

Glendale League

League Rules - amended June 2009



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1. Club Obligations

- a) All teams must be affiliated to Northumberland Football Association.
- b) Clubs will be responsible to ensure that their players, team managers and spectators adhere to the League Codes of Conduct and all the requirements of the FA RESPECT campaign.
- c) All team managers must hold, or be in the process of obtaining, an enhanced disclosure certificate from the Football Association Criminal Records Bureau unit.
- d) Every club is expected to send one representative to Annual and Special General League meetings.
- e) Clubs must satisfy themselves that on entering a team into the League they have enough players to cope with absences, a sufficient number of managers, and adequate provision for transport.
- f) Clubs must fulfil fixture obligations on the date and time assigned. Any team not able to fulfil a fixture will automatically forfeit the 3 points to the other team. Allowance will be made for players called to play school football on a fixture Saturday. In this event evidence of which players are involved must be supplied to the committee. Any other request to have a game postponed must be made in writing to the committee in advance of the fixture. A postponement will be granted only in exceptional circumstances.
- g) Clubs will pay £1- per player per fixture according to official team sizes. Funds will be used for the purchase of equipment and trophies, hire of facilities and other expenses directly related to the running of the League.
- h) All teams who have first kick-off are obliged to set up one goal and help with pitch marking. Teams who have the last kick-off must return one goal to the container and ensure all other equipment is replaced in the storage box for their pitch and put in container.
- i) Every team will be assigned to assist with early and late duties setting up and clearing the venue on a rota basis. Clubs may use any responsible adult to fulfil this obligation and will be fined £10- for failing to take their turn.

2. Player Eligibility

The ethos of the Glendale League is to put a greater emphasis on inclusion than on winning and to be sympathetic to the particular difficulties clubs experience by nature of their rural location. In the interests of fair competition and child protection however clubs are required to adhere to the following agreements.

- a) The under 8 division will be open to boys and girls who have attained their sixth birthday but who have not attained their eighth birthday before midnight on the 31st August of the year in which the season begins. In practice this would normally include children who are in school years 2 and 3.
- b) The under 10 division will be open to boys and girls who have attained their eighth birthday but who have not attained their tenth birthday before midnight on the 31st August of the year in which the season begins. In practice this would normally include children who are in school years 4 or 5.
- c) The under 12 division will be open to boys who have attained their tenth birthday but who have not attained their twelfth birthday before midnight on the 31st August of the year in which the season begins. In practice this would normally include boys who are in school Years 6 or 7.
N.B. F.A. regulations do not permit mixed football from under 12s and above.
- d) The under 14 division will be open to boys who have attained their twelfth birthday but who have not attained their fourteenth birthday before midnight on the 31st August of the year in which the season begins. In practice this would normally include boys who are in school years 8 or 9.
- e) The under 16 division will be open to boys who have attained their fourteenth birthday but who have not attained their sixteenth birthday before midnight on the 31st August of the year in which the season begins. In practice this would normally include boys who are in school years 10 or 11.

- f) FA regulations forbid a junior player to play in an age division other than the one for which they are eligible. Liability insurance may be invalid if a player plays in a match where any other player is older or younger by more than 2 years.
- g) Apart from under 8 squads all teams will be required to register their players prior to the start of the season and provide details of player's names and dates of birth. Under 16 squads will also be required to provide evidence of dates of birth. New players must be registered a minimum of 7 days in advance of that player's first game. New signings made after February 28th will only be permitted at the discretion of the League committee. Under 8 squads are free to include new players of the correct age at any time during the season without notice.
- h) Apart from under 8 squads, teams must complete a team sheet, following each game, listing all players used and post it in a box provided at the venue. Teams who field unregistered players will be sanctioned by the committee, including the loss of points.
- i) Any player who is not used by a team in three consecutive fixtures will be automatically de-registered and may be required to wait 21 days for re-registration
- j) Clubs who enter two or more teams in the same division are not permitted to mix squads.
- k) If a player transfers to a different team during the season, the League secretary must receive notice in writing from the club secretary of the team he/she is leaving indicating that permission has been granted. If the club have objections to the move, the player is not free to play for a new team until the matter has been dealt with by the League committee.

3. Results

- a) Both team managers are required to report their result by text directly to the Full Time service following their match. Results should be reported taking into account the 5 goal difference rule. No results should be recorded for under 8 fixtures
- b) Clubs will be fined £5- for each instance of failing to report results on time.
- c) League points will be awarded on the basis of 3 points for a win, 2 points for a draw and 1 point for a defeat. No points will be awarded to a team who fails to fulfil a fixture.
- d) A maximum goal difference of +/- 5 goals will apply to all League and Cup fixtures.
- e) Final League positions will be determined by :
 - e.1 Points scored.
 - e.2 Goal difference
 - e.3 Results between the teams concerned.
- f) In the event of a tie for winner or runner-up a play-off will be arranged at the end of the season.
- g) No results or tables will be recorded for the under 8 age division.

4. Competition Rules

Supervision of Games

- a) No game will be allowed to kick-off unless a responsible adult over the age of 18 is present to manage and take responsibility for the conduct of each team.
- b) Team managers must check the playing area for hazards and confirm the security of goals prior to kick-off. Goal frames MUST be secured with 4 anchors each that have been completely driven into the ground over the side frames. If a game is in progress with either goal frame not properly anchored BOTH clubs will be fined £20- regardless of who set up the goal. If an insecure goal frame is left unattended during setting up or dismantling the club responsible will be fined £20-
- c) Each team is expected to supply a competent and suitable adult to referee one half of their game. Usually this will be the team manager or assistant. Referees must refrain from coaching their team while carrying out their duties. Referees should be familiar with "The Laws of The Game", the specific rules applicable to mini-soccer as well as local competition rules outlined below. A club who fails to supply a suitable referee will be fined £5-

- d) In accordance with the RESPECT campaign all spectators will be on the same side of a pitch and will remain back from the touchline. The manager, assistant and substitutes only will stay on the opposite side of the pitch.
- e) A team who is unable to kick-off within 15 minutes of their scheduled time will forfeit the points. The game can go ahead as a friendly for the remaining time available. Regardless of the time a fixture starts it must conclude in time for the following game to begin promptly.

Squads

- f) Under 10, 12 and 14 games will be seven a'side. Under 8 teams are only required to field 5 players but may play up to 7 a'side by mutual agreement. No additional players may be added to these team sizes.
- g) Except for under 16's, squads may consist of up to double the number of players in the team. Under 16 teams may have a maximum of 5 substitutes.
- h) In all age divisions substitutes can interchange any number of times but must enter the field from the half-way line, during a break in play with the referee's permission.
- i) All under 8 players must be offered an equal share of playing time. It is expected that all other substitutes will be given a reasonable share of playing time.

Playing Rules

Games will be conducted under F.A. mini-soccer rules except where these are amended by local competition rules as outlined below.

- j) Under 8, 10 and 12 games will consist of 20 minutes per half. Under 14 games will consist of 25 minutes per half.
- k) Under 8 matches should be played with a size 3 ball, 10 and 12 age divisions will use a size 4 football, under 14s and 16s will use size 5.
- l) There is no offside law in mini-soccer or small-sided football in any age division.
- m) Shinguards must be worn.
- n) Goal keepers in open play can handle the ball in their areas which will extend across the full width of the pitch out to the first marker on the touchline.
- o) Other than in the under 8 division, goal kicks to be taken as normal. The kick may be taken by a player other than the keeper. Referees will be flexible in assisting under 8 keepers to get the ball into play.
- p) Other than a goal kick, goal keepers in the under 10, 12 and 14 divisions must release the ball from their hands or kick the ball from the ground. When the ball is placed on the ground it is not safe and may not be picked up again. The ball must not be bouncing when kicked.
- q) Goal keepers can handle a back-pass in the under 8 division only. A free kick from the edge of the goal area will be awarded if a keeper in the under 10, 12 or 14 divisions handles a back-pass.
- r) Goal keepers are allowed outside of their areas, but a free kick will be awarded if they handle outside their area.
- s) There is free access to the penalty areas in open play.
- t) At kick-off, goal kicks, corner kicks and free kicks defending players must retreat at least 5 yards.
- u) All free kicks are direct.
- v) Penalty kicks are taken from a point 8 yards from the centre of goal.
- w) Corners and throw-ins are taken as normal.
Note to refs. Within reason all players are expected to take throw-ins properly. Under 8, 10 and under 12 players should be given a chance to retake a foul throw. Throw-ins should be awarded to the other team in the event of foul throws in an under 14 fixture.

5. Discipline

As it is impractical to provide independent referees and due to the impact of sending off a player from a small side, red and yellow cards are not being used by referees in the League. It is essential however that players understand the importance of fair play.

- a) In the event of serious misconduct such as persistent dissent, foul and abusive language or violent conduct the referee should ask the player's team manager to withdraw the player from the game.
- b) The offender may play no further part in that game but a substitute may be sent on if available.
- c) Team managers are expected to give their cooperation to referees in such instances and to deal with their own players as outlined above when they are acting as referee.
- d) In the event of a player being sent off the referee should file a report with the League secretary within three 3 days of the incident. The player may be dealt with by a League disciplinary committee and subject to such sanctions as are judged appropriate.

6. Complaints

In order to maintain good standards and provide a positive environment for young footballers it is important that clubs are able to raise concerns with the League committee, and that these are dealt with effectively. There are two main ways for clubs to make a complaint.

- 1) For matters involving less serious breaches of codes of conduct or League rules any team manager can file a "yellow card" at the venue with brief details of the problem. A committee member will be assigned to observe the subject of the complaint at the next fixture and look out for similar issues in the future. This will give the committee an early warning of potential problems.
 - 2) More serious official complaints against members of other clubs or league officials, may only be made in writing through club secretaries to the league secretary and must arrive within 7 days of the incident.
 - 2.1 Clubs may be fined £10- if complaints are received which are not signed by their club secretary
 - 2.2 A cheque for £10- made payable to The Glendale League must accompany the complaint which will be refunded if it is upheld.
 - 2.3 The committee will deal with the matter within 14 days of it being received by the league secretary and communicate their decision to the secretary of the club/s concerned.
 - 2.4 Clubs will then have a further 14 days to lodge any appeal in writing to the league secretary in which case an independent appeal committee will review the matter.
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