



**ALPHA TROPHIES  
SOUTH EAST REGION  
13's & 14's  
YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUES**



**CONSTITUTION & PLAYING RULES  
(including Local Rules)**

14<sup>th</sup> June 2026

# CONSTITUTION

## 1. NAME

This association of clubs shall be called the **Alpha Trophies South East Region 15's, 16's, 17's & 18's Youth Football Leagues** and shall be affiliated to the Scottish Youth Football Association ("SYFA").

## 2. MISSION STATEMENT

The object of the league shall be to legislate for, foster, develop and improve the game of association football among all classes of youth football clubs throughout the league within the South East Region of the SYFA.

## 3. GENERAL

- 3.1 Unless the context otherwise requires, words or expressions contained in the rules shall bear the same meaning as in the Articles of Association of SYFA as adopted or amended from time to time.
- 3.2 Unless the context otherwise requires, words importing the singular only shall include the plural and vice versa and words importing any gender shall include all genders.
- 3.3 Unless the context otherwise requires, the word "secretary" (League Secretary) contained in the rules shall bear the same meaning as "secretary or in his absence an authorised deputy."
- 3.4 The word "league" contained in the rules shall bear the same meaning as "league or association."
- 3.5 Any omissions from the rules will be covered by the SYFA Supplementary and Playing Rules and/or Rules for Small Sided Games that are both downloadable from the SYFA website.
- 3.6 Any disciplinary matters under the jurisdiction of the league shall be dealt with by the disciplinary committee in accordance with SYFA disciplinary procedures.
- 3.7 The headings are inserted for convenience only and shall not affect the construction of the rules.

## 4. CONFIDENTIALITY

- 4.1 All business of the league and all matters arising are dealt with in accordance with the SYFA Confidentiality Agreement.
- 4.2 All officials will take all reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorised publication or disclosure of any such confidential information. This restriction shall continue to apply after the termination of any appointment without limit in point of time.
- 4.3 The league reserves the right to initiate a disciplinary process because of any apparent breach of confidentiality.

## **5. 2<sup>nd</sup> “CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

- 5.1 A member of the executive committee, disciplinary committee or any sub-committee, if required by such body, shall retire from any discussion of the body if the matter to be dealt with involves the club which he represents, and it is possible that a penalty or some other material decision may require to be taken.
- 5.2 It is the member's responsibility to disclose the conflicting interest to the executive committee, disciplinary committee or any sub-committee and refrain from participating in any deliberation or decision of the other executive committee, disciplinary committee or any sub-committee with respect to the matter in question.

## **6. MEMBERSHIP**

- 6.1 Membership is open to all invited youth clubs.
- 6.2 All clubs must be members of the SYFA.
- 6.3 All clubs in membership shall be subject to all relevant rules, clauses, paragraphs and sub paragraphs of the SYFA Articles of Association, Supplementary and Playing Rules, Standing Orders, Player Protection Policy, Adults at Risk Protection Policy, Disciplinary Procedures and all related policies and any amendments thereto and any regulations or decisions promulgated by the Board and regulations or decisions of the Scottish FA shall be binding on all members.
- 6.4 Each member club is responsible to the league for the action of its players, officials and spectators.
- 6.5 Any change of Team Manager must be intimated in writing to the league secretary and the Head of Operations of the SYFA and any subsequent appointment must be similarly notified within 48 hours. Clubs failing to properly notify such changes will be fined a sum determined each season by the SYFA.

## **7. ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP**

- 7.1 Clubs seeking membership for the first time shall be admitted to the League at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) convened for that purpose. Applications for membership or league status change will be considered no later than 30<sup>th</sup> September in the current season.
- 7.2 Clubs which are candidates for membership must in the first instance satisfy the executive committee that they should be put forward for membership.
- 7.3 The admission to membership shall be by two thirds majority of those attending and entitled to vote at such a meeting.
- 7.4 All existing member clubs are required to renew their membership on an annual basis. Membership shall be granted on receipt of the annual subscription unless membership is withdrawn by the disciplinary committee, executive committee, AGM or EGM.

## **8. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION/DEPOSIT/PAYMENT**

- 8.1 The Annual subscription of each club shall be fixed at the AGM.
- 8.2 Each club (**shall or may**) in addition to payment of the annual subscription, deposit a sum of money to be fixed at the AGM which shall be liable to forfeiture at the end of the season if such club shall have failed to complete its league fixtures without sound reason or shall have failed to satisfy the executive committee of its endeavour to do so.
- 8.3 This sum or part may be used at the discretion of the league to pay any referee's claims and fines imposed on the defaulting club. All such monies used for this purpose shall be repaid by the defaulting club on or before the next meeting and after intimation to do so shall have been made to the said club.
- 8.4 The deposit is recoverable by the club members who have fulfilled all their fixtures and obligations as stated in these rules.
- 8.5 Completed League entry forms together with Subscriptions and deposit fee shall be paid before or at the AGM as follows:
  - 8.5.1 Existing Members – full fees for the forthcoming season.
  - 8.5.2 New Members - Full fees & deposit (if required) for the forthcoming season.
- 8.6 League, Cup fixtures and permits will not be issued to any club applicant until full payment of subscriptions and deposits are made and where payment has been cleared.

## **9. RESIGNATION FROM THE LEAGUE**

- 9.1 When a club intimates its resignation from the league, such club must notify the league secretary and the Head of Operations of the SYFA by electronic mail.
- 9.2 The club must also notify their opponents and the referee, until such time as their resignation has been accepted by the executive committee and failing which they will be treated as a defaulting club.
- 9.3 In the event of a club resigning from the league during the season all fixtures shall be decided as follows:
  - 9.3.1 Clubs who have played one third or less of their fixtures in all matches shall be classified as null, and void and points deducted from the opponents that they have played.
  - 9.3.2 Clubs who have played more than one third of their fixtures all existing results will stand, and all future listed fixtures shall be awarded to the listed opponents.
- 9.4 Any club that wishes to resign its membership of a league with the intent of seeking membership of another league must make an application in writing to the league secretary stating their reasons for resigning.
- 9.5 If a league or association refuses to accept a resignation the club may refer the matter in writing to the Head of Operations of the SYFA.
- 9.6 No league or association will accept a club into membership while that club is in membership of any other member league or association.

## 10. MANAGEMENT

- 10.1 The management of the league shall be vested in an executive committee that shall be elected annually in accordance with SYFA supplementary and playing rules and which shall consist of:
- 10.1.1 Office-bearers consisting of a:
    - 10.1.1.1 Chairman.
    - 10.1.1.2 Vice-Chairman.
    - 10.1.1.3 Secretary.
    - 10.1.1.4 Treasurer.
    - 10.1.1.5 Match Secretary. (optionable)
    - 10.1.1.6 Child Wellbeing & Protection Officer
    - 10.1.1.7 Three members to be elected at the AGM.
- 10.2 To be eligible for election as Chairman, a candidate must have served for a period of not less than two years as Vice-Chairman. To be eligible for election as Vice-Chairman, a candidate must have served for a period of not less than two years as a member of the executive committee.
- Should the Vice-Chairman not seek election as Chairman or re-election as Vice-Chairman then any member of the executive committee who must have served for a period of not less than two years will be eligible for election.
- 10.3 All persons acting for or on behalf of the league must be registered on the league's online registration with SYFA.
- 10.4 No club/community club shall have more than one member on the executive committee.
- 10.5 Four members of the committee shall form a quorum.
- 10.6 In the event of a vacancy occurring in the executive committee during the season the executive committee shall have the power to fill such vacancy and can, if necessary, waive any requirements under Rule 10.2, and shall be responsible for updating the league's online registration with SYFA.
- 10.7 All retiring office-bearers shall be eligible for re-election.
- 10.8 The executive committee shall be the authority for the interpretation of the rules and shall decide upon any question of interpretation or upon any matter affecting the league not provided for by these rules or SYFA rules and its decisions upon questions of interpretation and on matters affecting the league shall be final except as provided in the SYFA appeal rules.
- 10.9 The executive committee shall have the power as occasions shall require appointing from its own members and/or co-opt from the member clubs a disciplinary committee and such sub-committees as it may deem expedient and to depute or refer to them such of its powers and duties as it may from time to time determine.

- 10.10 The executive committee shall have the power temporarily to amend or add to these rules as circumstances may dictate from time to time to facilitate the smooth running of the league. Any amendment made to be approved by the next meeting of members.
- 10.11 The treasurer shall affect all money transactions and shall submit at each meeting a financial statement of the league's accounts and at the AGM a statement of accounts duly audited by two competent persons appointed as auditors.
- 10.12 The bank account will be in the name of the **EDINBURGH & DISTRICT SYFA, EASTERN REGION YOUTH FA**, the signatories being the chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and treasurer. Two signatures are required for all financial transactions, one of which must be the treasurer.

## **11. BREACH OF RULES**

- 11.1 Any breach of SYFA and/or league rules will be dealt with in accordance with SYFA Disciplinary Procedures.
- 11.2 The disciplinary committee may suspend a club until the AGM when the retention of that club in the league shall be considered. Any decision arrived at by the AGM under this rule shall not be the subject of revision by an EGM.
- 11.3 In any match the home club must ensure the safety, good conduct and behaviour of all supporters before, during or at the conclusion of any match. The foregoing applies to all matches authorised by or matches played under the jurisdiction of SYFA.
- 11.4 In the event of misbehaviour of supporters being reported to or otherwise being brought to the attention of the league, the league will have jurisdiction to deal with the matter and to impose sanctions in respect thereof as prescribed within SYFA Disciplinary Procedures.
- 11.5 Each club must ensure that its players, officials, supporters and any person exercising a function for or in connection with the club do not engage in unacceptable conduct.

## **12. MEETINGS**

- 12.1 Meetings of the league shall be held in any venue as notified by the secretary and the dates shall be notified by the secretary.
- 12.2 The secretary shall have the power to convene meetings when necessary.
- 12.3 The league will hold a minimum of two general meetings of member clubs including an AGM in each season.
- 12.4 All clubs must attend general committee meetings. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £10 for non-appearance.
- 12.5 When a club makes an apology then they must send £5, if required, to cover costs of any league information, to the League Secretary before the meeting.
- 12.6 No more than two apologies will be accepted from a club during the season. Failure to do so will result in the club being fined £10.
- 12.7 At all meetings of the league the chairman or vice-chairman shall preside. In the event of none of these officials being present the chair shall be taken by another office bearer. The

chairman shall have both a deliberative and casting vote at all meetings, and his rule shall be final.

- 12.8 A member of the committee shall retire from the meeting during any consideration and while the decision is being taken on any case involving his club, a club official or players connected with his club.
- 12.9 Each club shall be entitled to send two registered representatives to all league general meetings but shall have only one vote.

### **13. ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION & PLAYING RULES**

- 13.1 The Constitution & Playing Rules may be added to or altered by a resolution passed at an AGM or at an EGM duly convened for the purpose, and for the passing of which resolution at least 75% of those present and entitled to vote have voted.
- 13.2 The AGM of the league shall be held each year, on a date after the AGM of the SYFA has been convened
- 13.3 Notice from a member club of any proposed addition or alteration to the Constitution & Playing Rules to be put forward for consideration at the AGM must be sent by electronic mail by the proposer and seconder in separate emails, signed by the respective secretary of the member club proposing and seconding, to the secretary 30 days before the AGM. Notice from a member of any other resolution to be brought before an AGM must be sent in like manner 30 days before the AGM.
- 13.4 The executive committee shall have power to propose additions or alterations to the Constitution & Playing Rules for consideration at the AGM.
- 13.5 Any proposed alteration of the Constitution & Playing Rules of the league shall be submitted to the Head of Operations of the SYFA in writing by electronic mail 30 days before it is proposed that such change or changes should become operative or should be submitted to the AGM or a EGM of the league.

### **14. LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

- 14.1 The office bearers may recommend to the AGM that life membership be granted to any person whom it is considered to have rendered valuable service to the league or in the cause of youth football.
- 14.2 Life members have the right to attend meetings of the league and shall be able to exercise the right to vote at such meetings.
- 14.3 Life members have the right to sit on the executive committee with voting rights.

### **15. COMMUNICATIONS AND ENQUIRIES**

- 15.1 Any notice to the league must be sent to the League Secretary and any notice from the league to any of its members, or to any person under its jurisdiction, shall be validly given if posted or sent by electronic communication to the secretary of the club or to the person concerned at its or their last notified address.

- 15.2 All correspondence shall be addressed to the League Secretary and, if requiring a reply by letter, must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope to sender, failing which an administration charge may be levied. Alternatively correspondence can be sent by electronic mail which may require to be acknowledged. Correspondence that has not been signed or verified will be judged to be incompetent.
- 15.3 All electronic communications shall be addressed to the League Secretary. Electronic communications that do not include the name of the club, the club's age group and the club SYFA registration ID number will be judged to be incompetent.
- 15.4 Any club under the league's jurisdiction which fails to answer written communication from the League Secretary within the timescale notified may be censured, fined, or suspended at the discretion of the executive committee.
- 15.5 Any player, official or other person under the league's jurisdiction who fails to answer a written or electronic communication from the League Secretary within the timescale notified may be censured or suspended at the discretion of the executive committee.
- 15.6 Where the failure to reply relates to a case of reported misconduct or to an offence the case shall be dealt with as determined by the disciplinary committee, except as otherwise indicated within SYFA rule.

## **16. PROTESTS**

Protests and claims for matches/ties must be made in accordance with the SYFA Supplementary and Playing Rules that can be downloaded from the SYFA website [www.scottishyouthfa.co.uk](http://www.scottishyouthfa.co.uk)

Protests in relation to all SERYFA competitions must be submitted by the Team Manager/Club Secretary and by email to the Association Secretary with subject line 'PROTEST'. The protesting team must supply evidence of the reasons they are protesting the match, and they must copy the team they are protesting against into the email. A £40 fee must be paid at the time of protest by whichever payment method is appropriate. All protests will be dealt with by the relevant committee

For all unfulfilled fixtures and matches abandoned by the referee the disciplinary committee will determine the status of the match. No protest or claim is required.

## **17. APPEALS**

A club, player or registered club official may appeal to the SYFA Appeals Committee against the decision of the League, Association affecting such club, player or registered club official. Such appeals must be made in accordance with the SYFA Supplementary and Playing Rules that can be downloaded from the SYFA website [www.scottishyouthfa.co.uk](http://www.scottishyouthfa.co.uk)

## **18. CUSTODY OF LEAGUE TROPHIES**

- 18.1 Trophies for the league championship and cup competitions shall be presented to the respective winners.
- 18.2 A document in the following terms shall be granted on behalf of the winning club. We, representing the chairman and the secretary, members of the club which has now been declared to have won the league trophy or cup competition, do hereby bind ourselves jointly and severally and on behalf of the said club to return the same in good order and condition to the secretary of the league by a date determined by the executive committee.
- 18.3 Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine not exceeding £100 (One hundred Pounds).
- 18.4 For trophies that have been returned damaged the offending club will be levied the full cost of repair.
- 18.5 For trophies that have not been returned the offending club will be levied the full cost of replacement.

## **19. DISSOLUTION OF THE LEAGUE**

If upon the winding up or dissolution of the league there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any assets whatsoever, the same shall not be paid or distributed amongst the members but shall be given or transferred to some other society, institution or organisation having objects similar to the objects of the league and which shall prohibit the distribution of its income and assets among its members to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the league under or by virtue hereof, such a society, institution or organisation to be determined by the members of the league at or before the time of dissolution and if and so far as effect cannot be given to such provisions then to some charitable object.

# **PLAYING RULES**

## **20. MATCHES**

- 20.1 All matches played under the jurisdiction of SYFA, and its member leagues shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as settled by the International Football Association Board and the SYFA Supplementary and Playing Rules and/or Rules for Small Sided Games that are available for download from the SYFA website.
- 20.2 In League competitions each club shall play home and away matches with every other club in its relative division or section unless so determined by the executive committee. Three points shall be awarded for a win and one point for a draw.
- 20.3 When clubs within a league division have equal points at the end of the playing season the league championship, Promotion or Relegation places shall be decided by the Head-to-Head aggregate scores of games between the clubs. Only if this is equal shall a Play-Off be arranged at a neutral venue to decide the outcome. This shall be at the sole discretion of the executive committee. If the determination is by a play-off the match will be played to a finish. If the play-off is still undecided the result of the play-off shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the rules laid down by the International Football Association Board. All players to be eligible must be registered. Trialists will not be allowed to play in any play-offs.

## 21. FIXTURES

- 21.1 Clubs shall receive from the League Secretary their league and cup competition fixtures which shall be played on the date stipulated. Any club refusing or failing to play the club against which it is listed within the time intimated to it and without sufficient reason for doing so shall be dealt with by the disciplinary committee.
- 21.2 If a club wishes to be excused from playing a game on any particular date throughout the season, such a club must make an application in writing to the League Secretary not less than **fourteen** days before such date and allow the executive committee to meet for their consideration and decision. The club must state the reasons for seeking relief of fixture and if requested must supply evidence to support the application. The League Secretary's decision will be final and binding on all parties.

For Scottish Cup ties as arranged by the SYFA, such requests must be made to the Head of Operations of the SYFA.

- 21.3 No club shall be allowed more than **THREE** reliefs of fixtures in the same season unless agreed in accordance with point 21.2 above. Requests for relief of fixtures for more than **FOUR** shall result in three points being deducted for each such request to be shown in their league standing.
- 21.4 In extraordinary circumstances relief of fixture may be granted not less than five days before the date stipulated on application to the Association/match secretary.
- 21.5 Any club seeking relief of fixture less than five days before the date stipulated shall be responsible for any relevant match fees incurred by their opponents for the listed fixture on receipt of proof of such fees.
- 21.6 All matches shall be played according to the Laws of the Game as adopted by the Scottish Football Association Ltd. but with the exception that clubs 13's & 14's will play two equal periods of not less than 35 minutes duration.
- 21.7 No club, player or registered club official shall be permitted to take part or be involved in any match or competition which is not authorised by the SYFA.
- 21.8 Team Managers/Club Secretaries of the home club must contact the referee and the club visiting not later than 72 hours preceding any game as to the time of kick-off and ground directions etc.
- 21.8.1 Visiting clubs and referees must travel to the registered ground of the home club if no notification is received from them.
- 21.8.2 Failure to notify will result in the defaulting club being fined a sum not exceeding £100.00 (One Hundred Pounds).
- 21.8.3 When required the Team Manager/Club Secretary of the home club must telephone/communicate with the League Secretary or other appointed person advising of the match result of all cup ties and league matches played or unplayed immediately after the match.
- 21.8.4 Clubs failing to comply with this rule will be fined the sum of £10 per offence.

## 22. HOME GROUND

- 22.1 The home club is responsible for the condition of the ground and laws of the game regarding same being complied with, **failing which it is liable to be disqualified.**
- 22.2 On points of fact connected with the game and fitness of the ground for play, the decision of the referee or match supervisor shall be final, **except in an event of a club travelling outwith an area of seven miles when the inspection of the ground by a local referee or match supervisor will decide.**
- 22.3 Where clubs have an appointed groundsman in charge of the ground such groundman's decision will be final.
- 22.4 The home Team Manager/Club Secretary must immediately notify the referee/match supervisor and secretary of the visiting club if a postponement is necessary, in default of which the home club may at the discretion of the executive committee be required to pay the referee's half-fee and the travelling expenses in whole or part of the visiting club.
- 22.5 For all matches to be played under the jurisdiction of the SYFA it will be deemed the responsibility of the home club to supply changing accommodation for their opponents and the referee/match supervisor. The changing accommodation should be adjacent to the pitch where the match is to take place and should contain washing and toilet facilities. If the changing accommodation is at a different location to that of the pitch where the match is to take place the home club must provide transport for their opponents and the referee/match supervisor.
- 22.6 Separate changing accommodation is required for mixed gender teams in accordance with SYFA supplementary and playing rules.

## 23. TEAM LINES

- 23.1 In all matches the official in charge of the respective clubs shall, before the match starts, complete on Comet the official team lines as provided online and this requires to be checked by the match referee on the App. Only when Comet fails shall a paper team be accepted as an alternative, typewritten or by download, containing the full proper name and SFA player registration ID number for each player and officials in their team. Should an alternative system of team listing be introduced, player information must be provided on the required system before any game
- 23.2 Where handwritten, the referee shall, after signature, exchange one copy with the respective officials and forward the remaining copies, together with the result of the game, to the match secretary as soon as possible after the match. Alternative systems may deem this unnecessary.
- 23.3 Failure of clubs to comply with this rule will automatically be fined £20.00 for each time there is something wrong with the team lines. The match secretary shall impose this fine automatically.
- 23.4 In all matches the substitution of players will be permitted in accordance with the SYFA supplementary and playing rules.

- 23.5 The referee and all registered officials must not pass team lists written or otherwise onto any other party for any reason except as designated in **Rule 94** of the SYFA Supplementary and Playing Rules. Any club, official or referee violating this rule will be reported to the relevant disciplinary committee.

## **24. COLOURS**

- 24.1 Where there is a similarity of club colours the visiting club shall play in their registered colours, and the home club shall change unless otherwise mutually arranged.
- 24.2 Numbers must be worn which must correspond to the numbers on any team listing.

## **25. UNFULFILLED FIXTURE**

- 25.1 The reason for non-fulfillment of any fixture and unfinished matches shall be investigated by the disciplinary committee.
- 25.2 If the reasons are deemed to be unsatisfactory the defaulting club may be fined a sum not exceeding £500 and deducted up to 10 points or be eliminated from a cup competition. All fines imposed under this rule must be paid to the treasurer within 14 days of receipt of letter and/or electronic communication.

## **26. REPRESENTATIVE GAMES**

- 26.1 In all representative games the league and/or region shall have power to select players from any club in the league and any players selected who may decline to play shall not be eligible to play for their own club on that date without special permission from the league.
- 26.2 A club may apply for a postponement of a league game should one or more players be selected to play in a representative game on the same day.

## **27. REFEREES**

- 27.1 Referees for all matches will be appointed by the match secretary from the SFA List of registered referees.
- 27.2 No club may object to any referee so appointed.
- 27.3 The referee's fee and payment of fee shall be decided by the league's AGM.
- 27.4 Where the referee attends and the fixture does not take place for any reason except as per 27.6 below the home club shall pay the referee's fee which shall be recoverable from the defaulting club. If the referee does not attend no fee will be payable.
- 27.5 Should a ground be considered unplayable the referee shall, after inspection of the same, receive half the fee which shall be shared equally by each club, and paid by the home club, who shall be responsible for collecting the visiting club's share.

## 28. MATCH GUIDANCE – APPLICABLE RULES

### 28.1 Home club:

- 28.1.1 The home club should confirm the ensuing fixture with the away club in the week and must provide them and the referee with directions to the venue at least 72 hours before the fixture date.
- 28.1.2 The home club should ensure that the away club and referee are both met on arrival and are shown to their respective dressing rooms.
- 28.1.3 The home club is responsible for the pitch preparation. Corner flags and goal nets are compulsory for all games. Failure to provide such in any match and any other field irregularity can be the subject of protest but **must** be brought to the attention of the match referee before the game commences.
- 28.1.4 The home Club should arrange an early inspection of the pitch by a qualified referee in the event of inclement weather and advise the away club and referee accordingly.
- 28.1.5 The home club must provide at least two playable match balls.

### 28.2 Away club:

- 28.2.1 The away club in the event of a travel problem delaying their arrival in time for kick-off should send at least one person to the venue to explain their problem to the referee and home club.
- 28.2.2 The away club and the referee are expected to travel to the registered ground of the home club on not receiving directions from the home club. Such instances must be reported to the League Secretary.

### 28.3 Both clubs:

- 28.3.1 The referee's fee is shared equally by both clubs with the home club being responsible for ensuring payment to the referee except for cup finals when the referee expenses will be paid by the league. This does not apply to Scottish Cup ties when the home team is responsible for full payment of fee plus any travel expense incurred.
- 28.3.2 The referee's fees are as follows:
  - 28.3.2.1 All age groups                      **£50.00**
- 28.3.3 The attending referee is due half fee when direct intervention by him is the cause of the game not being played otherwise the full fee is due.
- 28.3.4 Club secretaries phoning the League Secretary may phone between the hours of **9am and 10pm** unless in extreme emergencies. Match results, either by the match referee or team manager, are required to be communicated immediately after the end of the game to assist the league secretary in preparation of future fixtures.

## 28.4 Referees:

28.4.1 The normal period of play for games shall be as follows:

28.4.1.1 70 minutes duration for age groups 13 and 14

28.4.2 Referees who have accepted a match and then being unable to fulfill such a match must notify both the match secretary and home club secretary.

28.4.3 Referees are required to inspect the pitch and each player's equipment prior to kick-off.

## 29. CUP, SHIELD AND SUPPLEMENTARY COMPETITIONS

29.1 Competitions will be played on the cup-tie, home and away, sectional or other principles as may be determined by the executive committee.

29.2 When matches are played on a 'cup-tie' principal the club that are first drawn in the ballot shall have a choice of ground. The league will select a venue for the final.

The executive committee shall fix grounds for the final tie and shall have direct control of all arrangements and receipts. **Each participating team in the final shall provide two match footballs of a suitable standard.**

29.3 In the event of the score being level after the stipulated playing time has been completed in all rounds including final, the result will be decided by the taking of penalty kicks in accordance with the rules laid down by the International Football Association Board.

29.4 Any club intending to scratch must give notice in writing to the Team Manager/Club Secretary of the opposing club and the League Secretary at least three days previous to the date of the tie. defaulting clubs may be liable for the expenses of the tie and be dealt with by the executive committee as they may deem expedient.

29.5 In all cup tie matches the duration of play must be the full period appropriate to the age group concerned.

29.6 In the event of clubs having an equal number of points in a competition played on a sectional basis then a play-off will take place to decide the section winner.

## 30. LOCAL RULES

Local rules may only be incorporated within this section of the Constitution and Playing Rules. Rules must only be incorporated if approved by the members at an annual general meeting and the Board of the SYFA acting through the Legislation Working Group

### 30.1 Registration of Clubs

All new clubs joining the Association for the first time shall join the bottom league in their age group unless the following criterion is met:

Proof of the team's ability to play within a higher league can be produced too and accepted by the Executive Committee.

All Registration forms **MUST** be received by the League Secretary prior to the AGM. Any club failing to comply with this shall join the bottom league in their age group unless under exceptional circumstances and agreed by the Executive Committee.

### 30.2 Resignation of Clubs from the League

This local rule supersedes rule 9.3 in that where a Club resigns from the League during the season; all fixtures concerning that Club shall be classified as null and void. All points that have been awarded to their opponents shall be deducted.

### 30.3 League Championship - Promotion / Relegation

This local rule supersedes that of playing rule 20.3.

In the event of a tie for a League Championship, Promotion or Relegation places the Head-to-Head aggregate scores of games between the clubs shall decide the outcome. Only if this is equal shall a Play-Off be arranged at a neutral venue to decide the outcome.

All play off matches shall be played in accordance with cup competition rules. All players participating in such games must be registered to the SYFA by 31<sup>st</sup> March of the current season.

At the conclusion of the season's league divisional programme, promotion and /or relegation will come into play. Where the leagues divisions are of a normal competition, the top two teams will be automatically promoted and the bottom two teams being automatically relegated. Where league sections have had to be introduced, an A and a B section, the top team only will be promoted, and the bottom team will be relegated. The League Committee will have the power to make adjustments where necessary.

### 30.4 Public Parks

Clubs allocated a Public Park and not desiring to use it must inform Edinburgh Leisure no later than five days prior to the fixture. Clubs failing to do so will be responsible for any costs incurred.

### 30.5 League Formation and Fixtures

30.5.1 When there are sufficient numbers of teams to form more than one league, the Executive Committee will formulate the leagues considering the terms of point 30.1 of these local rules.

30.5.2 Clubs shall complete all league fixtures, no two fixtures shall be decided by the one match

## 30.6 Fixtures

All clubs in membership of the SERYFA are obliged when necessary to communicate with the League Secretary of the Association the result of any Scottish Cup and South East Region Cup matches, if said club are drawn away from home to a non-SERYFA club in accordance with rule 21.8.3.

## 30.7 Player Suspensions

Any player that is sent off is an **AUTOMATIC ONE MATCH SUSPENSION** to be served **IMMEDIATELY** in the next game to be played. Additional suspension may be added for the appropriate offence.

All suspensions are shown on Comet discipline and suspended players will be excluded from any Comet team listing until the suspension is served.