

WEST SUTTON LITTLE LEAGUE RULES

2025 – 2026 SEASON

1 Nomenclature and Constitution

- (A) This League shall be designated the West Sutton Little League and shall consist of one Football Club called West Sutton Little League FC (WSLL). WSLL consists of Teams formed into age groups providing FA approved youth formats as published under FA Rule C4(A) and approved by the sanctioning authority.
- (B) WSLL constitution is formed of one football club consisting of all of the teams that participate in the League and Football Club are run by one single Committee.

West Sutton Little League is registered charity (Charity number: 1002206) under the Charity Commission for England and Wales and is therefore bound by Charity law. WSLL is bound by the Constitution & Procedure defined in 2005 except where revisions have been approved as detailed in the WSLL Rules.

The WSLL Management Committee consists of:

- Chairperson
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Referees' Secretary
- Social Secretary
- One Team Manager per team
- One Assistant Manager per team

In addition, the League Management Committee may co-opt up to four further persons who may serve until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting of the League.

To facilitate the smooth running of the League the Management Committee devolved its Management responsibilities to the Executive Committee consisting of:

- Chairperson
- Vice Chairman * 2
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Referees' Secretary
- Welfare & Safeguarding Officer *2
- Football Coordinators * 6
- Social Secretary
- Disciplinary Secretary

In addition, the Executive Committee may co-opt up to four further persons who may serve until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting of the League.

The League mainly plays at a single venue.

The League and Football Club shall be affiliated to Surrey County Football Association.

The number of participating teams shall be determined by the Executive Management Committee. Teams consisting of players with two years age difference will always play in the lower age banding format.

A team name shall consist of the Football Club name followed by the age group (U10), followed by the individual Team identifying name (example: West Sutton Little League U10 Falcons. The individual names of Teams, the Coaches and Managers assigned to each Team and other required particulars shall be returned annually as part of the Affiliation process to the County Football Association.

This Little League shall apply annually for affiliation to the Surrey County Football Association(s) and the constituent teams may be grouped in divisions.

(C) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

(i) The Little League and each Member must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination.

(ii) The Little League and each Member does not and must not [by its rules or regulations or] in any manner whatsoever unlawfully discriminate against any person within the meaning and scope of the Equality Act 2010 or any law, enactment, order or regulation relating to discrimination (whether by age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise).

(iii) The Little League and each Member must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise.

(iv) Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate sanctioning Association for investigation.

(D) The Little League and its Teams shall support the FA's Respect programme. As such it recognises that everyone in football has a collective responsibility to create a fair, safe and enjoyable environment in which the game can take place. A Respect League values the courtesy and fairness by opposing players, club officials and spectators. The League and its Membership will seek to play fixtures in a fair, competitive but not antagonistic environment.

2 Membership

(A) The annual Family Membership Fee shall be set by the Management Committee. This amount is a donation and is not compulsory in that no child shall be prevented from playing football if a parent or guardian is unable to afford the stipulated sum. Such monies shall be payable to the League to cover a period of one playing season.

The League Management Committee may offer longer periods of Membership, or Life Membership, at a subscription to be determined from time to time by the League Management Committee.

Referees shall be deemed to be Individual Members without payment of the Individual Membership fee.

- (B) Membership of the Little League shall consist of Individual Members and Honorary Members.
- (C) Honorary Members are the Officers of the League and shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting of the League, in accordance with the Procedures.
- (D) Any person aged 16 years or over may apply for Individual Membership with the exception of those children participating in the benefits of the Little League.
- (E) Any Member may stand for election to the Little League Committee, or continue to hold any Committee position, except for those seeking election to, or holding the honorary positions of President and Vice Presidents.

3 Officers

- (A) The Officers of the Little League shall be determined by the Annual General Meeting and elected thereat. (*N.B.* Auditors/Verifiers are not Officers). The Management/Executive Committee may elect additional Officers (e.g. new Managers) during the course of the season.
- (B) Team Managers must meet the FA requirements regarding holding a valid DBS certificate and hold in date training certificates (e.g. Safeguarding Children). Team Managers should not run training sessions and teams until all mandated FA requirements have been met.

4 Management, Nomination, Election

- (A) The Little League shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association by a Management Committee comprised of the Officers who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The Association from time to time.
- (B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination. All other candidates for election as Officers or Members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated ahead of the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting.
- (C) The Management Committee shall meet at least quarterly and the Executive Committee will meet at least 6 times during the season.

On receiving a request signed by two-thirds of the Members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Committee.

The dates and venues for the Management and Executive Committee meetings will be notified by the League Secretary.
- (D) Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Little League and keep a record of its proceedings.

- (E) All communications received from teams must be conducted through their nominated Officers.
- (F) The Management Committee may invite individuals to become Vice Presidents of the League. Vice Presidents will be an honorary appointment and have no voting powers.

5 Powers of Management

- (A) The Executive Committee **may** appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all sub-committees shall be reported to the Executive Committee for ratification. The Executive Committee shall have power to deal with all matters within the Little League including matters of misconduct.
- (B) Each Member of the Management and Executive Committees shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management and Executive Meetings respectively and have one vote thereat, but no Member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such Member or to the Team such Member represents or where there may be a conflict of interest. (This shall apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).

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

- (C) The Management and Executive Committees shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Little League and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Little League, including any not provided for in the rules.

Breaches of rules will be managed by the Disciplinary Secretary in accordance with the Disciplinary Flow Chart as published on the League's website. Where a formal written / email charge is issued the respondent shall be given five days from the date of notice to reply to the charge and given the opportunity to:-

- (i) Accept or deny the charge
- (ii) Submit in writing a case of mitigation, or
- (iii) Put their case before the Disciplinary Committee.

Little Leagues do not issue or set any fines. The Little League shall ensure that any penalty which is issued is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

- (D) All decisions of the Management/Executive Committees shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16.

Decisions of the Disciplinary Committee must be notified in writing / email to those concerned within fourteen days.

- (E) The Management Committee require 12 members to be quorate whilst the Executive Committee requires 7 members to be quorate.
- (F) An Individual Member having failed to comply with an order or instruction of the Executive Committee or failing to satisfactorily attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Little League, shall be penalised at the discretion of the Management Committee.

- (G) Failure to comply with an order or instruction may result in the Individual Member having their Membership suspended and their child withdrawn from participating until such time the order or instruction is carried out.
- (H) The Management/Executive Committees shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Little League.
- (I) The business of the Little League as determined by the Executive Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.
 - (i) The Little League, as determined by the Management Committee, shall provide organized football at a minimal cost to children under the age of 15.
 - (ii) Provide or assist in the provision of training for those children and officials registered with the Little League.

6 Annual General Meeting

- (A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 30th June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least **twelve** Members are present and entitled to vote:-
 - (i) To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
 - (ii) To consider any business arising therefrom.
 - (iii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
 - (iv) Constitution of the Little League for the ensuing season.
 - (vi) Election of Officers and Management Committee.
 - (vii) Appointment of Auditors.
 - (viii) Alteration of Rules, if any (of which notice has been given).
 - (ix) Fix the date for the commencement of the season and kick off times applicable to the Little League.
 - (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.
- (B) A copy of the duly *audited/verified* Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be made available to Individual Member at least fourteen days prior to the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting called for the purpose, and to the Surrey County Football Association(s).
- (C) A signed copy of the duly *audited/verified* Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Little League National Executive Committee (Governing Parent Body) within fourteen days of its adoption by the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting called for the purpose.
- (D) Any Individual Member shall be empowered to attend the Annual General meeting and entitled to one vote only. Fourteen days' notice shall be given of any meeting.
- (E) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting hands unless a ballot be demanded by at least seven of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.

7 Agreement to be Signed

- (A) For each child wishing to play football at West Sutton Little League the parent or guardian will complete an electronic registration form. The registration form will include the parent's/guardian's consent to the following:
- (i) Approval of their child's participation in Little League Football activities
 - (ii) Aware that a copy of the Rules and Regulations are posted on the League's website
 - (iii) Aware that the Little League Codes of Conduct are posted on the League's website.
 - (iv) Parent/Guardian and their child(ren) agree to conform to the Rules and Regulations, Codes of Conduct and other policies as posted on the League's website.
 - (v) Parent/Guardian confirm that their child(ren) is not suffering from any health problems that may be aggravated by them playing football or training.
 - (vi) Parent/Guardian do not hold the organisers responsible for any claim arising out of injury to their child(ren) except to the extent and amount covered by the Personal Insurance Policy arranged by Little League Football.
 - (vii) Parent/Guardian consents to the League's Privacy and Data Sharing agreement.

8 Qualification of Players

- (A) (i) Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules, are not permitted in this Little League.
- (ii) No player registered with a F.A. Premier League or Football League Academy under the Elite Player Performance Plan contained within Youth Development Rules will be permitted to play in the Little League. Details of the Youth Development Rules are published on the FA web site-
- (B) A registered youth playing member of the Little League is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:-
- (i) Submitted a fully and correctly completed the Little League's electronic Registration Form, signed by his / her parent or guardian and who has been registered with the Little League prior to playing. The Form must include any known serious medical / behavioral conditions of the player and emergency contact details of the player's parents or guardians. These details must be available at matches and training events the player attends within the management of the Little League.

Only players who have submitted a completed a registration form signed by a parent / guardian can participate in League games and training.

- (C) A child who has not attained the age of six shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match of any kind.

The relevant age for each player is determined by his or her age as at midnight on 31 August of the relevant playing season in accordance with FA rules. i.e. Children who are aged 6 as at midnight on 31 August in a playing season will be classed as Under 7 players for that playing season. Children who are aged 7 as at midnight on 31 August in a playing season will be classed as an Under 8 player for that playing season, and so on.

Notwithstanding the above, a child is permitted to play up in the age group above his or her chronological age group, irrespective of any changes of format or competition structure.

The age groups that children are eligible to play in are set out in the table below, along with the permitted football formats for each of those age groups. Children shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match between sides of more than the stated number of players, according to their age group:

Age on 31 August (midnight) of the relevant playing season	Eligible Age Groups	Maximum Permitted Format
6	Under 7	5v5
7	Under 8	5v5
8	Under 9	7v7
9	Under 10	7v7
10	Under 11	9v9
11	Under 12	9v9
12	Under 13	11v11
13	Under 14	11v11

In this League any teams consisting of players with two year age banding difference will always play in the lower age banding format.

- (D) A player having taken part in matches for any Club affiliated to any County Football Association shall not be allowed to join, be transferred to, or sign with the Little League without first proving to the officials of the Little League that the player has discharged all reasonable financial liabilities to the previous Club or Clubs.
- (E) Players registration is free of charge. The Trial and Application / Registration Form shall be completed via the link on the League website.
- (F) It shall be deemed misconduct for a parent / guardian to submit a signed registration form for registration that the parent / guardian had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.
- (G) The Management Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any player subject to the provisions of clauses (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) below.
 - (i) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities. (Subject to Rule 16).
 - (ii) The Management Committee shall have power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 16) subject to the right of appeal to the FA or the relevant County Football Association.

Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a participant from being involved in the Little League. Application should be made to the parent County of the Little League.

- (iii) For a player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with clause (ii) but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Little League, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition would be empowered to consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.
- (iv) Any player not attending for three consecutive weeks or any 4 weeks across a half season without providing a satisfactory reason (playing for their school is not considered a satisfactory reason) will forfeit their team place. Managers **must talk** to the parents/guardians as to why their child has been absent before requesting they are removed from the Team.
- (v) Players may not be registered at more than one Little League at the same time.
- (vi) A player who has left the League after the teams have been selected will not be able to rejoin the League at a later date during the same season, unless there is a vacancy in the team they were in when they left and the Manager is happy for them to return. Players who leave part way through the Season will be able to apply to join the League for the following season.

(H) A register containing the names of all players registered with the Little League, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the League Secretary and shall be open to the inspection at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged.

- (I)
 - (i) Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players may have the points gained in the match deducted from its total or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
 - (ii) In addition the team may have two points deducted from its total at the discretion of the Executive Committee and may be dealt with in any further manner which is thought to be fit.
 - (iii) The Management Committee may, at its discretion, award the points available in the match in question to the opponents, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.

(J) Permanent Promotions:

Where applicable teams will be able to permanently promote a player from a lower league matching the league age of the player that has left the team. If no players are available of the same age group then a player of the alternative age group can be selected subject to the agreement of the League Secretary. E.g. For a team with U13s and U12s; with a vacancy for an U13 and no U13s are available then an U12 can be used to replace the U13. Permanent promotions may not be refused.

Allocation of permanent replacement players from the Juniors / Waiting list will be managed by the League Secretary.

No brother/sister to be promoted to an opposing team of his sibling or parent/guardian unless agreed by the family.

One weeks' notice must be given to the League Secretary and Manager for requesting a permanent replacement. This should be requested by email to the League Secretary. Such promotions are binding and take place 7 days after the receipt of the email notification.

Permanent promotions must be made not later than the last week of the first half of the season or by such date specified by the Executive Committee.

Teams running short sided for more than one week may be allocated permanent players at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Teams are not permitted to invite players from a lower league to their training sessions prior to promotion in order to "assess" their suitability.

(K) Temporary Promotions:

All temporary promotion requests must be made more than 15 minutes ahead of the scheduled kick-off time to the relevant Team Manager.

Temporary promotions can be taken from any team playing at the same time (subject to being of an appropriate age). Teams must release players if they have more than their playing squad size available and of the correct league age. A maximum of 2 players from any side can be promoted on a temporary basis.

Players who are temporary promotions must play a full game (subject to injury), even if a missing player(s) turn up later.

- (i) 11-aside teams must not be topped up to more than 11 players so as to provide substitutes.
- (ii) 9-aside teams must not be topped up to more than 9 players so as to provide substitutes.
- (iii) 7-aside teams not to be topped up to more than 7 players so as to provide substitutes.
- (iv) 5-aside teams not to be topped up to more than 5 players so as to provide substitutes.

(L) Players in full-time secondary education:-

- (i) Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations' activities.

9 Team Colours

Team colours shall be decided by the Executive Committee.

Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from other players and the referee.

No player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two teams have the same or similar colours, the last named team on the fixture shall make the change.

Bibs will be provided by the Competition should there be a need for a change of colours due to a colour clash.

Team kit sponsors may have the sponsoring company logo printed on the team kit subject to agreement by the League Secretary.

10 Playing Season, Conditions of Play, Times of Kick Off, Postponement, Substitutes

- (A) The Annual General Meeting shall determine the date for the commencement of the season.
- (B) All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board or, for Mini-Soccer and 9v9 football, the Laws as set down by The Football Association.

The Management Committee will take all reasonable precautions to arrange for the grounds to be in a playable condition. All matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee.

The Management Committee shall have power to decide whether a pitch and/or facilities are suitable for matches in the Competition.

All matches shall have a duration as set out below unless a shorter time (not less than twenty minutes) is mutually arranged by the two teams in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves.

The following table details the Competition Leagues, League age bands, playing format, substitutions and ball size

League	League Age Band	Match Time	Playing Format	Substitutions	Min players for competitive match	Ball Size
Seniors U13	U14 & U13	25 min halves	11 v 11	Half time	9 v 9	4
Wildcats * U13	U14 - U12	25 min halves	9 v 9 (If squad numbers permit)	Half time	7 v 7	4
Premiers U12	U13 & U12	25 min halves	9 v 9	Half time	7 v 7	4
Inters U11	U12 & U11	25 min halves	9 v 9	Half time	n/a	4
Colts U10	U11 & U10	25 min halves	7 v 7	Every quarter	n/a	3
Birds of Prey U10	U11 – U9	25 min halves	7 v 7	Every quarter	n/a	3
Bantams U9	U10 & U9	20 min halves	7 v 7	Every quarter	n/a	3
Cadets U8	U9 & U8	20 min halves	5 v 5	Every quarter	n/a	3
Grassroots U7	U8 & U7	TBA	3 v 3	N/A	n/a	3

Half time durations must be strictly limited to 5 minutes maximum, and 7 / 5 aside leagues doing substitutions every quarter must limit this to a quick changeover on the pitch (not a

team talk). For the 7 / 5 aside leagues the team talk takes place at 25 or 20 minutes respectively and must not be longer than 5 minutes.

Teams with players of more than one age band, the lower age band will determine the league's qualifying age band (i.e. a team with U14s and U13s is considered to be an U13 league). The Wildcats and Birds of Prey Leagues are an exception, and the middle age band will be the qualifying age band.

All cup games for the knockout stages of the competition will go to extra time (U7 / U8 – 5 minutes each way and U9 and above 7.5 minutes each way) and then penalties if the result is a draw at the end of extra time.

Mini Soccer and Power Play Rules will apply to all 5 & 7 aside teams. Mini Soccer rules can be downloaded from the FA or the Little League web site. This includes the use of power play and sin bins which supports the ethos of WSL.

Note that for the 2025/26 season deliberate heading is not permitted for U7 to U10 teams (i.e. Colts, Bantams, Cadets, Grassroots and Birds of Prey) and will be extended to U11s in the 2026/27 season. Additional information is available at <https://www.englandfootball.com/participate/learn/Brain-Health/Heading-in-Football>.

Players are not permitted to exceed the FA limits for maximum playing time in any one day as detailed below:

League Age Group	Maximum playing time in one day in all organised development fixtures (minutes)	Maximum playing time in one day in all tournaments and trophy events/festivals (minutes)
U7 & U8	40	60
U9 & U10	60	90
U11	80	120
U12	80	120
U13 & 14	100	150

For competitive League and Cup games a player can only play for one WSL team on a Saturday.

When double headers are played the teams will play 10 (U7 and U8s) or 12½ (U9s and above) minutes each way with a straight turnaround.

The League fixtures and kick-off times shall be arranged by the Management Committee. Any team failing to commence at the appointed time may be dealt with as the Management Committee may determine. The fixture times are published on the League website and the pitch must be cleared before the next game's scheduled start time, even if this means reducing the duration of the game.

Team Managers will be informed of any cancellations via Spond (League's club management and communication software solution) and the website will be updated **by 8:30am** each Saturday detailing any cancellations.

Team managers are not permitted to change or cancel fixtures. Changes to the fixtures can only be made by the Fixtures and League Secretaries and are normally as a result of circumstances beyond the League's control (e.g. weather).

Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition.

The Competition will provide footballs fit for play and the referee shall immediately report to the Competition if any footballs are unsuitable.

Goal nets and corner flags must be used.

(C) Minimum Playing Squad Sizes for competitive games (League & Cups).

- (i) 3 aside teams –can play an imbalance of 1 player (e.g. 1v2, 2v2 or 2v3)
- (ii) 5-aside teams require a minimum of 4 players.
- (iii) 7-aside teams require a minimum of 5 players.
- (iv) 9-aside teams require a minimum of 7 players.
- (v) 11-aside teams require a minimum of 9 players.

If a team fails to field a minimum squad size then they forfeit the game with the opponents being awarded a 2:0 victory. In this circumstance a friendly game should be played balancing the available players across the two teams.

(D) Substitutions:

Little league football do not use rolling substitutes. Substitutes are managed in the following way:

- (i) U13, U12 and U11 teams make their substitutions at half time only, ensuring that the same children are not substituted week on week. A substitute can return to the field of play if a player is injured and cannot continue.
- (ii) U10, teams make their substitutions at 12.5 minutes through each half of the game and at half time (ie 3 changes of substitutes) ensuring that the same children are not substituted week on week. Every effort should be made to give each player three quarters of a game, but it is permissible for a substituted player to return to the field of play.
- (iii) U9, U8 and U7 teams make their substitutions at 10 minutes through each half of the game and at half time (ie 3 changes of substitutes) ensuring that the same children are not substituted week on week. Every effort should be made to give each player three quarters of a game, and it is permissible for a substituted player to return to the field of play.

(E) Players must wear their allocated Team kit and can be prevented from playing if not wearing the appropriate kit.

In accordance with FA rules players must wear shin pads and suitable footwear. WSLL is banning the use of Micro/Mini shin pads. It is essential shin pads cover the majority of the front of the leg, between the knee and the ankle.

Jewelry of any sort must be removed for the duration of the game. Taping over of earrings is not acceptable.

Any child wearing a plaster cast cannot play football, irrespective of how well padded it is.

- (F) Team managers for the first kick off are responsible for setting up the goals, corner flags and respect lines. The managers on the last kick off are responsible for putting the goals, corner flags and respect lines away. All managers are responsible for removing any rubbish at the end of their game.
- (G) Managers are responsible for ensuring their players, players' parents/guardians and spectators behave in line with the League's code of conduct. All spectators must stand behind the respect line on one side of the pitch and not behind the goal lines. Managers and substitutes should be on the opposite touchline unless running the line.
- (H) Team Kit
Managers will be issued with the team kit and are responsible for handing it out at the start of the season and for collecting it in and returning it washed at the end of the season.

11 Reporting Results

- (A) The Results Secretary must receive within one day of the date played, the result of each Little League match.
- (B) Leagues are permitted to collect but not to publish results for fixtures they organise for U7, U8, U9 and U10 Mini Soccer and U11 matches.

12 Determining Championship

- (A) Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with two points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn match. For Cup competition games an additional point being awarded where the winner wins by two or more goals. The teams will be ranked using:
 - (i) Points
 - (ii) Goal difference
 - (iii) Goals conceded
 - (iv) Number of wins
 - (v) Playing record against each other.

Where a team wins by more than 6 goals the score recorded is limited to a 6-goal difference. For example, a team winning 12:2 will be recorded as winning 8:2.

In the case where the same team wins the league in both halves of the season but a different team finishes second in each half. The runner up will be determined by establishing which of the two runner-up teams have the better playing record for the season using the ranking detailed in 12A. Matches must not be played for double points. In Mini Soccer points can only be awarded for Under 9 Competitions onwards.

13 Referees

- (A) Registered Referees (and Assistant Referees where approved by the FA or County FA) for all matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the sanctioning Association(s).

- (B) In cases where there are no officially appointed Assistant Referees, or where the Competition has been unable to appoint a Referee, the teams shall agree upon a Referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee.
- It will be acceptable to allow each team to provide an individual to officiate thereby allowing each person to referee one half of the match each. Where the referee is not appointed by the league then the referee must not provide any on field coaching.
- If there is no officially appointed referee then no additional time will be added for injury time.
- (C) Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee
- (D) The appointed Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and the decision shall be final subject to either in the case of a ground of a Local Authority or the owners of a ground, the Representative of that body is the sole arbiter and whose decision must be accepted unless the ground is declared fit for play.
- (E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the sanctioning Association Match Officials appointed under this Rule normally offer their services to this Competition for free.
- (F) A Referee not keeping his or her engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Association with which he or she is registered.
- (G) The Referee shall submit a report form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the match, the number of players in each team and the time of kick-off to the Results Secretary immediately after the match.
- (H) Referees and Assistant Referees shall be supplied, each Season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.
- (I) Referees shall have undertaken a Respect briefing offered by the FA/County FA.
- (J) The League will offer to pay for a Referees kit or course fees if they are still in full time education in exchange for refereeing one season at West Sutton Little League.

14 Protests & Complaints

- (A) All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Executive Management Committee.
- The Competition will use the Discipline process (flow chart) as published on the League's website to enable disciplinary issues to be dealt with quickly and efficiently.
- Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match.
- (B) Any dispute occurring between Teams in the Competition shall be referred for determination by the Disciplinary Committee whose decision shall be binding upon all parties subject to Rule 15.

- (C) All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.
- (i) All parties must have received two days' notice of the Hearing should they be instructed to attend.
- (ii) Should an individual or team manager elect to state their case in person then they should indicate such when forwarding the written response.

15 Board of Appeal

Little Leagues Association & County FA

- (A) Within 14 days of the posting of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee, a team, Individual Member or Player against whom action is taken may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars with the Secretary of the National Little Leagues Association, for adjudication of a Board of Appeal. The grounds of appeal shall be in accordance with FA Rules. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned.
- (B) No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an Annual or Special General Meeting unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

16 Exclusion of Individual Members, Misconduct, Teams, Officials, Players

- (A) At the Annual General Meeting, or Special General Meeting called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 18, Notice of Motion having been duly circulated on the Agenda, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude any Individual Member, Team, Official or player from further membership which must be supported by (more than) two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot.
- (B) Any official or Individual Member, or player of a team proved guilty of a breach of Rule, other than field offences, shall be liable to expulsion or such penalty as Executive Committee may decide.

17 Trophy:- Legal Owners and Conditions of Taking Over

- (A) At the close of each Competition awards may/shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Little League permit.

The venue and format of the presentations will be decided by the League Secretary and League Coordinators.

18 Special General Meeting

- (A) Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the Membership the Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting.

The Executive Committee may call a Special General Meeting at any time.

At least seven days notice shall be given of either meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.

Each Individual Member shall be entitled to attend all Special General Meetings. Each Individual Member shall be entitled to one vote only, as will members of the Executive Committee.

Individual Members, Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all Special General Meetings.

19 Alterations to Rules

- (A) Alterations, shall be made to these Rules at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 19. Any alteration made during the playing season to the Rule relating to the qualification of players shall not take effect until the following season.

The Executive Committee is permitted to make rule changes mid-season if deemed necessary for the smooth running of the whole league or any one section. Mid-season rule changes will be communicated to all team managers and ratified at the next AGM or EAGM.

20 Finance

- (A) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.
- (B) All expenditure in excess of £500 shall be approved by the Executive Committee. Cheques or online banking expenditure shall be signed/authorised by at two Officers nominated by the Management Committee. If expenditure is required between committee meetings then the Chair and Vice Chair can approve expenditure in excess of £500.
- (C) The financial year of the West Sutton Little League will end on 31st March.
- (D) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of the Little League shall be prepared and shall be verified annually by some suitable person(s) who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

21 Insurance

- (A) The Competition must have public liability insurance cover of at least ten million pounds (£10,000,000)

22 Dissolution

- (A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a Special General Meeting by a majority of three quarters of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant Special General Meeting.
- (B) In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.

- (C) The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:
- (i) Any surplus assets, save for a Trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Little League shall be transferred only to another Competition or Affiliated Association or The Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the sanctioning Association.
 - (ii) If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a Trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the Donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the sanctioning Association may decide.