

Readstone United Junior Football Club

Proposed Rule Alterations

March 2022

In accordance with Rule 14 the following proposed rule alterations were presented to the East Lancashire Football Alliance for consideration at its Annual General Meeting held on 16th June 2022.

RA1. Rule 5: Management, Nomination, Election (REJECTED)

Add new clause 5(F) as follows:

“All committee meetings shall be properly recorded and minutes made available to members.”

Rationale: This is a current governance requirement of England Football's Accreditation scheme. NB: This amendment does not conflict with the Standard Code or any relevant principles and policies established by The FA.

RA2. Rule 6(C): Management Committee (REJECTED)

Current wording:

- (D) Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee meetings and have one vote thereat, but no member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such member or to the Club so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest. (This shall also apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).

In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman of the Management Committee shall have a second or casting vote.

Replace “to the Club so represented” with “the Club of which they are a member”

Rationale: Members of the Management Committee do not attend such meetings as ‘representatives’ of their club. NB: This amendment does not conflict with the Standard Code or any relevant principles and policies established by The FA.

RA3. Rule 6(D): Breach of the Rules (REJECTED)

Current wording:

- (D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition. Any action by the Competition must be taken within 28 days of the Competition being notified.

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

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

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

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

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

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

No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

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

Re-word the third last paragraph as follows:

“When setting any penalty, financial or otherwise, the Management Committee must ensure that it is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances. The maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £100.”

Rationale: Proportionality should apply to all penalties, financial or otherwise. NB: This amendment does not conflict with the Standard Code or any relevant principles and policies established by The FA.

RA4. Rule 18(A): Qualification of Players (REJECTED)

Current wording:

18. (A) A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:

1. Registered through the FA Player Registration System and received approval from the Competition.

For any players registered on the day of a match, a Club Officer must email the Competition with details of the registration 72 hours prior to the scheduled kick off time in order for the player to be eligible to play in that match. The Player shall not play again in any subsequent match in the Competition until the Club has registered the player through The FA Player Registration system and is in possession of the approval from the Competition.

or

2 N/A

Any registration that is not fully and correctly completed will be returned to the Club unprocessed and the player classed as unregistered. If a Club attempts to register a player via the Player Registration System but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via the Player Registration System, the registration will not be processed.

For Clubs registering Players via the Player Registration System Clubs must access the Player Registration System in order to complete the registration process. The registration document must incorporate a current passport-size photograph of the Player seeking registration together with confirmation that the Player’s proof of date of birth has been checked by the Club and is accurate.

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

The registration process must incorporate a current passport-size photograph of the Player seeking registration together with confirmation that the Player’s proof of date of birth has been checked by the Club and is accurate.

(iii) All players must be approved Before any scheduled fixture for them to play in any competition match.

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

Re-word as follows:

18 (A) “A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has registered through the FA Player Registration System and received approval from the Competition.

All Players must be approved by the Competition to be eligible to play in a Competition match.

A Player’s registration must be submitted to the Competition for approval at least 72 hours prior to a Competition match.

Any registration that is not fully and correctly completed will not be processed and the player classed as Unregistered.

The player registration process requires a current passport-style digital photograph of the Player seeking registration together with confirmation that the Player’s proof of date of birth has been checked by the Club and is accurate.”

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

Rationale: To reflect the current on-line process using the FA Player Registration System and recognise the FA's decision to remove alternative methods of registration. *NB:* This amendment does not conflict with the Standard Code or any relevant principles and policies established by The FA.

RA5. Rule 18(B)(iii): Qualification of Players (REJECTED)

Current wording:

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

Insert: “, and at all times during, ”, to read as follows:

“Each Team must have the following number of Players registered 7 days before the start of, and at all times during, each Playing Season:

Rationale: For clarity and to acknowledge a general understanding that a team must always have a minimum number of players registered.

RA6. Rule 20(A): Times of Kick-Off (REJECTED)

Amend the fourth last paragraph as follows:

“The venue and times of kick-off shall be ~~fixed at the AGM~~ determined by the relevant Fixtures Secretary and can only be altered with their approval and the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs prior to the scheduled date of the Competition Match. ~~with written notification given to the Competition at least 7 days prior.~~”

Rationale: To reflect current practice and to remove the requirement for 7 days' notice which is compromised by the weekly distribution of fixtures and therefore not practicable. The approval of the relevant Fixtures Secretary should be sufficient. *NB:* This amendment does not conflict with the Standard Code or any relevant principles and policies established by The FA.

RA7. Rule 20(B): Re-arrangements (REJECTED)

In the first paragraph, replace “bring forward” with “re-arrange” to read as follows:

“Except by permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to ~~bring forward~~ re-arrange a Competition Match with the consent of the Fixtures Secretary.”

Rationale: For practical reasons. Weekly distribution of fixtures means little prospect of bringing forward a match. *NB:* This amendment does not conflict with the Standard Code or any relevant principles and policies established by The FA.

Readstone United Junior Football Club

Proposed Minor Rule Amendments

March 2022

The following minor rule amendments were presented to the East Lancashire Football Alliance for consideration by its Management Committee. These alterations include minor typographical corrections, uncontentious amendments and changes/updates required to accurately reflect and conform with the FA's Standard Code.

MRA1. Preamble (REJECTED)

Re-word as follows:

"This document contains the mandatory Standard Code of Rules developed by The Football Association for Mini Soccer and Youth Football Competitions with certain additions introduced by the East Lancashire Football Alliance. All additions have been approved by the Lancashire Football Association and do not conflict with the mandatory rules or any relevant principles and policies of The FA."

Rationale: Amended for clarity and to reflect the proper title of the FA's Standard Code of Rules as contained within the 2021/22 FA Handbook (Section 31, Page 555). NB: This amendment does not conflict with the Standard Code or any relevant principles and policies established by The FA.

MRA2. Rule 15(B): Finance (REJECTED)

After the word "signed" insert: ", and electronic payments authorised,"

Rationale: Updated to reflect current practice. NB: This amendment does not conflict with the Standard Code or any relevant principles and policies established by The FA.

MRA3. Rule 15(D): Finance (REJECTED)

Amend to read as follows:

"The ~~books, or a certified~~ balance sheet and statement of accounts of the Competition shall be prepared and shall be verified annually by a suitably qualified person who shall be appointed at the AGM."

Rationale: For consistency of wording as used in Rule 8(A)(ii).

MRA4. Rule 18(F)(iii): Player Registration (ACCEPTED)

Replace "WGS" with "the Player Registration System".

Rationale: Updated to reflect current terminology and conform with the Standard Code.

MRA5. Rule 18(H): Player Transfer (CROSS REFERENCE SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED BY THE FA)

In the 1st sentence replace "(a)" with ".1"

Rationale: To update the cross-reference and conform with the Standard Code.

MRA6. Rule 18(H): Player Transfer (REJECTED)

In the 3rd and 4th sentences, replace "7" with "3".

Rationale: To conform with the Standard Code.

MRA7. Rule 18(I): Transfer Deadline (REJECTED)

In the last sentence, replace "Development" with "Foundation".

Rationale: Correction of naming error. The intention is to refer to U7s-U11s which the FA refer to as their 'Foundation' phase.

MRA8. Rule 20(A): Conditions of Play (REJECTED)

Amend the first sentence, after the table, as follows:

"Competition Matches for age groups from U7 to U10 can, by agreement between Team Managers, be played in either quarters or halves. ~~This Competition uses quarters/halves (delete as appropriate).~~"

Rationale: For clarity - to reflect the practice adopted by the Competition.

MRA9. Rule 20(A): Conditions of Play (REJECTED)

In the penultimate paragraph, delete the sentence referring to a Nike partnership.

Rationale: The Nike partnership has ended.

MRA10. Rule 20(F): Substitutes (REJECTED)

Add 2nd sentence to penultimate paragraph, as follows:

"NB: This Competition does not require the referee to be informed of the names of the substitute Players."

Rationale: For clarity - ELFA does not require the names of substitutes to be given to the referee.

End.