

THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL RESERVE LEAGUE CONSTITUTION AND RULES

1. TITLE

This combination of clubs shall be known as “The Scottish Football Reserve League”.

2. OBJECTS

The object of The Scottish Football Reserve League (hereinafter “League”) is to provide Competitions at Reserve level for its members and for this purpose it shall make such arrangements as are deemed desirable subject to the permission of The Scottish Football Association.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to the Reserve teams of all First, Second and Third Division clubs of The Scottish Football League.

4. CONTROL

The League shall be governed by The Scottish Football League’s Board or Committee of Management (hereinafter “Board”). The Board shall have full power in all matters concerning the League and its Competitions and its decisions shall be binding on all clubs in League membership, subject to the right of appeal provided by the terms of Rule 45 (*Appeals Procedure*) of The Rules of The Scottish Football League and Articles 66 and 133.1 of the Articles of Association of The Scottish Football Association. Words and phrases defined in The Scottish Football League Rules shall have the same meaning in these Rules.

RESERVE LEAGUE COMPETITION RULES

5. COMPETITIONS

- 5.1** The Board shall in each season conduct and control a Competition to be called “The Scottish Football Reserve Division (East and West Sections)” in which all clubs in the respective Divisions will play each other. These Competitions will commence on the opening date of the playing season and will be completed by 15th May or any approved extension to the playing season.
- 5.2** Any match which, for any reason, is not completed may be regarded as a completed match or may be replayed for the full 90 minutes, at the sole discretion of the Board.

6. FIXTURES

- 6.1** The format of The Scottish Football Reserve Division (East and West Sections) and the programme of fixtures shall be decided annually by the Board, taking into account the number of clubs participating in each section in the season in question.
- 6.2** The list of fixtures compiled by the Chief Executive shall be approved by the Board and all clubs shall be bound to fulfil them as scheduled, except when permission is obtained for a variation.
- 6.3** The dates on which fixtures shall be played shall be arranged by the Board. The hour of kick-off shall be agreed mutually by the clubs concerned.

7. CHAMPION CLUBS

- 7.1** In the Sectional Competitions, the club gaining the highest number of points - three points shall be awarded for a win and one point for a draw - shall be awarded a trophy or other award determined by the Board. If two or more clubs are equal on points, the winner shall be decided by goal difference. In the event of the goal difference also being equal, the club scoring the highest number of goals will be deemed the winner. Should the clubs score the same number of goals, however, they shall play a deciding game or games in such manner and under such conditions as the Board may decide.
- 7.2** The winners of The Scottish Football Reserve Division (East and West Sections) will each be presented with a trophy which must be returned when required by the League in like good order and condition in which it was received. The winners in both Sections will also receive such awards as the Board may decide.

7.3 It shall be the responsibility of the winning clubs to arrange appropriate insurance cover for the trophies throughout the period when they are held by the clubs.

8. ADMISSION MONIES

The Home Club in all matches shall retain the entire gate receipts and pay all necessary expenses in the running of the match with the exception of the match officials' fees and expenses, which shall be paid by The Scottish Football League.

9. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

9.1 In The Scottish Football Reserve Division (East and West Sections) matches, clubs may play an unlimited number of trialist players, provided that the club, where applicable, has sought and obtained the written permission of the player's minor grade club on each occasion that it wishes to play him, and that the player is otherwise eligible to participate in the match.

9.2 Clubs playing a player in these circumstances must indicate the fact by adding the words "not registered" after such player's name and address, place and date of birth, previous club, and the country in which he last played in the list of players to be handed to the referee prior to the match.

9.3 In The Scottish Football Reserve Division (East and West Sections), a player may participate as a trialist in any number of matches, subject to him being otherwise eligible to do so.

9.4 The terms of Scottish Football League Rule 123 (*Transfer/Temporary Transfer of Registration During Currency of Contract*) with regard to the eligibility of players who are temporarily transferred shall similarly apply to The Scottish Football Reserve Division (East and West Sections) Competition.

9.5 If a player participates in a Scottish Football Reserve League (East and West Sections) match, such player being ineligible to play in the match as a result of his suspension by The Scottish Football Association or for any other reason, the club for which the player participates in The Scottish Football Reserve Division (East and West Sections) match shall be liable to such penalty as the Board may decide.

RESERVE LEAGUE CUP COMPETITION RULES

10. FORMAT

- 10.1** The Board shall organise a Reserve League Cup Competition which is open to all members of The Scottish Football League.
- 10.2** The format of the Reserve League Cup Competition will be at the discretion of the Board and intimated to clubs on an annual basis. In all rounds of the Competition which are played on a knock-out basis, if the scores are equal at the end of the ninety minutes, an extra thirty minutes will be played and, if still undecided, the winner shall be ascertained by taking kicks from the penalty mark as laid down by the International Football Association Board.
- 10.3** All ties will be played on dates decided by the Board. The venue for the Final Tie will be decided by the Board.
- 10.4** The Board shall have full power to conduct and control the Competition and amend the Competition Rules as appropriate.

11. ADMISSION MONIES AND SHARE OF GATE

- 11.1** In the Reserve League Cup Competition, after deduction of 15% to cover match expenses to be retained by the Home or ground Club, any proceeds will be divided on a 50/50 basis.
- 11.2** Unless it is mutually agreed beforehand by the clubs concerned to waive admission charges, the minimum ground admission charges in all matches shall be £1.00 for adults and 50 pence for juveniles/senior citizens.

12. TROPHY

- The winners of the Reserve League Cup shall hold the trophy and when it is handed over to the winner, that Club shall grant an obligation to return same to the Chief Executive if and when required and in any case prior to the commencement of the next season's Competition in the like good order and condition in which it was received.
- 12.1** It shall be the responsibility of the winning Club to arrange appropriate insurance cover for the trophy throughout the period when it is held by the Club.
- 12.2** The winners and runners-up in the Competition will receive such awards as the Board may decide.

13. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- 13.1** In all Reserve League Cup matches, a minimum number of six players, registered in accordance with Article 100 of the Articles of Association of The Scottish Football Association, must be used. The balance of the players required in the match may comprise trialist players, provided that the club, where applicable, has sought and obtained the written permission of the player's minor grade club on each occasion that it wishes to play him, and that the player is otherwise eligible to participate in the match.
- 13.2** No club shall play, or list as a named substitute, any player who, in the same season, has already played or been a named substitute for another club in the Competition.
- 13.3** Clubs playing trialists must indicate the fact by adding the words "not registered" after such player's name and address, place and date of birth, previous club, and the country in which he last played in the list of players to be handed to the referee prior to the match.
- 13.4** It shall be the responsibility of each club participating in the competition to ensure that its players are eligible to play in any Reserve League Cup match.
- 13.5** If a player participates in a Reserve League Cup match, such player being ineligible to play in the Cup match as a result of his suspension by The Scottish Football Association or for any other reason, the club for which the player participates in the Reserve League Cup match shall be liable to such penalty as the Board may decide.
- 13.6** Any club infringing this Rule 13 may be disqualified from the Competition and the tie awarded to its opponents.
- 13.7** The terms of Scottish Football League Rule 123 (*Transfer/Temporary Transfer of Registration During Currency of Contract*) with regard to the eligibility of players who are temporarily transferred shall similarly apply to the Reserve League Cup Competition.

GENERAL

14. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

- 14.1** All The Scottish Football Reserve Division (East and West Sections) and Reserve League Cup matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game and the Rules of The Scottish Football League.
- 14.2** Disciplinary matters relating to field offences shall be dealt with in accordance with the Disciplinary Procedures of The Scottish Football Association.

15. REGISTERED GROUND

- 15.1** All The Scottish Football Reserve Division (East and West Sections) and Reserve League Cup matches must be played at a club's registered ground or at a designated ground which has a playing surface, floodlighting and changing accommodation that is of an acceptable standard to The Scottish Football League.
- 15.2** It should also be noted that The Scottish Football Reserve Division (East and West Sections) and Reserve League Cup matches will be permitted to be played on artificial grass surfaces.

16. SUBSTITUTE PLAYERS

- 16.1** Clubs may field substitutes in any Scottish Football Reserve Division (East and West Sections) or Reserve League Cup match, in accordance with the terms of Scottish Football League Rule 104 (*Substitute Players and Lists of Players to be handed to Referee*).
- 16.2** Substitutions can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the referee has given permission.
- 16.3** Should any nominated player or substitute sustain an injury or due to extenuating circumstances be unable to participate after the submission of the list of players to the referee and prior to kick-off, he may be replaced at the discretion of the referee provided the opponents are informed prior to kick-off. Any alterations made to a completed list of players pursuant to Rule 17 below must be formally endorsed in writing by an Official and signed by the referee as evidence of his consent pursuant to this Rule 16.3.

17. LIST OF PLAYERS TO BE HANDED TO REFEREE

Clubs must hand copies of a list of names of players participating in any Scottish Football Reserve Division (East and West Sections) or Reserve League Cup match to the referee and a representative of its opponents in the presence of the referee in accordance with the terms of Scottish Football League Rule 104 (*Substitute Players and Lists of Players to be handed to Referee*).

18. ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISITING CLUBS

The Home or ground Club shall forward to the visiting club ten complimentary tickets for the Directors' Box seven days prior to the date of all The Scottish Football Reserve Division (East and West Sections) or Reserve League Cup matches (unless circumstances do not permit this). No Official or player of the visiting club shall be entitled to enter the home club's ground etc. without a ticket.

19. REPORTS OF RESULTS

19.1 Clubs must forward to the Chief Executive within three days of each match, the full names of all players who took part in any Scottish Football Reserve Division (East and West Sections) or Reserve League Cup match, together with the result. Clubs failing to comply, or making any error therein or any omissions therefrom shall be liable to such penalty as the Board may decide.

19.2 Notwithstanding the terms of Rule 19.1, teamlines for all The Scottish Football Reserve League (East and West Sections) and Reserve League Cup matches must be submitted to The Scottish Football League by telefax or any other electronic means by 11.00 a.m. on the day following the tie or the match.

20. MATCH OFFICIALS

20.1 Match Officials shall be appointed by The Scottish Football Association for all The Scottish Football Reserve Division (East and West Sections) and Reserve League Cup matches.

20.2 The Scottish Football League shall pay the fees and expenses of all match officials appointed to officiate at all The Scottish Football Reserve Division (East and West Sections) and Reserve League Cup matches.

21. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

Any matter not provided for in these Rules shall be subject to the decision of the Board, taking into account the provisions of Rule 4 above entitled "Control".