

Readstone United Junior Football Club
Proposed Rule Alterations



April 2023

In accordance with Rule 14 the following rule alterations are proposed to the East Lancashire Football Alliance for consideration at its Annual General Meeting to be held on 13th July 2023 (tbc).

All rule alterations are proposed on the basis that they do not conflict with the FA's Standard Code or any relevant principles and policies established by The FA. They may, however, seek to improve existing wording where appropriate or necessary.

Note: All rule number references are as they should be, and not as they appeared in the rules issued to clubs, which contained numbering errors.

RA1. Rule 5: Management, Nomination, Election

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 for all affiliated Leagues and ought to be covered within the League's own rules. It's a simple matter of good practice and in the interests of the League to keep proper records and keep its members informed.

RA2. Rule 6(C): Management Committee

Replace "so represented" with "with which they are associated" as follows:

"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~~ with which they are associated or where there may be a conflict of interest. (This shall also apply to the procedure of any sub-committee)."

Rationale: Members of the Management Committee do not attend such meetings as 'representatives' of the club of which they are a member.

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

Re-word the third last paragraph as follows:

~~"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."~~

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: It is important to ensure that the fundamental principles of fair treatment and proportionality apply to all penalties, not just fines.

RA4. Rule 15(D): Finance

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~~ audited annually by a suitably qualified person who shall be appointed at the AGM."

Rationale: For consistency with the terms used in Rule 8(A)(ii) and to ensure the League's financial reports are professionally prepared and audited.

RA5. Rule 18(A): Qualification of Players

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: This amendment reflects the current on-line process using the FA Player Registration System and recognises the FA's decision to remove alternative methods of registration.

RA6. Rule 18(B)(iii): Qualification of Players

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.

RA7. Rule 18(H): Player Transfer

In the 3rd and 4th sentences, replace “7 days” with “3 days” to read as follows:

“Should this club object to the transfer, it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the player concerned within ~~7~~ 3 days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the Club’s consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within ~~7~~ 3 days, the Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or 3 days after receipt of such transfer.”

Rationale: The FA’s Standard Code of Rules does not allow these time limits to be altered by the Competition.

RA8. Rule 18(I): Transfer Deadline

In the 2nd sentence, replace “Development category” with “Under 7 to Under 11”, to read as follows:

“A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the age groups of Under 12 upwards in the Competition after the last day of February, except by special permission of the Management Committee. There is no such restriction in the ~~Development category~~ Under 7 to Under 11 age groups.”

Rationale: To properly reflect the terms used by the FA. The FA refers to U7-U11 as the Foundation phase but for clarity and to avoid confusion, it is better to simply refer to the age groups concerned.

RA9. Rule 20(A): Times of Kick-Off

Amend the third last paragraph as follows:

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

Kick-off times shall be fixed generally at the AGM and the relevant Fixtures Secretary will determine the kick-off time (and venue) for all Competition matches, which can only be altered with the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs and the approval of the relevant Fixtures Secretary.”

Rationale: To reflect current practice as specific match kick-off times are not fixed at the AGM and it is not uncommon for the kick-off time and/or venue of a scheduled match to be changed less than 7 days prior. The requirement for 7 days’ notice is compromised anyway by the weekly confirmation of fixtures and is therefore not practicable. The mutual consent of the two competing Clubs and the approval of the relevant Fixtures Secretary should be sufficient.

RA10. Rule 20(A): Conditions of Play

Amend the first sentence after the table, as follows:

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

Rationale: For clarity as the current wording is unclear and should reflect the practice that has been adopted by the Competition, which allows teams to decide whether they wish to play quarters or halves.

RA11. Rule 20(A): Conditions of Play

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

Rationale: The League’s Nike partnership has now ended.

RA12. Rule 20(B): Re-arrangements

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 relevant Fixtures Secretary.”

Rationale: This amendment is proposed for practical reasons. The weekly confirmation of fixtures means there is limited prospect of bringing forward a match and whilst the introduction of fixtures a month in advance has been helpful, allowing a game to be pushed back, if only by a few days, may also be helpful. The consent of the relevant Fixtures Secretary would still be required.

RA13. Rule 20(F): Substitutes

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 and to reflect current practice.

End.