



# COMPETITION RULES

## Competition Format

- 8 teams in each division \*
- 14 week league season, playing each team twice \*
- 3pts for a win, 1pt for a draw, 0pts for a defeat. 0-0 win will be awarded to the opposition for any forfeited game
- Each team will only play one game on any one league night \*
- No fixtures will be played on weeks containing Bank Holiday Mondays\*\*
- A full fixture programme including kick off times will be sent to each team three days prior to the start of the league. All fixtures, results, tables and other league information can then be found on the FA's leagues administration website via [www.NorfolkFA.com](http://www.NorfolkFA.com). No further fixture information will be sent via the post.

\*(subject to number of entries)

\*\* (subject to postponements, this may be required)

## Before each fixture you must ensure you:.....

- Complete and hand in your completed team sheet to the **County 5IVES** League coordinator
- Pay your full match fee of £25 to your **County 5IVES** League coordinator
- Register/deregister any players with your **County 5IVES** League coordinator

## Match information

- Fixtures are 20 minutes each half
- Teams must identify a team captain who must wear the captain's armband in each fixture (**County 5IVES** will provide your armband free of charge)
- **The County 5IVES Coordinator has the right to ask any spectators to leave the playing area at anytime. Refusal to leave may result in their team forfeiting the match and the person involved reported to Norfolk County FA**
- Team managers will receive kick off times for all matches three days prior to the start of the league
- All matches will kick off at the stipulated kick off time, all matches have a 45 minute time slot which must be adhered to
- **If any teams are late for their allotted kick off time the following regulations will come into force:**
  - **1 - 5 minutes late = 1-0 start for opposition**
  - **6 - 10 minutes late = 2-0 start for opposition**
  - **11 - 15 minutes late = match forfeited, 0-0 win to opposition and late team liable for both teams full match fees**
- Please ensure you arrive at the playing area at least 10 minutes before your scheduled fixture kick off time, referees have been instructed to kick off at the allotted times

- A maximum of 3 named substitutes are permitted per match, however the 3 named substitutes are continuously allowed to roll on roll off with the referees permission, only when there is a break in play
- A Golden Boot award will be given at each league venue for the top goal scorer. It is the team captain's responsibility to ensure that all goal scorers are given to the League Coordinator after the fixture. Failure to do so may mean these goals not being recorded

### **Player's equipment**

- All players must wear the same colour jerseys except for the goalkeeper who must be easily distinguishable from the rest of the team - bibs can be provided
- **No new teams playing in any County 5IVES league shall play in predominately black or navy or dark blue shirts or any coloured shirt that does not distinguish players from the referee. All current teams playing in black kits must phase them out by the end of the 2008 Summer Leagues**
- All players must wear shin guards that must be covered entirely by the socks and must provide a reasonable degree of protection

### **Player registration**

- All players in **County 5IVES** must be 16 years of age or over
- All players must be registered. No unregistered players will be able to participate in any fixture
- **All teams must register a minimum of 8 players and a maximum of 15 players at any time during the season**
- Players can be registered and deregistered up to and including week 10 of the current League season, the Management Group has the power to change this. Each request will be decided on its own individual merit
- All new players are required to fully complete a new player registration form and hand it in to the **County 5IVES** League Coordinator prior to the start of the fixture they wish to be participate in
- Any team caught playing unregistered, suspended or underage players will have the match forfeited and a 0-0 win awarded to the opposition
- Players must have played a part in at least 8 matches to receive any league awards
- The **County 5IVES** Management Group has the right to suspend or withdraw any player or team registration from any **County 5IVES** leagues

### **Discipline**

- Each team will receive, and must sign up to and agree to abide by the **County 5IVES** competition rules and code of conduct which must be adhered to at all times; failure to comply with the competition rules and code of conduct may result in your team being disqualified from the league

- All matches will be officiated by qualified, NCFA registered referees who have attended the FA Small Sided Referees Conversion course
- Blue card = 5 minute sin bin
- 2<sup>nd</sup> blue card in the same match = red card and send off
- Red card = automatic send off
- Any red card carrying a suspension of 35 days or more will be registered at the County FA and the standard disciplinary action will apply
- Any player or club official reported for any acts of misconduct will be administered accordingly through the standard FA disciplinary procedures
- Participants serving any suspension from playing affiliated football will not be permitted to play **County 5IVES** during their suspension period
- The referee has sole charge of proceedings during any fixture
- The referee's decision is final

## **Disciplinary procedures and punishments**

### **Team Disciplinary Penalty Points**

- All teams will be subject to the **County 5IVES** disciplinary penalty points threshold
- All misconduct offences will carry disciplinary points
- Every blue card will carry 1 penalty point
- Red card offences carry varying points
- The penalty points tables for blue and red card offences are listed on the following two pages

**The following team threshold system is now in place;**

	<b>Punishment</b>
<b>12 or more Disciplinary Points (in one 14 week season)</b>	£25.00 fine plus £8.00 admin fee
<b>Over 20 Disciplinary Points (in one 14 week season)</b>	Appear before County 5IVES Management Group to answer charges of misconduct, fine not exceeding £100

## Blue Cards

- Any player receiving a blue card before, during or after a fixture will have their name taken by the official and will be recorded by the **County 5IVES** Coordinator. The following disciplinary procedures will be applied for any players receiving;

	Suspension	Admin Fee	Penalty Points
Blue Card (per player)	5 Minute Sin bin	-	1
2 <sup>nd</sup> blue card in the same match	Red card and sent off. 1 Match (County 5IVES only)	£8.00	2
A total of 4 blue cards in a 14 week season	1 Match (County 5IVES only)	£8.00	0
A total of 8 blue cards in a 14 week season	2 Matches (County 5IVES only)	£8.00	0

- The **County 5IVES** Coordinator will inform the team manager when the suspension relating to blue card offences will take effect

## Red Cards

- A player receiving a red card before, during or after a fixture or reported for acts of misconduct will be subject to the following disciplinary punishments.

	Suspension	Fine (£)	Penalty Points
Denying a goal or obvious goal scoring opportunity	1 Match (County 5IVES only)	£15.00 plus £8.00 admin fee	2
Attempting to kick or strike another player	2 Matches (County 5IVES only)	£15.00 plus £8.00 admin fee	3
Attempting to head butt	2 Matches (County 5IVES only)	£15.00 plus £8.00 admin fee	3
Use of offensive or insulting or abusive language or gestures	2 Matches (County 5IVES only)	£15.00 plus £8.00 admin fee	3
Serious foul play	3 Matches (County 5IVES only)	£15.00 plus £8.00 admin fee	3
Violent Conduct	35 days from all football	£25.00 plus £8.00 admin fee	4
Kicking or striking another player	35 days from all football	£25.00 plus £8.00 admin fee	4
Head to head contact	42 days from all football	£30.00 plus £8.00 admin fee	4
Use of offensive or insulting or abusive language or gestures directed at match officials*	35 days from all football	£25.00 plus £8.00 admin fee	4
Violent head to head butting	112 days from all football	£75.00 plus £8.00 admin fee	7
Spitting or similar unseemly behaviour direct at an opponent or any other person (not at a match official)	112 days from all football	£50.00 plus £8.00 admin fee	4

\*also applies to County 5IVES officials

## Appeals

- Any player receiving a suspension of 35 days or over will have the right to request a personal hearing in accordance with FA regulations. The procedures will be detailed on the acknowledgment of misconduct / standard charge form sent to you by Norfolk County FA

### **Cancellations, postponements and re-arrangements**

- All games will be played as per the fixture lists published on [www.NorfolkFA.com](http://www.NorfolkFA.com)
- Postponements are not permitted
- **If a team cancels a fixture they will be liable for the following three strike system**

<b>Strike 1</b>	<b>First cancellation</b>	<b>Lose deposit (covers opponent's match fee) and liable for team's match fee (£25) and 0-0 win to opposition</b>
<b>Strike 2</b>	<b>Second cancellation</b>	<b>Liable for both team's match fees (£50), a 0-0 win to opposition and 3 point penalty</b>
<b>Strike 3</b>	<b>Third cancellation</b>	<b>Liable for both team's match fees (£50), 0-0 win to opposition and expulsion from the County <b>5IVES</b> League</b>

- **A team may cancel a fixture 7 days prior to kick off. If a team does cancel 7 days before their fixture they will only be liable for their own match fee**
- In an event where a team is unable to play, **County 5IVES** will endeavour to organise a fixture for their opposition, this match will be played in a non competitive nature with the league result standing at a 0-0 win
- If **County 5IVES** are unable to organise a fixture, the team may use the pitch free of charge for the duration of their scheduled fixture

### **League withdrawals and replacements**

- If a team withdraws or is disqualified at any point during a league period, **County 5IVES** will attempt to replace them. Any new team will inherit the points total, league position and remaining fixtures of the team they are replacing
- Any team that withdraws or is disqualified from the league will lose their final game deposit
- If **County 5IVES** cannot find a replacement team, all fixtures involving the removed team will stand as a 0-0 win to the opposition

### **Payment details**

- Teams are required to fulfil all league fixtures and are liable to pay the match fee whether the game is played or not. Failure to turn up for the game will result in the team being subject to the following conditions and payment regulations:
  - The team who cancelled or failed to turn up will be charged the cost of their teams full match fee and lose their final match deposit to cover their opponents full match fee (if not cancelled 7 days in advance)

- Failure to make payment will result in a team being disqualified from the league and all registered players suspended from all affiliated football until the debt is paid in full
- Should a game be abandoned before 32 minutes have been played with neither team at fault, a full length replay will be arranged free of charge. If the game has been in progress longer than 32 minutes then the result will stand, with no replay
- The match fee must be paid in full to the **County 5IVES** League coordinator prior to the start of every fixture. Failure to do this may result in the match being forfeited
- The final match of the league will be covered by the team's deposit which will be paid on joining **County 5IVES**; however teams are advised to bring this match fee on the final evening as it can be used to secure their place in the following season's campaign

### **Insurance**

- All registered **County 5IVES** participants will be covered for Personal Accident insurance whilst participating in **County 5IVES** fixtures. This is additional to the Public Liability insurance cover already incorporated into the competition. The protection and well being of all the players within **County 5IVES** is important to the Norfolk County FA, and this additional cover should confirm the commitment we are showing to provide the highest quality of Small Sided provision throughout the County.

### **The Venues**

- All venues operate to a strict policy regarding floodlights. All matches must be completed in their allotted time slots. Floodlights automatically turn off at a set time. Punctuality is a must
- Shower and changing facilities are available at all venues, with social facilities available at the Acle league

### **County 5IVES** Administrator contact details:

**Name:** Shaun Howes  
**Telephone:** 01603 704050  
**Email:** County5IVES@NorfolkFA.com  
**Address:** Norfolk County FA  
 11 Meridian Way  
 Thorpe St Andrew  
 Norwich  
 Norfolk, NR7 0TA

### Disclaimer

NCFA and the **County 5IVES management** have the right to change and/or amend the rules within this information pack. In line with FA regulations, should any changes be made clubs will be made aware prior to them being implemented