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HEREFORDSHIRE JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Sponsored by Herefordshire Group Training Association

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Nomenclature and Constitution

- a) This Competition shall be designated the Herefordshire Junior Football League and known as the HGTA Herefordshire Junior Football League and shall consist of not more than 44 Clubs who shall be Full Member Clubs.

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

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Herefordshire Football Association and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions.

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

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

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

2. Entry Fee, Subscription, Deposit

- a) (i) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition must be made in writing to the Secretary and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee of £30 per team which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

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

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

(ii) Each team requires a minimum of seven player registrations for Mini Soccer and eight player registrations (11v11) to be submitted by 16th July.

- b) The Annual Subscription shall be £25.00 per Team playing 11-a-side football and £20.00 per Team playing Mini-Soccer payable on or before the 1st June in each year.
- c) Each Club shall within 14 days of the annual subscription date pay a Deposit of £30 per team which shall be returnable to Clubs on leaving the Competition provided they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all orders of the Management Committee.
- d) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the Entry Fee, Annual Subscription and Deposit have been paid.
- e) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 15th August of its Herefordshire County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming Season, failing which they shall be fined £20. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its Headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition.
- f) All applications for membership to the Herefordshire Junior Football League must be accompanied by the name of a team official working within that age group who holds the minimum of a current 1st4Sport Level 1 Certificate in Coaching football.
- g) All applications for membership to the Herefordshire Junior Football League must be accompanied by the name of the Club Welfare Officer who is working towards completing the following requirements for Club Welfare Officers. All Club Welfare Officers must have attended the FA Club Welfare Officers Training Workshop and hold a current FA CRB check. The nominated person must have completed all of these requirements by 01st July in the current season.

3. Officers

The Officers of the Competition shall be the President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Results and Registration Secretary, Referees' Secretary and Welfare Officer to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. (N.B. Auditors are not Officers). The representative from the League to the Herefordshire FA will also be an officer of the League.

4. Management, Nomination, Election

- a) The Competition shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association by a Management Committee comprised of the Officers and one (1) member per age group who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- b) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination. All other candidates for election as Officers or Members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two Member Clubs, not later than 1st June in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being no nomination in

accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting.

- c) (i) The Management Committee shall meet monthly to deal with business as it arises.

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

(ii) Representatives from the Herefordshire County Football Association and the Herefordshire Referees' Association shall be allowed to attend all meetings of the Management Committee but shall not be entitled to vote.

- 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 nominated Officers.
- f) The Management Committee shall in each season have power to co-opt up to five (5) persons to serve on the Management or any other Committee.

5. Powers of Management

- a) (i) The Management Committee shall have the power to deal with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of the Football Association or Affiliated Association.

(ii) The Management Committee 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.

- b) Subject to the permission of the Herefordshire County Football Association having been obtained the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any Club which may have withdrawn during the season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the season. (See Rule 6(e)).
- c) Each Member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee Meetings and have one vote thereat, but no Member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such Member or to the Club so represented. (This shall apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).
- d) In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

- e) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition, including any not provided for in the Rules. Except where these Rules provide for the imposition of a set penalty any Club, Club Official (limited to Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer) or Player alleged to be in breach of a Competition Rule must be formally charged in writing and given the opportunity to present their case before the Management Committee. Financial penalties can only be imposed if included within the set penalties for breaches of Competition Rules. All breaches of the Laws of the Game, Rules and Regulations of The Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance with FA Rules by the appropriate Association.
- f) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal to the Board of Appeal in accordance with Rule 16.

Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within fourteen (14) days.

- g) Five (5) members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee and three (3) members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by any sub-committee of the Competition.
- h) (i) 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.

(ii) A member of the Management Committee having failed to attend three consecutive meetings without satisfactory reason being given may be asked to resign from the Committee.
- i) A Club having failed to comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee, or failing to satisfactorily attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition shall be liable to be fined or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the Management Committee.

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

Failure to do so will result in an administration charge of £5 being added to the fine. If the fine remains unpaid for a further fourteen (14) days an additional administration charge of £20 will be added. If after a further fourteen (14) days the fine remains unpaid all teams associated with the club shall be suspended until such time that the fine is paid.

Clubs, Officials or individuals committing a breach of this Rule will incur such penalties as the Management Committee may impose.

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

- l) All queries by team managers regarding the Rules and Regulations of the Herefordshire Junior Football League should be channelled to their Club Secretary and not directly to the League Secretary.
- m) Leagues who organise Mini Soccer for teams playing U7 and U8 football may not, with the exception of Rules 6, 11d, 14 and 19 fine clubs for breaches of League Rules.

6. Annual General Meeting

- a) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 30th June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least ten (10) members are present and entitled to vote:-
 - i. To receive and confirm the minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
 - ii. To consider any business arising there from.
 - iii. To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
 - iv. Election of Clubs to fill vacancies (as recommended by the Management Committee).
 - v. Constitution of the Competition for ensuing season.
 - vi. Election of Officers and Management Committee.
 - vii. Election of Life Members.
 - viii. Appointment of Auditors.
 - ix. Alteration of Rules, if any (of which notice has been given).
 - x. Fix the date for the commencement and conclusion of playing season.
 - xi. Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.
- b) A copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting, and to the Herefordshire County Football Association.
- c) A signed copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Herefordshire County Football Association within fourteen (14) days of its adoption by the Annual General Meeting.
- d) Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Not less than seven days' notice shall be given of any Meeting.
- e) Clubs who have withdrawn their Membership of the Competition during the season being concluded or who are not continuing Membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the season being concluded. This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 17.
- f) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot is demanded by at least five (5) of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.

- g) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Full Member Club.
- h) Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £20.
- i) Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an Annual General Meeting.

7. Agreement to be signed

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

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

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

8. Qualification of Players

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

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

- (ii) A registered youth playing member of a Club is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:-
 - i. Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by his/her parent or guardian and by an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the Registrations Secretary five (5) working days prior to playing and whose team passport or when necessary updated team passport has been received by the Club prior to playing.
 - ii. Provided two passport sized photographs, which have the full name and the team the player wishes to be registered clearly written on the back of one photograph. Upon receipt the registration will be processed and teams will receive a team passport with the names, dates of birth and photographs of all the players that team have registered. This team

- passport will be re-issued in the event of changes to the players registered during the season.
- iii. Teams must ensure that they have present at all matches the latest copy of their team's passport for inspection before the commencement of the game. If this is not present then the game can not take place and any matches postponed because of this will be dealt with by the Management Committee under Rule 10 (f). Likewise if a player who you wish to participate in a match is not present on your team passport then that player is not eligible to play. Any team that plays a player who is not on the team passport will be dealt with by the Management Committee under Rule 8(o (ii)).
 - iv. In the event of a team losing their team passport or it becoming damaged, the club secretary must contact the Registrations Secretary immediately and send payment of £10 for a replacement.

If a player's age is required for registration purposes a Competition must accept an original birth certificate or a photocopy. In cases where the birth certificate is not available a Competition is required to accept a photocopy of the player's passport or other official document issued by a Government Agency attesting to the player's date of birth.

The qualification dates for the competition shall be as follows:

Mini-Soccer

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

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

Under 9 – the player must have attained the age of 8 but must be under the age of 9 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

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

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

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

Youth Football

Under 12 – the player must have attained the age of 11 but must be under the age of 12 by midnight 31st August in the playing season.

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

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

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

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

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

(The above qualification dates are subject to the provisions contained in FA Rule C.4 (a) (v)). For clarification please see the table printed in the information section of this handbook.

- (iii) A team shall not include any player who has taken part in any six (6) or more senior competition matches during the current season unless a period of thirty (30) days has elapsed since they played.
- (iv) A player having taken part in matches for any Club affiliated to any County Football Association shall not be allowed to join, be transferred to, or sign for a Club in the Competition without first proving to the officials of the intended Club that the player has discharged all reasonable financial liabilities to the previous Club or Clubs, and a Club official may not accept such player's signature without first ascertaining whether such claims have been discharged to the satisfaction of the Club, or Clubs, for which the player last played.
- (v) A fee of £2.50 shall be paid for each player registered. Registration forms shall be obtained from the Registrations Secretary.
- (vi) (i) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes. In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club priority of registration shall decide for which Club the player shall be registered. The Registrations Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

(ii) A Club wishing to sign a player who is already registered with another Club in the League shall not approach the player, except during the period 1st June to the 30th June inclusive, without at least seven days notice in writing to the Secretary of the Club for which the player is registered, (subject to Rule 8 (I), of their intention to approach the player. Facsimile or email transmission may be used provided a receipt of acknowledgement is also obtained.
- (vii) It shall be deemed misconduct for a player to:-
 - i. Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same season without first being transferred.
 - ii. Having signed for one Club in the Competition, sign for another Club in the Competition in that season except for the purpose of a transfer.
 - iii. Submit a signed registration form for registration that the player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.
 - iv. (i) Following the date of posting of the written notice of approach or receipt of an acknowledgement: (A) The player may be registered on or after the eighth day: (B) the player must have been registered on or before the 21st day.

- (ii) The approaching Club of any one age group: (A) May not approach the same player a second time in the same playing season: (B) may approach only one (1) player at a Club at any time: and (C) may not approach another player at the same Club within 28 days of an earlier notice of approach or acknowledgement. Subject to Rule (8(i)).
 - (iii) If an approach is made by a player to another Club during the current season, that Club shall give the Club(s) for which the player is known to be registered or has played, seven days notice of approach as set out in Rule 8 (vi) and (vii) (Subject to Rule 8 (i)).
 - (iv) A Club which is the subject of a complaint alleging failure to give notice in accordance with this Rule may be subject to a charge of misconduct pursuant to FA Rule E1 (b). Any such complaint to be submitted to the HFA.
 - (v) A Club proved to have breached the provisions of this Rule may have its current registration of the player cancelled and be subject to such other penalty as the Management Committee of the Herefordshire Junior Football League deems appropriate.
- h)
 - (i) The Management Committee shall have power to accept the registration of any player.
 - (ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player or may fine any player at their discretion who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities. (Subject to Rule 16).
 - (iii) The Management Committee shall have power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 16) subject to the right of appeal to the FA or the relevant County Football Association. Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated conduct, which may deter a participant from being involved in this Competition. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the player is registered with.

(Note: Action under Clause (iii) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any case be subject to an Appeal to the Football Association.) For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the competition into disrepute can only be considered where the player has received in excess of 112 days' suspension, or 10 matches in match based discipline, in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.
- i)
 - (i) Subject to The Football Association Rules dealing with players without a written contract when a player desires a transfer, the Club the player wishes to transfer to shall submit a transfer form to the Registrations Secretary accompanied by a fee of £25.00, in exceptional circumstances upon application to the Management Committee the fee may be partially refunded. Such transfer

shall be referred by the Registrations Secretary to the Club for which the player is registered. Should this Club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Registrations Secretary and to the player concerned within seven days of receipt of the transfer form. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within seven days, the Registrations Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club three (3) days after receipt of such transfer after receipt of the updated team passport.

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

(ii) A copy of the letter of intent must be submitted to the Registrations Secretary who, on receipt will forward to the requesting Club a transfer form. The transfer form completed in all parts must be returned to the Registrations Secretary within twenty-one (21) days of such notice being given.

- j) A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 31st March except by special permission of the Management Committee.
- k) A Club shall keep a list of the players it registers and a record of the games in which they have played, and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee.

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

- l) A register containing the names of all players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Registrations Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of any duly appointed Member Club representative at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one Season only.
- m) A player shall not be eligible to play for a team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding match (as specified in Rule 12(a)) unless the player has played three (3) games for that team in this Competition in the current season.
- o) (i) Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players shall have the points gained in the match deducted from its total and shall be fined a minimum of £50 and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

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

(iii) The Management Committee in exceptional circumstances may, at its discretion, award any points deducted from a Club under this Rule to the

opponents in the match in question, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.

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

- p) (i) Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities.
- (ii) The availability of children must be cleared with the Head Teachers (except for Sunday Competitions).
- (iii) Children under 14 shall not play in a team involving players who are more than 2 years older.

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

9. Club Colours, Club Name

1. Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 1st June who shall decide as to their suitability.

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

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

Any team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify the colours in which they will play to its opponents at least eight (8) days before the match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the home team shall make the change. Any team not having a change of colours or delaying the kick-off by not having a change shall be fined £5.

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

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

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

- a) The Annual General Meeting shall determine the commencing and concluding dates for the ensuing season which shall be in accordance with Football Association Rules (1st September – 31st May). No Club shall be compelled to play after the concluding date. Original fixtures arranged by the Fixtures Secretary, or at a meeting specially convened for that purpose, to be held no

later than 7th June, must not be arranged for a date later than seven days preceding the concluding date determined by the Annual General Meeting.

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

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

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

All matches shall have a duration as set out below unless a shorter time (not less than two-thirds of the recommended playing time) is mutually arranged by the two Clubs in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves. Both team managers should record and sign both match report forms prior to the commencement of the match to confirm agreement.

For Mini-Soccer – The duration of play shall be as follows: for Under 7 and Under 8 age groups, 10 minutes each way, for Under 9, 20 minutes each way, for Under 10, 25 minutes each way and for Under 11, 30 minutes each way. The maximum playing time in any one day for Under 7 and Under 8 age groups is 45 minutes and for Under 9 and Under 10 age groups is 60 minutes.

For Youth football – The duration of play shall be as follows unless it is mutually agreed by all parties to reduce the time. For Under 12, 30 minutes each half; for Under 13, 14, 35 minutes each half and Under 15 and Under 16, 40 minutes each half.

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

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

The times of kick-off shall be fixed by the A.G.M. or the Management Committee. Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time shall be fined a sum not exceeding £5 or be otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine.

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

The home team must provide at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable.

The recommended size of football to be used: For Mini-Soccer, size 3 for players in the Under 7 and 8 age categories; size 4 for Under 9's, Under 10's and Under 11's. For youth football – size 4 for those playing Under 12 and 13 age groups; size 5 for all other age groups. Goal nets must be used and corner flags provided. Failure to provide the above items may result in the Management Committee taking disciplinary action.

- c) Except by permission of the Management Committee all matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The Football Association and all relevant County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of the Fixtures Secretary.
- e) Every Club shall play its best available qualified team or teams in all matches in the Competition.

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

For youth football in the event of a Club playing in any match with less than eleven (11) players they may be fined £5 for each missing player. In all games in this competition, a minimum of seven (7) players will constitute a team for a Competition match.

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

The Management Committee current decision regarding fixtures is as follows:

- (i) All leagues with fourteen teams or less shall play home and away
- (ii) All leagues with more than fourteen (14) teams will be split into two separate leagues. Games will then be played home and away. In split leagues the members of each division will be proposed by the Management Committee.

The constitution of each division in the Under 9 League will be drawn at random. The winners of League A will play the winners of League B to determine the Championship. In the event of scores being level on aggregate after the completion of the second match, extra time will be played. In the event of scores remaining level after extra time, the tie will be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the International Board Decision contained in the Laws of Association Football.

For the constitution of each division in the remaining age groups (U10-U16), the Management Committee will form divisions that are based on ability. In forming these leagues the Management Committee will consider the performance of the teams in the previous season's competition. The position of new teams will be considered on an individual basis by the Management Committee. All split leagues for all divisions will, where numbers allow be equal in number.

Any Club with more than one team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence: First Team, Reserve Team. Clubs in breach of this requirement shall be fined a sum not exceeding £20 or otherwise dealt with by the Management Committee.

Any club unable to fulfil a fixture must, without delay, give notice to the Results Secretary, the Competition Referees Appointments 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.

For all proven cases of non-fulfillment by a team, a minimum fine of £15 may be levied together with an automatic deduction of three (3) pts from the offending team's total.

In all age groups, a third offence may result in the team being expelled from the League and forfeiture of its Goodwill Deposit. Priority shall be given to The Football Association and all County Association competitions. Before any request for postponing for a County fixture is made, a minimum of three players must be involved. Details of the player's involvement in the activity must be provided as soon as possible to the League Secretary.

In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Fixtures Secretary within seven (7) days the Management Committee shall have power to order the match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date.

Postponement of fixtures due to school commitments will only be granted for reasons of school activities (not holidays) and proof should be provided to the League of such arrangements where possible fourteen days prior to the game. Before any request for a postponement is made a minimum of four players must be involved. Schools do not have any precedence on Sunday Football.

The Management Committee shall review all 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 match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one team or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the match to the opponents and/or take what other action they may deem necessary. In cases where a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams and/or their Club members, the Management Committee shall rule all points for the match be void. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match. Such action is subject to any disciplinary action taken by the appropriate Affiliated Association.

- g) (i) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use five (5) substitute players in youth football in this Competition who may be selected from five (5) players. In mini-soccer a Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use seven (7) substitute players in this Competition who may be selected from seven (7) players.

(ii) For Mini-Soccer – any number of substitutions may be used at any time with the permission of the Referee. Entry onto the field of play will only be allowed during a stoppage in play. A player who has been replaced may return to the play as a substitute for another player. A Team must not have a squad greater than double the size of its team in an age group. If a club wishes to de-register a player from a Mini-Soccer team it must apply to the League Secretary for a special form and must present a case of de-registration to the Management Committee for approval of the de-registration.

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

The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than fifteen (15) minutes before the start of the match.

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

- h) The half time interval shall be of ten (10) minutes duration, but it shall not exceed fifteen minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

11. Reporting Results

- a) The Results Secretary must receive within three (3) days of the date played, the result of each Competition match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the team players (in block letters) and also the Referee markings required by Rule 13, or any other information

required by the Competition. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £5 and/or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide.

- b) The Home Club shall communicate either by telephone, SMS text messaging or e-mail the result of each match to the Results Secretary between 5pm and 9pm on the day of the match. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £5 and/or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide.
- c) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of the Club. The Management Committee shall have power to take such action as they deem suitable against a Club which submits an incomplete form or incorrect information.
- d) Leagues are not permitted to collect result sheets or compile any playing data for fixtures they organise for U7 and U8 Mini Soccer. They may require a Club to confirm that a set fixture has been played. A maximum fine of £5.00 may be imposed for a breach of this Rule.

12. Determining Championship

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

In the event of two or more teams being equal on points team rankings will be decided in a manner determined by the Management Committee. This method will be published at the start of the season in the Fixtures booklet.

In the event of a deciding match being required, it shall be played under the conditions determined by the Management Committee. In the event of the scores being level at the end of the game, extra time shall be played in two equal periods in accordance with the appropriate age range Cup Rules. If no goal is scored during extra time, the winners will be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the International Board Decision contained in the Laws of Association Football.

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

13. Referees

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

For clarity, the current Management Committee recommendations are that referees are appointed, wherever possible, to

- (i) all cup fixtures
- (ii) age ranges Under 12, Under 15 and Under 16

- b) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed Referee. In cases where there are no officially appointed Assistant Referees, or where the competition has been unable to appoint a Referee, it is the responsibility of the home team to ensure that there is a suitable person available to officiate the match. A Referee thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee. Failure to implement this Rule, resulting in the match not being played will be considered as a non-fulfillment of fixture according to Rule 10(f).
- c) The Management Committee may, if they consider it desirable, or upon application by the two competing Clubs, appoint Assistant Referees, if available, to any match. Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £5 being imposed on the defaulting Club.
- d) The appointed Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and the decision shall be final subject to either in the case of a ground of a Local Authority or the owners of a ground, the Representative of that body is the sole arbiter and whose decision must be accepted unless the ground is declared fit for play.
- e) Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be entitled to charge standard class public transport expenses or private car expenses and match fees as approved by the Herefordshire County Football Association.

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

- f) In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to half fee plus expenses. Where a match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Officials, if they attend the ground, their full fee and expenses.
- g) A Referee not keeping his engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to his non-appearance, may be reported to the Association with which he is registered.
- h) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The Football Association, award marks to the Referee for each match and the name of the Referee and the marks awarded (out of 100) shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed Form provided.

Any club/team awarding a Referee a mark of 40 or less, must provide a written explanation for doing so, which is signed by the Club Secretary, to the Results Secretary within three working days of the match being played. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined £5 and dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine. The payment of this fine does not release the club/team from their obligation to supply the explanation and failure to comply may result in further action being taken by the Management Committee.

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 Herefordshire County Football Association.

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

14. Continuation of Membership or Withdrawal of a Club

- a) After 31st December in the current Season a Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the Secretary in writing by 31st March each Season or may be liable to a fine not exceeding £20.

All Clubs wishing to remain in membership of the Competition for the following Season must confirm their intention to do so, in writing, to the Secretary by 31st March.

- b) A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its teams from the Competition after the Annual General Meeting for the following Season. Any Club infringing this Rule shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £100 per team and shall also be liable for its share of any call which may be made under Rule 5(B).
- c) The Membership for the coming season having been decided at a Special General Meeting held for that purpose not earlier than 1st June nor later than 30th June or at the Annual General Meeting held not later than 30th June the Competition shall have the right, irrespective of other provisions in this Rule, to refuse to permit a Club to withdraw its team(s) in order to join another Competition and may hold the Club to its engagements.
- d) In the event of a Member Club which is an un-incorporated association withdrawing and/or disbanding it shall be immediately liable to discharge all its financial and other obligations to the Competition.

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

15. Protests and Complaints

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

(ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the

match. Any Club lodging such protest and not proceeding with it shall be deemed guilty of a breach of this Rule and shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.

- b) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged in duplicate with the Secretary within seven (7) days (excluding Sundays) of the match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A Member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.
- c) Any dispute occurring between Clubs in the Competition shall be referred for determination by the Management Committee whose decision shall be binding upon all parties subject to Rule 16.
- d) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum of £25. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the enquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.
- e) All parties to a protest or complaint must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement when the protest or complaint is being heard and must have received seven (7) days notice of the hearing, together with a copy of the submission. When dealing with a protest or complaint the Management Committee shall take into consideration the possession by the protesting or complaining Club of any information which, if properly used, might have avoided the protest or complaint.

16. Board of Appeal

Within 14 days of the posting of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee or the Competition, a Club, Official or Player against whom action is taken may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars in duplicate with the Secretary of the Herefordshire Football Association, including a fee of £25, for adjudication of a Board of Appeal. The grounds of appeal shall be in accordance with FA Rules. The Board of Appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited and shall decide by whom the costs of the appeal shall be borne. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned.

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

17. Exclusion of Clubs or Teams, Misconduct, Clubs, Officials, Players

- a) At the Annual General Meeting, or Special General Meeting called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, Notice of Motion having

been duly circulated on the Agenda, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude any Club or Team from further membership which must be supported by (more than) two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot.

- b) At the Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club or team of a Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by more than two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.
- c) Any official or member of a Club proved guilty of either a breach of Rule, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a player or players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to expulsion or such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Clauses (a) and (b) of this Rule.
- d) Any Club or Team failing to complete all of its fixtures in any season shall (unless the conditions are beyond their control, or the accredited delegates present at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting decide otherwise by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast) be debarred from membership the following season.

18. Trophy: Legal Owners, Conditions of Taking Over, Agreement to be Signed, Awards

- a) If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the Donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the sanctioning Association may decide.
- b) The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the Cup or Trophy:

"We _____ and _____ members of and representing _____ Under _____ FC having been declared winners of the _____ and the same having been delivered to us by the said League, do hereby on behalf of the said Club jointly and severally agree to return the same to the Competition Secretary on or before the 1st April in accordance with the Rules of the League in a clean and undamaged condition. 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."

- c) At the close of each Competition awards may/shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

19. Special General Meetings

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

The Management Committee may call a Special General Meeting at any time. At least seven (7) days notice shall be given of either meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting. Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Not less than seven (7) days' notice shall be given of any Meeting.

Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £20.

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

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

20. Alteration to Rules

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

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary by 1st May in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 15th June and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 22nd June. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.

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

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

21. Rules Binding on Clubs

Each Member Club shall be deemed to have given its assent to the foregoing Rules and agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee

subject to Rule 16. Each Member Club must abide by any issued Football Association Code of Conduct (Appendix 1).

22. Finance

1. The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.
2. All expenditure in excess of £50 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.
3. The financial year of the Competition will end on 31st May.
4. The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be audited annually by some suitable person(s) who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

23. Child Protection

1. Any act, statement, conduct or other matter which harms a child or children, or poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children, shall constitute behaviour which is improper and brings the game into disrepute.
2. In these Regulations the expression "Offence" shall mean any one or more of the offences contained in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and any other criminal offence which reasonably causes The Association to believe that the person accused of the offence poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children.
3. Upon receipt by The Association of:
 - 3.1) notification that an individual has been charged with an Offence; or
 - 3.2) notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the Police, Social Services or any other authority relating to an Offence; or
 - 3.3) any other information which causes The Association reasonably to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children then The Association shall have the power to order that the individual be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
4. In reaching its determination as to whether an order under Regulation 3 should be made The Association shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:
 - 4.1) whether a child is or children are or may be at risk of harm;
 - 4.2) whether the matters are of a serious nature;

- 4.3) whether an order is necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by The Association or any other authority or body to proceed unimpeded.
5. The period of an order referred to in 3 above shall not be capable of lasting beyond the date upon which any charge under the Rules of The Association or any Offence is decided or brought to an end.
6. Where an order is imposed on an individual under regulation 3 above, The Association shall bring and conclude any proceedings under the Rules of The Association against the person relating to the matters as soon as reasonably practicable.
7. Where a person is convicted, or is made the subject of a caution in respect of an Offence, that shall constitute a breach of the Rules of The Association and The Association shall have the power to order the suspension of the person from all or any specific football activity for such a period (including indefinitely) and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
8. For the purposes of these Regulations, The Association shall act through its Council or any committee or sub-committee thereof, including the Board.
9. Notification in writing of an order referred to above shall be given to the person concerned and/or any club with which he is associated as soon as reasonably practicable.

24. First Aid Kits

All teams must ensure that they provide adequate first aid equipment at all matches to deal with injuries. Failure to do so will see the club/team liable to be fined or dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

25. Life Members

Life members shall only be appointed on the recommendation of the Management Committee and shall not be elected until the sanction of the Annual General Meeting has been obtained. Such recommendations shall be for meritorious service rendered in the administration of the work of the Management Committee of the Herefordshire Junior Football League and such nominees shall have had 20 years service on the Management Committee. The appointment of a member as a Life Member confers the right to attend any meeting of the Herefordshire Junior Football League with voting rights.

APPENDIX 1

The Football Association - A Code of Conduct for Football

Football is the national game. All those involved with the game at every level and whether as a player, match official, coach, owner or administrator, have a responsibility, above and beyond compliance with the law, to act according to the highest standards of integrity, and to ensure that the reputation of the game is, and remains, high. This code applies to all those involved in football under the auspices of The Football Association.

Community

Football, at all levels, is a vital part of a community. Football will take into account community feeling when making decisions.

Equality

Football is opposed to discrimination of any form and will promote measures to prevent it, in whatever form, from being expressed.

Participants

Football recognises the sense of ownership felt by those who participate at all levels of the game. This includes those who play, those who coach or help in any way, and those who officiate, as well as administrators and supporters. Football is committed to appropriate consultation.

Young People

Football acknowledges the extent of its influence over young people and pledges to set a positive example.

Propriety

Football acknowledges that public confidence demands the highest standards of financial and administrative behaviour within the game, and will not tolerate corruption or improper practices.

Trust and Respect

Football will uphold a relationship of trust and respect between all involved in the game, whether they are individuals, clubs or other organisations.

Violence

Football rejects the use of violence of any nature by anyone involved in the game.

Fairness

Football is committed to fairness in its dealings with all involved in the game.

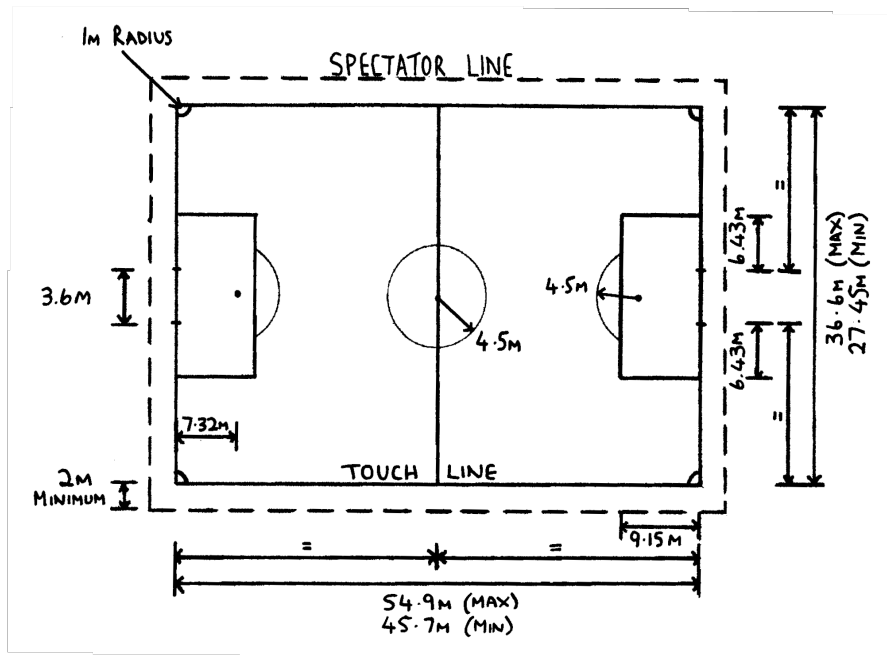
Integrity and Fair Play

Football is committed to the principle of playing to win consistent with Fair Play.

MINI-SOCCER RULES

Except where other provision, in these Laws are made, the Laws of Association Football apply. Each Law is numbered to correspond with the appropriate Law of the Game.

Law 1 Playing Area



The playing surface will be grass.

Penalty Mark

The penalty mark is 7.32 metres (8 yards) from the Goal Line opposite the Centre of the Goal.

Halfway Line

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

Goal Size

The distance between the two posts is 3.6 metres (12 foot) and the distance between the lower edge of the cross bar and the ground is 1.88 metres (6 foot). Portable goals must be pinned or weighted to prevent them from toppling forward. The goals will be netted.

Law 2 The Ball

The ball will be size 4.

Law 3 Number / Age of Players

- i. Each team must start with a full compliment of seven players one of which must be a goalkeeper.
- ii. A maximum of seven substitutes will be allowed. These substitutes may be used at any time with the permission of the Referee. A player who has been replaced may return to the playing area as a substitute for another player. The Referee must be notified of an intended substitution. Such substitution must only take place when the ball is out of play or the game has been stopped. The players may only enter the field of play from a designated area near to the halfway line.
- iii. Any team may register a maximum of 14 players.
- iv. A club can apply to the Registration Secretary of the HJFL to de-register a player if that player becomes unavailable and only if the club has already signed the maximum number of players.

The criteria for this: Being that the player has taken no active part in the teams/club activities for a period of 30 days.

- i. The Club Secretary should apply in writing to the Registration Secretary for de-registration form.
- ii. The Club holding the registration completes the form DR01 giving full details of the reason for the application.
- iii. The Registration Secretary on receipt of the completed DR01 will forward form DR02 with a copy of DR01 attached, to the parent/guardian for confirmation of the Clubs statement and agreement for de-registering. The forms to be returned within 21 days.
- iv. The Registration Secretary will advise the Club when the process is complete. Only then will another registration be accepted from the Club.
- v. Should the player wish to re-register with HJFL within 90 days a fee of £25.00 will be levied.

Any disputes shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.

Players must play with and against players only from their own age range – within a two year age band i.e.

Under 9: the player must have attained the age of 8 but must be under the age of 9 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 10: Players must be over 8 and under 10 on the 31st August in the playing season

Under 11: Players must be over 9 and under 11 on the 31st August in the playing season

Law 4 Playing Equipment

Players must wear shin guards and goalkeepers must wear a distinguishing playing strip. Shin guards must be covered entirely by the stockings.

Law 5 Referee's

The Authority of the Referee

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

Powers and Duties

The Referee:

- a) Enforces the Law of the Game
- b) Controls the match in co-operation with the Assistant Referee (where appointed) / timekeeper
- c) Ensures that the ball meets the requirements of Law 2
- d) Ensures the player's equipment meets the requirements of Law 4
- e) Stops, suspends or terminates the match, at their discretion, for any infringements of any kind
- f) Stops, suspends or terminates the match, because of any outside interference of any kind
- g) Stops the match if, in their opinion, a player is seriously injured and ensures that they are removed from the field of play
- h) Allows play to continue when the team against which an offence has been committed will benefit from such an advantage and penalises the original offence if the anticipated advantage does not ensue at that time
- i) Takes disciplinary action against team officials who fail to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and may, at their discretion, expel them from the field of play and its immediate surrounds
- j) Ensures that no unauthorised person enters the field of play
- k) Restarts the match after it has been stopped

Decisions of the Referee

The decision of the Referee regarding facts connected with play is final. The Referee may only change a decision on realising that it is incorrect or, at his/her discretion provided that play has not restarted.

Law 6 Timekeeper / Scorer / Assistant Referee

Duties

- a) A person may be nominated to assist the Referee to:
- b) Record goals scored
- c) Act as timekeeper and signify to the Referee by an agreed signal when the time of each half has expired
- d) Suspend time on an instruction from the Referee for all stoppages and add that time to the end of each half
- e) Supervise the use of rolling substitutes
- f) Carry out any other duties as prescribed by the Referee

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

Law 7 Duration of the Game

Under 9: Each game will consist of two equal halves of 20 minutes each way.

Under 10: Each game will consist of two equal halves of 25 minutes each way.

Under 11: Each game will consist of two equal halves of 30 minutes each way.

(Refer to Rule 10i)

In one day, no player shall play more than 60 minutes.

The half time interval must not exceed 10 minutes.

Law 8 Start and Restart of Play

Procedure

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

Special Circumstances

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

Law 9 Ball in and out of Play

Ball out of Play

The ball is out of play when:

- a) It has wholly crossed the goal line or touch line whether on the ground or in the air
- b) Play has been stopped by the Referee

Ball in Play

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

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

Law 10 Method of Scoring

Goal Scored

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

Law 10 continued

Winning Team

The team scoring the greater number of goals, or if no goals are scored the match is drawn.

Law 11 Offside

There will be no offside.

Law 12 Fouls and Misconduct

All free kicks are direct.

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

- a) Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
- b) Trips or attempts to trip an opponent
- c) Jumps at an opponent
- d) Charges an opponent
- e) Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
- f) Pushes an opponent

- g) Tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball, making contact with the opponent before touching the ball
- h) A free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following offences:
 - i) Holds an opponent
 - j) Spits at an opponent
 - k) Handles the ball deliberately (except for the goalkeeper within his / her own penalty area)
 - l) Plays in a dangerous manner
 - m) Impeded the progress of an opponent
 - n) Prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his / her hands
- o) Commits any other offence, not previously mentioned in Law 12, for which play is stopped to caution or dismiss a player.

Penalty Kick

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

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

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

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

Cautionable Offences

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

- a) Is guilty of unsporting behaviour
- b) Shows dissent by word or action
- c) Persistently infringes the Laws of the Game
- d) Delays the restart of play
- e) Fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick or free kick
- f) Enters or re-enters the field of play without the Referee's permission
- g) Deliberately leaves the field of play without the Referee's permission

Sending Off Offences

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

- a) Is guilty of serious foul play
- b) Is guilty of violent conduct
- c) Spits at an opponent or any other person

- d) Denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity, by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his / her own penalty area)
- e) Denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the players goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or penalty kick
- f) Using offensive or insulting or abusive language and / or gestures
- g) Receives a second caution in the same match

Law 13 Free Kicks

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

Law 14 Penalty Kicks

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

Position of the Ball and the Players

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

Infringement / Sanction

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

Law 15 Throw In

A goal can not be scored directly from a throw in.

A throw in is awarded:

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

Procedure

At the moment of delivering the ball, the thrower:

- a) Faces the field of play
- b) Has part of each foot either on the touch line or on the ground outside the touch line
- c) Uses both hands
- d) The throw in is awarded to the opposing team, if any of these requirements are not carried out
- e) Delivers the ball from behind and over the head

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

Law 16 Goal Kick

Procedure

A player of the defending team kicks the ball from any point within the penalty area. Opponents must remain outside the penalty area and at least 4.5 metres (5 yards) from where the kick is taken until the ball is in play.

Law 17 Corner Kicks

The opposing players must remain at least 4.5 metres (5 yards) from the ball until it is play. The kicker may not touch the ball until it has touched another player. If he / she does a free kick is awarded against them. The ball is in play immediately it enters the field of play.

Law 18 Spectator Area

Spectators will be restricted to an area on one side of the field of play a minimum of two metres from the touchline. This area to be marked with a dotted line or preferably a rope. The managers and substitutes of each team should stand on the opposite side of the field of play. No spectators should stand behind the goal line.

Law 19 Matters outside these Rules

In all matters not provided for in these Rules, Clubs and players shall be subject to the Rules and Regulations of the Herefordshire Junior Football League, the Herefordshire Football Association and The Football Association.

CUP RULES

1. Cups and Trophies

All Cups are the property of the Herefordshire Junior Football League.

2. Annual Competitions

The Cups and Trophies shall never be won outright, but shall be competed for annually in accordance with the Rules of the said Competition.

3. Clubs Eligible to Compete

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| a) Hillmans Florist Cup | - to be competed for by all Under 9 teams |
| b) Mailes Cup | - to be competed for by all Under 10 teams |
| c) Tony Cole Cup | - to be competed for by all Under 11 teams |
| d) Wyvern Flooring Cup | - to be competed for by all Under 12 teams |
| e) B. O. S. S. Cup | - to be competed for by all Under 13 teams |
| f) Dave Howes Cup | - to be competed for by all Under 14 teams |
| g) Bill Bowkett Cup | - to be competed for by all Under 15 teams |
| h) H.G.T.A. Cup | - to be competed for by all Under 16 teams |

The Competitions listed below will be competed for by those teams agreed by the Management Committee and shall be called the Supplementary Cups.

- i) Buddy's Cup
- j) Vianen Vase
- k) Lexmond Cup
- l) IMI Mouldings Cup
- m) Brederodes Cup
- n) Tudors Building Supplies Cup
- o) Stuart Sheehan Cup
- p) Russell Jenkins Memorial Trophy

No player shall play in the same Cup competition for two different teams.

4. Expenses and Proceeds

- a) Semi Finals:

The home Club shall pay the ground expenses. The Referee and Assistant Referees fee shall be shared equally between the two teams.

- b) Finals:

The finals shall be controlled by the Herefordshire Junior Football League.

5. The Draws

The ties shall be drawn and advised by the Fixtures Secretary to each of the Clubs drawn, the name of the Club against which it is drawn and the date and time upon which the tie is to be played.

6. Fixing of Grounds, Postponements, Drawn Games, Penalty Kicks

- a) Unless otherwise mutually arranged, each tie shall be played on the ground of the Club, which is drawn first in the ballot. The home Club shall undertake all arrangements for the matches. All Cup Finals shall be played on such grounds as the Management Committee of the Herefordshire Junior Football League may determine. In the case of a second tie the ground to be determined by the Herefordshire Junior Football League Management Committee. The Management Committee may order that cup ties shall be played on a Home and Away basis; the first match to be played on the ground of the first drawn team. In the event in this situation if the aggregate score remains equal after both legs have been played then:
- i. Extra time shall be played in the second leg.
 - ii. In the event of the scores remaining equal after extra time the tie shall be decided by kicks from the penalty mark.
 - iii. Should the score in a cup tie other than (a) above be equal at full time, extra time and if necessary kicks from the penalty mark will decide the tie. There will be no replayed games. If deemed necessary in final ties the Management Committee will have power to instruct that there be no extra time and ties will be decided with kicks from the penalty mark should the score be equal at full time.

With exception of above in the event of any tie being drawn at full time the following extra time periods will be played:

Under 9 and Under 10 teams	5 minutes each way
Under 11 and Under 12 teams	7 minutes each way
Under 13 to Under 16 teams inclusive	10 minutes each way

- b) In all proven cases of non-fulfilment, the offending team will be struck from the competition and pay a minimum fine of £15.
- c) In the event that the Herefordshire Junior Football League is unable to appoint a referee, it will be the responsibility of the Home Club to ensure a qualified Referee is appointed.

In the event of adverse weather conditions, Clubs shall not call off matches. The ground must be inspected by a qualified Referee not more than 24 hours before the game is to be played, and the League Secretary notified immediately. In the case of Council owned pitches, when the ground is stated to be unfit by the Council, the home Club must notify the League Secretary immediately.

7. Qualification of Players

- a) All players shall be registered with the League in which the participating team plays.
- b) A player may play for only one Club in any of the Individual Cup Competition, in any one season.
- c) Any team found guilty of playing ineligible player(s) will be struck from the Competition.
- d) Players selected for the final tie must have played in one previous round in the Competition.

8. Proceeds of Finals

The Net gate receipts will be deposited with the League and added to League funds.

9. Referee's Fees and Expenses

See Rule 13(e) in the Main Rules and Regulations.

10. Assistant Referees

Assistant Referees, where appointed by the Herefordshire Junior Football League, shall be paid half the agreed fees plus travelling expenses as for the Referee.

11. Presentation of Cups, Trophies

When the winning Clubs have been ascertained, persons authorised by the Management Committee of the Herefordshire Junior Football League shall hand the Cups / Trophies to the representative of the said Clubs upon receiving a receipt and indemnification for the Cups / Trophies, signed by two substantial members of the said Club. The Cups / Trophies shall be insured by the receiving Club. The Cups / Trophies shall be returned to the League Secretary as and when required for representation and in any case not later than 1st April in the current season.

12. Matters Outside These Rules

In all matters not provided for in these Rules, Clubs and players shall be subject to the Rules and Regulations of the Herefordshire Football Association and The Football Association.

NOTES