement regarding the trophy	£50.00
Rule 13 (C)	Failure to return trophy by 1 <sup>st</sup> February	£50.00
Rule 13 (D)	Failure to engrave trophy	£20.00
Rule 16 (A), 16 (B)	Failure to have required insurance	£30.00
Rule 18 (A)	Failure to correctly register a player	£40.00
Rule 18 (B) (iii)	Failure to have the required number of registered players prior to the playing season commencing	£25.00
Rule 18 (F)	Registering or playing for multiple clubs or inaccurate completion of a registration form	£25.00
Rule 18 (G) (ii)	Registration irregularities	£100.00
Rule 18 (M)	Fielding more than the permitted number of players who have participated in senior competitions matches	£100.00
Rule 18 (N) (i)	Playing an ineligible player	Max. £50.00
Rule 18 (O) (i)	Failure to give priority to school activities	Max. £50.00
Rule 18 (R)	Failure to produce evidence of Player Registration	Max. £50.00
Rule 19	Failure to number shirts	£10.00 per shirt (up to £30)
Rule 19	Delaying kick off due to no change of kit	£30.00
Rule 20 (A)	Delaying kick off due to failure to provide equipment.	£10.00
Rule 20 (B)	Failure to play matches on the date fixed	£20.00
Rule 20 (C)	Failure to provide details of a fixture	£20.00
Rule 20 (D)	Playing match with less than required number of players	£20.00
Rule 20 (E) (i)/(iii)	Failure to play fixture	Max. £100.00
Rule 20 (H)	No captain's armband	£10.00
Rule 21 (A) & (C)	Late/incomplete result notification form	£20.00





Rule 21 (B)	Failure to provide result	£20.00
Rule 21 (D)	Publishing results/tables for fixtures involving teams at Under 11s or younger	£20.00
Rule 21 (E)	Failure to confirm a fixture has been played	£20.00
Rule 21 (F)	Failure to submit correctly completed Low Adult Behaviour Mark Report Form	£20.00
Rule 21 (G)	Failure to submit correctly completed Low Referee's Mark Report Form	£20.00
Rule 23 (C)	Failure to provide Club Assistant Referee	£20.00
Rule 23 (E)	Failure to pay Match Officials Fees & Expenses	£20.00
Rule 23 (F)	Failure to pay match officials where a match is not played	£10.00
Rule 23 (H)	Failure to provide Referee's mark	£10.00
Rule 23 (P)	Causing non-appearance of Referee	£50.00

Note: All items to be read in conjunction with and subject to League Rules



## Schedule C – Index

Rule 1 Definitions

### **GOVERNANCE RULES**

Rule 2 Name and Constitution

Rule 3 Club Name

Rule 4 Entry Fee, Subscription, Deposit

Rule 5 Management, Nomination, Election

Rule 6 Powers of Management

Rule 7 Protests, Claims, Complains, Appeals

Rule 8 Annual General Meeting

Rule 9 Special General Meeting

Rule 10 Agreement to be Signed

Rule 11 Continuation of Membership, Withdrawal of a Club

Rule 12 Exclusion of Clubs, Teams. Misconduct of Clubs, Officers, Players, Management Committee

Rule 13 Trophy

Rule 14 Alteration to Rules

Rule 15 Finance

Rule 16 Insurance

Rule 17 Dissolution

### **MATCH RELATED RULES**

Rule 18 Qualification of Players

Rule 19 Club Colours

Rule 20 Playing Season. Conditions of Play, Times of Kick-Off. Postponements. Substitutes

Rule 21 Reporting Results

Rule 22 Determining Championship

Rule 23 Match Officials

**Appendix 1 – IFAB Procedure for Taking of Kings from the Penalty Mark**

**Appendix 2 – Alternative Formats for Cup Competitions**

**SCHEDULE A – Fees Tariff**

**SCHEDULE B – Fines Tariff**