

Guidance Notes for 2009/10 Season amendments to the

STANDARD CODE OF RULES

STANDARD CODE OF RULES FOR YOUTH

The following Rules have been amended in the agreed versions of the above Rules and for ease have been summarised into one document as guidance to outline the rationale and practicalities of the amendments.

The relevant amendment to the Rules are in **bold underlined**. The rationale behind each regulation is given immediately following each amendment and where appropriate practical advice is also given.

Each of the amendments are **mandatory** for each version of the League Rules and must be adopted as of the start of the 2009/10 Season.

The broad principles behind the amendments are of natural justice and to ensure fairness in the application of the regulations and to ensure consistency with the FA Rules and Regulations.

Additionally, the amendments also apply to the STANDARDISED RULES (Steps 1 to 6) which are being issued separately in due course as other changes need to be incorporated.

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POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

5. (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***

Rationale:

The Football Association Rules and Regulations clearly outline the responsibility for dealing with misconduct rests solely with The FA or County Football Association, (FA Rules G1 to G4 refer). The FA are concerned that should Leagues also be permitted to take action on matters of misconduct the issue of 'double jeopardy' exists going against the principles of natural justice.

Practical application:

If a matter is subject to misconduct action, the League cannot take any action as this is the responsibility of either the Football Association or County Football Association.

Matters not considered a breach of misconduct by the FA or CFA but are a breach of the Competition rules can be dealt with in accordance with the Competition Rule.

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

Rationale:

Clarification as to who the League has responsibility over matters of breaches of Competition Rules. For consistency the regulation recognises those Club Officers that are mandatory as part of a Club Affiliation process. Clearly Clubs are members of the League as are Players who register to participate in the League. Other members, (i.e Managers) cannot be dealt with directly by Leagues and Competitions.

Breaches of Competition Rules are standardised and penalties for breaches must be outlined within the Competition rules so that member Clubs are aware of the penalty to be imposed for such breaches in advance.

Practical application

In any case, Leagues will only have authority to take action against the Club, Club Officials as determined and Players and not against any other individual.

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

- 8.(H) (i) The Management Committee shall have power to accept the registration of any player.
- (ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player or may fine any player, except those under 18 years of age, at their discretion who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities. (Subject to Rule 16).
- (iii) The Management Committee shall have power to **make application to** refuse or cancel the registration of any player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 16) **subject to the right of appeal to the 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.**

Rationale:

The rule is intended to clarify the occasions where a League may refuse/remove the registration of a player and to ensure a consistent application across all Leagues in the country

Practicalities:

1. Registration irregularities are still to be dealt with by the League without application to the FA/CFA
2. Undesirable conduct may only be considered where a player has been found guilty of "continual" misconduct (more than 1 offence) during a period of 2 consecutive years (not seasons) **and** where the total suspension applied by the County exceeds (not equal) 112 days (or 10 matches if match based discipline) **within** the League.
3. Application to refuse or cancel a registration needs to be made to the County FA by the League.
4. The application is documentary to the County and the County needs only to verify that the undesirable thresholds have been exceeded. This is an Executive action and need not go to any County Commission at that stage.
5. The player will have the right to appeal. This would then be dealt with by the appropriate appeals process.

- (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.

In the event of a player without a written contract changing his status to that of a contract player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition or with a Club in another Competition his registration as a player without a written contract will automatically be cancelled and declared void. In order to play in the League again either for his original Club or for another Club it will be necessary for him to be re-registered as required by this Rule.

Rationale:

To recognise the seniority of the status of a contract player

PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY

TIMES OF KICK-OFF. POSTPONEMENTS. SUBSTITUTES

10. (F)

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 opponent*. In cases where a match **has been** abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall **rule all points for the match as void. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match.**

Rationale:

To ensure that only points in matches are affected in abandoned matches and to ensure consistency within the regulation amendments above

Practical application:

1. The misconduct surrounding the abandoned fixture must have been dealt with by the FA or CFA before any action around the result of the match is considered by the relevant Competition. FA Rules and Regulations have also been amended by The FA for the coming season to instruct that such misconduct must be concluded within 28 days of it being reported to the appropriate Association.
2. Competitions can then only deal with the result of the fixture and not impose any financial penalties. Where both Clubs are at fault, the Competition **must** rule that all points are void irrespective of degree of culpability attached to either side..

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

19.

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

Rationale:

To enable the FA/CFA to ensure requested changes conform to the relevant standard policies.

Practical application:

The appropriate sanctioning authority (FA or CFA), has the authority to refuse any rule amendment to a League where it is considered that the amendment does not conform to the principles of the appropriate Standard Code.

This section applies to the Standard Code for Youth Leagues only (New Rules)

5 (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.

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

Rationale:

To reflect principles previously adopted for football at this level to be non-competitive.