



# Salford & Districts Football League Bye Laws 2018/2019

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APPROVED 2018/2019



# Salford & Districts Football League

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### Introduction:

The playing season shall start from Saturday 8 September 2018 and run until Friday 31 May 2019.

- U-7's, U-8's & U-9's non-competitive age-groups will operate (approximately) five weeks of development matches, (in order to establish relative abilities), in preparation for moving into groups for the Challenge Cup Tournament. These development matches will be repeated if required especially for the U-7's as they are new to the league. An additional Supplement Cup tournament will also be undertaken if timescales allow (subject to availability as dictated by the management committee).
- U-10's & U-11's who will be already in established groups will operate development matches and a Challenge Cup Tournament. An additional Supplement Cup tournament will also be undertaken if timescales allow (subject to availability as dictated by the management committee).
- Competitive age-groups (U12's-U16) will operate competitive league matches and a Challenge Cup Tournament. An additional Supplement Cup tournament will also be undertaken if timescales allow (subject to availability as dictated by the management committee). All Member Clubs will utilise their facilities throughout the season and play on grass or 3G/4G pitches where available and subject to the weather. **If however weather conditions are bad then clubs are allowed to look at alternative venues than their own facilities subject to league approval.**

### The Competition (SDFL League) & Trustees

1. (a) The Trustees of the Competition (the Salford & Districts Football League) shall be the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Development Officer  
(b) The Competition may at the discretion of the members at the AGM, appoint a League President, who shall not be an officer of the Competition, and shall not have any voting rights. The president is not subject to re-election, and can only be removed by resignation, or vote of no confidence.  
(c) The Competition may at the discretion of its members appoint Vice-Presidents, who shall not be officers of the Competition, and shall not have any voting rights. Vice-Presidents may be nominated at the last league meeting of the current season before the AGM, and shall serve for one year only. Vice-Presidents are eligible to continue subject to the wishes of the members at the AGM.  
(d) The aims and objectives of the Competition are to provide, encourage and organise mini-soccer and youth football for boys and girls in the locality, from a beginners group at U-7's onwards. Also to encourage, support and develop young referees  
(e) The Competition shall agree an ongoing 3 year development plan, which will be maintained via Manchester FA.  
(f) The league shall adopt, operate and maintain a League Complaint Procedure, as described in Appendix 1 to the Salford & Districts Football League Bye Laws.  
(g) In addition to the AGM the League will hold monthly League Meetings during the playing season. Dates will be advised by the League to Clubs but with the proviso that they will normally be held on the first Thursday of the month in which they are held. Each Member of the Management Committee will be entitled to one vote at League Meetings and the Chair of the League will also be entitled to a casting vote should that be necessary.  
(h) A new club or team cannot be accepted into membership of the competition, unless a completed Club Membership Form, Club Child Welfare officers Form, Pitch Allocation Form and a separate Team membership Form for each team entered has been received by the League Secretary.  
(i) The League will provide copies of the minutes of the AGM, any special EGM, and Management Committee and League Meetings to Manchester FA within 14 days of the meeting taking place

### Management & Sub Committees

2. (a) The Competition requires that all members of the Management Committee must provide a completed Management Committee member / application Form for data protection and suitability purposes.  
(b) The Competition shall have the right, subject to the acceptance of the management Committee to co-opt additional officers for specific duties not covered by the existing officers.  
(c) The Competition shall elect a disciplinary sub-committee, to be comprised of the Discipline Manager, plus 3 other members of the Management Committee chosen by the Discipline Manager on a case by case basis. The disciplinary sub-committee shall meet to conduct discipline and protest hearings as required (except for field offences which must in every case be referred to Manchester FA). The decisions of the disciplinary subcommittee shall at all times be subject to Appeal, per Rule 16.  
(d) Protests for which the protests fee has been paid, shall be dealt with by the discipline sub-committee.  
(e) The Competition shall appoint an appeals sub-committee, to be comprised of the Appeals Manager plus 2 other members of the Management Committee chosen by the Appeals Managers on a case by case basis. No member can sit on the appeal sub-committee if they have already sat on the original disciplinary subcommittee for any of the items on the agenda. The appeal sub-committee shall deal with all appeals against decisions of either the Management Committee, or the disciplinary sub-committee concerning Competition bye laws. The decision of the appeal sub-committee can only be referred to Manchester FA for arbitration only, per rule 16.  
(f) The chair person for all committees and sub-committees shall have the right to co-opt members, or replace members as and when required to ensure that Committee business can be conducted. All committees and subcommittees shall follow the guidelines for governance as set down by the FA Charter Standard for Leagues.



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- (g) A system of penalty points shall be operated for all non-competitive age-groups from U-7 to U-11 inclusive, to record offenders who are outside the "fines tariff". The penalty points shall be awarded as stated per the fines tariffs on page 6 for each nominated offence. The divisional secretary shall provide a weekly report direct to the league discipline manager covering all the offences breached and by whom. The total of penalty points to be issued on a regular basis to all club secretaries and members of the management committee. Serial offenders for all age groups will be required to attend a meeting with the discipline sub-committee, who may decide on further action at their discretion.

### Clubs, teams & players

3. (a) Representatives for each Clubs age group are required to attend the monthly league meetings as arranged by the management committee as per 1(g). If a Club has more than one representative at a League Meeting they will still only be entitled to one vote. For none represented Clubs then this will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff (for competitive age groups)/Points system (for non competitive age groups) and will be referred to the Discipline Manager.
- (b) All clubs will adopt the FA's Whole game system and register all their teams who want to operate in the competition.
- (c) It is the Clubs responsibility to ensure that one representative per team has obtained and completed a level 1 qualification, also attended a Safeguarding and Emergency Aid course and all representatives of the team (to a maximum of 3), must hold an FA CRC/DBS certificate, all subject to guidelines issued by the FA Charter standard (SG, EA and CRC/DBS to be renewed every 3 years).
- (d) A player's home address must be within five miles of the Club's nominated point. The Club's nominated point for registration of players must be notified to the secretary of the Competition, before any player registrations can be accepted. The nominated point must be acceptable to the Management Committee.
- (e) All players for all age groups are to be registered via the FA's Whole game system (WGS) player registration system.
- (f) Where a player is being registered for the same team continuing from the previous season, the player is not required to provide "proof of age" to support the registration request. The "proof of age" document would normally be a valid passport as the preferred option but if not available then as a last resort then a birth certificate and another form of document is required as proof of age and identity.
- (g) The new WGS team ID cards to be updated either monthly or immediately if any player changes occur. Failure to have registered players will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff (for competitive age groups)/Points system (for non competitive age groups) and will be referred to the Discipline Manager.
- (h) A player may be registered on the FA's Whole Game System (WGS) up to Friday 1pm and once verified by the Competition may be eligible to play that Saturday/Sunday.
- (i) A player may not transfer to another team within the same club after 31st December within the current season.
- (j) Any team playing an unregistered, or otherwise ineligible player, or players, in a cup competition / tournament, then the team will be expelled from that competition / tournament for that season. This shall also apply to Cup / tournament competition played on a group qualifying basis, where the team record will be expunged from the qualifying group. Should a team be expelled from the competition / tournament then the offending team shall be replaced by the opponents they last played in the competition / tournament.
- (k) A player having played for a team in a competition / tournament in the current playing season, shall not be eligible to play for another team in that competition / tournament for the remainder of the playing season. This applied irrespective of provisions of rule 8(j) – transfer of players.
- (l) No player may play in the semi-final, or the final, of a tournament in the current playing season unless they have played in 3 matches for that team in the current playing season.
- (m) Players may be registered or transferred after the respective closing dates, but only by direct application to the League Chairperson, whose permission must be obtained and verified by the Vice chair.
- (n) Any clubs with outstanding accounts from the previous season shall at the 31st July of the current season have the debts referred to Manchester FA. The Club would then be suspended as members of the Competition until the debt is paid or if a debt recovery plan is approved by the Trustees.
- (o) No team shall wear a black or very dark coloured kit. Only match officials are allowed to wear black kit. If any team is found to be wearing incorrect kit will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff (for competitive age groups)/Points system (for non competitive age groups) and will be referred to the Discipline Manager. The match will be awarded to the opposition team.
- (p) Any persistent breach of FA Rules and/or league bye laws as deemed by the management committee may result in the team manager being requested to attend a meeting with the management committee to explain their actions.

### Fixtures

4. (a) All fixtures to be played on a Saturday, unless authorised by the Management Committee (for example religious reasons). However fixtures can be played midweek if organised by the Management Committee.
- (b) The home team manager is solely responsible for all aspects of health & safety in respect of persons present at matches, (this includes the health & safety of the referee).
- (c) It is the clubs/team manager's responsibility to ensure each team has a fully maintained First Aid kit at every match which must contain details of all players' medical conditions if applicable. League Officials when present may request to see a first aid kit before kick off. Failure to produce a first aid kit on match days must be noted on the match card for reference. The risk assessment for first aid kits are to be examined and replenished as required on an on-going basis.



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- (d) All goalposts used in the Competition must comply to the FA's Directive on goalpost safety. The risk Assessment for goalpost safety rests with the club, and referees are instructed to report any instances of goalposts that are not completely secure to the Competition secretary. No matches are to be played in any circumstances without prior examination and risk assessment of goalposts.
- (e) For mini-soccer upright flags must be used to mark the edges of the pitch, and all corner, and centre flags must be a minimum of 5 feet high when in position, if centre flags are used these are to be placed 1 yard away from the touchline.
- (f) The home team must provide a match card for each fixture which must be signed prior to kick off by all players taking part in the match. Match cards to be printed by the home team manager off the league website. At the end of the game the referee must complete their section of the match card. The home manager must send the completed match card to their Divisional Secretary by the Monday following the fixture. For any mid week fixtures the completed match card must be returned to the Divisional Secretary within 2 days of the fixture taking place. Failure to provide a completed match card will result in a fine/penalty points in accordance with the fines tariff.
- (g) On match days it will be the responsibility of each Team Manager to have a paper copy of the Whole Game System Team ID sheet. To take part in a match all players must appear on the Team ID sheet, any player not appearing is not eligible to play. The ID sheets must be exchanged between Managers prior to the line up for the Respect handshake. Managers' ID cards (if available) must also be exchanged. The Managers' must raise any issues at this point with the opposition manager, the referee and note it on the match card, the game can then be played as a friendly and the offending team will be reported to the discipline manager. Failure to provide a WGS Team ID Sheet will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff (for competitive age groups)/Points system (for non competitive age groups) and will be referred to the Discipline Manager and with a view to the game also being awarded to the non offending team.
- (h) For U7s to U11s, where a team has less than the sanctioned format number of players i.e. 5, 7 or 9 players, both teams must field the same number of players during the match. This will apply at all times during the match. The only exception shall be if a player has been dismissed from the field of play by the referee, for a red card offence.
- (i) All pitches where possible, to have technical areas marked out with either lines or cones on the managers / assistant managers / coaches / substitutes touchline. The technical area to be marked 6 yards (2 metre) either side of the centre line and be a minimum of 3 yard (1 metre) from the touchline. The introduction of technical areas is to be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis.
- (j) No fixtures may be changed during the last four weeks of the season and any teams failing to fulfil fixtures during the last four weeks, shall have the fixture awarded to the non-offending team. For competitive age groups any unfulfilled fixture that will have an effect on the table results for either the top 2 teams or the bottom 2 teams must be played or sent to the Discipline Manager. Any other unfulfilled fixture will result in a 1:1 draw score.
- (k) The home team manager must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access too, the ground and time of kick off to the referee by Thursday 8pm latest. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff (for competitive age groups)/Points system (for non competitive age groups) and will be referred to the Discipline Manager.
- (l) The home team manager must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access too, the ground and time of kick off to the opposition manager at least 72 hours prior to the playing of the match. If no notice received by the home team manager the away team managers shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the competition. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff (for competitive age groups)/Points system (for non competitive age groups) and will be referred to the Discipline Manager
- (m) The league shall only allow 1 occasion for a team to request a postponement, (other than weather, county cup or school activity), after which the fixtures will be awarded to the non-offending team.

### Reporting Results

- 5. (a) Both Clubs shall respond to the FA Fulltime SMS by 6pm on Saturdays and Sundays and by 9pm for midweek fixtures. Clubs in default will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff (for competitive age groups)/Points system (for non competitive age groups) and will be referred to the Discipline Manager
- (b) The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect but NOT publish results or any grading tables for fixtures involving Under 7s, Under 8s, Under 9s, Under 10s, and Under 11s. Any Competition failing to abide by this Rule will be dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and any Club failing to abide by this Rule will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect and publish results for trophy events.
- (c) The Competition may require a Club to confirm that a set fixture has been played. Failure will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff (for competitive age groups)/Points system (for non competitive age groups) and will be referred to the Discipline Manager

### Referees

- 6. (a) A team awarding a referee a mark of 50 or below, must forward a separate report to the referees secretary within 3 days of the match, giving reasons for the low assessment. Failure to provide a report within the specified 3 days will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff (for competitive age groups)/Points system (for non competitive age groups) and will be referred to the Discipline Manager



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- (b) All referees to be registered with both the league and Manchester FA, and all referees over the age of 16 must obtain an FA DBS certificate, and have completed a child safeguarding course and a first aid course, to FA guidelines.
- (c) In the absence of an approved or appointed referee the match must be refereed by an official of either club, to ensure the match conforms to health & safety guidelines, child safeguarding considerations, per FA Charter Standard, this must be one person agreed by both managers to officiate the whole game, can not be half and half.
- (d) Referees and assistant referees fees and expenses shall be payable by two equal payments from each team respectively, the home team is responsible for collecting the fee and paying the referee, (except cup finals). The league shall be responsible for full payment of referees and assistants fees for finals.

### Appeals

- 7. (a) Any protest concerning the age (date of birth) of a player is exempt from payment of a protest fee. The protesting Club must put their protest in writing to the Registrations Secretary. The Registrations Secretary shall be responsible for checking the records that it holds for the player. The Competition may request sight of the player's birth certificate, passport, or the original of any government documentation attesting to the identity, and the age of the player in question. If information is required from the club of the player who is subject of the protest they must be given 7 days notice to satisfy the issue of the player's age (date of birth). Failure to provide the information requested within the time specified shall automatically result in the player's registration being suspended immediately. The league's Discipline Manager (or appointed substitute) shall deal with the player's Club as deemed fit within the rules of the Competition.
- (b) A club wishing to appeal against a decision of either the Management Committee or the league Disciplinary Sub-Committee concerning SCOR(Y) or the League Bye laws must put their appeal in writing to the League Secretary within 7 days of the written notification of the decision being appealed enclosing the appeal fee as per the fee tariff. If the appeal is subsequently rejected the appeal fee will be retained by the League.
- (c) For rejected appeals the club can then approach Manchester FA with a request that they arbitrate the decision. If in due course Manchester FA over-turn the decision of the League Appeal Committee, then the original appeal fee would be refunded accordingly
- (d) Any member club who has a parent county association other than Manchester FA must submit appeals direct to the sanctioning authority of the Competition, Manchester FA. The parent county association (other than Manchester FA) would then be invited to attend as members the appeal board hearing.
- (e) Competition Bye laws are an agreement between the Competition and its member clubs, and are not subject to appeal with the sanctioning authority. If a club require Manchester FA to arbitrate then a written request must be made with full disclosure of the information regarding the issue and copies must be issued to all parties involved.

### Tournaments and Cup competitions

- 8. (a) All cup ties to be played to their scheduled duration.
- (b) A team which has already qualified to play in a challenge cup final (or play-off), shall not be eligible to play in a supplementary cup final.
- (c) For Tournaments and cup competitions there will be no periods of extra time shall be applied if the score is level at the end of the scheduled duration of the match. Where the scores are level then a penalty competition (per IFAS guidelines) must take place immediately after the final whistle. This will apply to all cup matches, including those as part of a qualifying group.
- (d) (Directives for non-competitive age-group Tournaments) All competitions for non-competitive age-groups must be titled "Tournament" (e.g. U-9 Tournament, U-9 supplementary Tournament, U-9 consolation Tournament, etc.) For all Tournaments the teams taking part must be placed in a list subject to their abilities, with the highest ability at the top of the list, and the lowest ability at the bottom. This duty will be performed by the respective divisional secretary and verified by the league's development officer for each non-competitive age-group, and their decision shall be final. This procedure will be repeated for every Tournament during the season. The playing order shall be in play-off groups with the first four / five teams from the top forming group "A", the next four / five teams forming group "B", and so on. This ensures the groups will be relatively competitive by standard. Each group shall be played on a round robin basis (play each other once) and the team in first place from the round robin matches shall then go on to the play-offs. All matches in the round robin must be played to a result, from the play-off groups to the final play-off. This means that ALL matches in the Tournament shall be subject to a penalty competition (per IFAS Directive) if the teams are still level at the end of the scheduled playing duration. (Extra time is not permitted in the Tournaments). If two teams are still level at the top of the group, then the outcome shall be decided by the match the two teams played against one another in the round robin, and the winner of that match will be placed first in the group. Once the group matches are complete then the winners of group "A" shall play-off against the winners of group "B", and so on to the play-off final of the Tournament. The first Tournament shall include all teams in the age-group, but further Tournaments can be separately segregated, and further tournaments can be organised in groups of 4 or 5, as directed by the divisional secretary and the league's development officer, and their decision shall be final. Any team having finished top of a group in a previous Tournament, cannot progress beyond the group round robin stage of any further Tournaments for that age-group in that season.
- (e) (Directives for all age-group Tournaments) The divisional secretary's must consult the league development officer before announcing the format of any Tournaments, and the league development officer shall co-ordinate all Tournaments. Tournaments or cup competitions formats are subject to a seasonal review. These will be confirmed prior to any tournament commencement. This will also be part of the divisional secretary's packs.





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### 9. FEES TARIFF

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Entry Fee	£ 5.00
Annual Subscription (5x5)	£45.00
Annual Subscription (7x7)	£80.00
Annual Subscription (9x9)	£90.00
Annual Subscription (11x11) (except where there is an agreed reduction)	£90.00
Deposit (Guarantee Fee) Maximum of 4 Teams per Club)	£25.00
Administration Fee for transfer of a Player	£ 5.00
Referee Fee (Youth Football)	£24.00
Assistant Referee Fee (Youth Football)	£16.00
Mini-Soccer Referee Fee	£16.00
(plus Referees and Assistant Referees, expenses per mile (over 10 miles)	£ 0.20
Protest Fee	£30.00
Appeal Fee (Manchester FA for FA Standard Rules only)	£50.00
Appeal Fee (Competition Bye Laws)	£30.00

### 10. FINES TARIFF

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Failure to return a completed continuation form		£10.00
Failure to provide Team Membership Form		£20.00
Failure to provide Pitch Allocation Form		£20.00
Failure to provide completed Club membership & Club CWO forms		£20.00
Administration costs for festival / Tournament pitch hire costs		£10.00
Fielding additional players / Senior Competition Matches		£ 0.00
Failure to give priority to school activities		£15.00
Delaying the kick-off (no nets, corner flags, etc)		£10.00
Failure to play in order of precedence		£ 0.00
Withdrawal from league after the AGM		£50.00
Failure to return a league owned trophy by 31st March (minimum fine)		£25.00
(plus full cost of cleaning or repair, or replacement)		£60.00
Failure to attend Special General Meeting		£20.00
Failure to fulfil a fixtures		£15.00 3 points
Failure to attend League Meetings (per Club)	(3 a)	£10.00 2 points
Playing an ineligible player	(3 g)	£25.00 4 points
Failure to notify change of colours or inappropriate kit colour	(3 o)	£10.00 2 points
Failure to provide a completed match card	(4 f)	£10.00 2 points
Failure to provide WGS team ID sheets	(4 g)	£15.00 3 points
Failure to confirm fixture with Referee	(4 k)	£10.00 2 points
Failure to confirm fixture with opponents	(4 l)	£10.00 2 points
To publish results/grading tables for U7s to U11s (inclusive)	(5b)	£ 5.00 1 point
Failure to confirm that a set fixtures has been played	(5c)	£ 5.00 1 point
Failure to provide report for low Referees mark	(6 a)	£10.00 2 points