

# Aberystwyth and District Junior League

June 2023

## League Rules for the 2023-2024 Season

1. The name of the League is “Aberystwyth & District Junior Football League”.
2. The League is registered as a charity under the name “Aberystwyth Mini Minors Association”.
3. The Executive Committee will look after the interests of the Junior League, who will be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

### 4. **Membership**

Clubs must comply with the FAW Club Accreditation Scheme and have clear player, coach and parent code of conducts in line with those advocated by the FAW. Likewise clubs should adhere to Safeguarding and Equality policies promoted by the FAW and adopted by the Junior League. Every club should have their own Club Privacy Policy in line with the General Data Protection Regulations May 2018.

### 5. **Registration**

Clubs wishing to enter sides into the Junior League will need to affiliate with the Central Wales Football Association (CWFA) by the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023.

Clubs will need to confirm team details to the Junior League by Friday 25th August 2023. All team entry forms must include details of coaches that will run teams on match days. All coaches must have a valid DBS certificate and FAW number.

A team list must be submitted to the Junior League prior to the start of the season setting out player names and the school year of the player. For 2023-2024, teams will be required to pay a £20 team entry fee for the season.

All players must be registered through the FAW COMET System prior to playing in the Junior League. Team will be requested to submit reports to the Junior League confirming players have been registered prior to playing. Teams must advise the Junior League that new players have been registered before they play. There is a standard FAW registration fee for registering players, this is payable through the COMET System.

Player fees for the 2023-2024 Season are £25. Should additional fees be required proposals these will presented to extra-ordinary meeting of

the Junior League. Otherwise, fee increases will be agreed at the Annual General Meeting.

All fees must be paid to the Junior League prior to the season starting on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (fees will need to be paid on the 9<sup>th</sup> to play on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023). After this date, teams will not be able to use players who have not paid their fees. Managers will need to advise the league of new players after this date and pay the relevant fee prior to playing.

A player can only be registered for one team.

A player can freely transfer up until the 31<sup>st</sup> March (subject to completing FAW transfer forms) and thereafter only by consent of the Area Association.

#### **6. Registration of a Player after the Season has started**

A team may sign new players at any time in the season. All new players will need to register through the FAW COMET System and pay the registration (through COMET System) and playing fees (to the Junior League) prior to playing.

#### **7. A Team pulls out of the League**

If a club or team ceases to exist during a season, all matches will be void and the League tables will be adjusted. Players previously registered with that team will become free agents for transfer to another team at any time.

#### **8. Discipline**

##### On the field of play

Where coaches are officiating (refereeing) matches, they must adhere to the Laws of the Game & Small Sided Football Regulations at all times.

If a player commits an offence that the officiating coach deems is equal to a 'Yellow Card' offence, then the officiating coach can remove the player from the game for a cooling down period i.e. substitution, if the officiating coach deems it appropriate, but he must explain to the player and the player's coach why the player has been removed.

As this offence is deemed to be the equivalent of a 'Yellow Card' then the player's coach is entitled to replace the player with a substitute player.

The player that has committed the 'Yellow Card' offence can return to the field of play as a rolling substitute but only if both coaches agree that it is appropriate for him to return.

If the player then commits a further offence which the officiating coach deems is equal to a second 'Yellow Card' offence, then the officiating coach can again remove the player from the game, this time on a permanent basis i.e. Sending Off, but the coach must again explain to the player and the player's coach why he has taken this action. In this event the player's coach MAY NOT replace him with a Substitute player

If a player commits an offence that the officiating coach deems is equal to an immediate 'Red Card' offence, then the officiating coach can remove the player from the game but must explain to the player's coach and the player why he has done so. This player MUST NOT be permitted to return to the field of play and MAY NOT be replaced by a substitute player.

If a player commits two 'Yellow Card' offences in the same match his coach should ensure that the player serves a one match ban. If the same player commits a further two Yellow Card offences in a future match during the same season, then he must serve a one match ban for the offence plus a further one match ban for it being the second time that he has committed this offence. i.e. a two match ban

If a player commits a 'Red Card' offence for serious foul play, violent conduct, spitting, abusive language, etc then the player must serve a three-match ban. If the same player repeats this offence in the same season, then he must serve a three match ban plus a one match ban for it being his second 'Red Card' offence during the same season i.e. a four match ban.

### Off the field of play

Issues that arise off the field should be reported to the League. Initially Club Welfare Officers will be encouraged to consider the issues and see if they can address them satisfactorily between themselves.

Where Club Welfare Officers cannot address the issue or the issue is deemed necessary for the Junior League to intervene immediately, the League Welfare Officer will liaise with the Club Welfare Officers and if necessary, set up a Disciplinary Panel (made up of at least three Executive Committee members) to consider evidence from all parties who will be invited to attend. Evidence can be submitted in writing or in person.

The Disciplinary Panel will then decide on the matter and report back its findings to the parties involved.

Any party has the right to appeal against the decision to the CWFA.

In cases where there is misconduct the issue will be passed to the CWFA to deal with.

9. **Changing Rooms**

If changing room are being used, whether home or away, it is the responsibility of every team manager to ensure that the room is left in a clean state.

10. **Home Club Responsibilities**

- MUST supply a football of good standard and correct size (Size 3 for U7s and U9s, Size 4 for U11s and 13s, and size 5 for U15s and U17s)

The home team should referee the game at U13, U15 and U17 level. At U7, U9 and U11 level coaches should act as game leaders from the side of the pitch.

All managers are expected to accept the decision of the referee.

11. **Result Sheets**

Coaches are asked to email or text results for the U13, U15 and U17 competitive matches to the Fixture Secretary on match days.

The name of the referee should be placed on all team sheets.

12. **Fixtures**

All games must be played on the League fixture dates unless postponed due to weather.

Clubs or teams who are unable to fulfil their fixture will forfeit 3 points to the opposition. The match will be recorded at a 3-0 win to the other team.

Some flexibility will be granted to teams who want to play their games in advance or by the Wednesday following the due fixture date. All changes must be agreed in advance with the Chairman (or nominated Executive Members in his/her absence).

13. **A Team fails to turn up for a game**

A team cancelling a game at short notice i.e. 48 hours before the KO time will be charged for the hire costs of the pitch. The offending team will lose three points from the League table and the opposing team will

be awarded three points. The offending team will be charged if an official referee had been appointed to supervise this game.

#### 14 **Number of Players**

Teams should start with the following number of players in respective age groups:

Under 7, 9, 11 and 13s must comply with FAW Small Sided Football Regulations.

Under 7s	4 players (Max Match Day Squad – 8 players)
Under 9s	5 players (Max 10 on Match Day)
Under 11s	7 players (Max 14 on Match Day)
Under 13s	9 players (Max 18 on Match Day)
Under 15s	11 players (Max 20 on Match Day)
Under 17s	11 players (Max 20 on Match Day)

**All squad players must play 50% of game time at all levels.**

All matches must have equal numbers on each side at all times unless a player has been dismissed from the field of play. If one side turns up with less players than above the opposing side should reduce the number of players in their side. Teams at U13 level should however have a minimum of 7 players, at U15 and U17 a minimum of 9 players.

#### 15. **Venue for Games**

All games are to be played at venues specified in the fixture list. No changes are to be made without the approval of the Chairman (or nominated Executive members in his/her absence)

#### 16. **Age Groupings**

Eligibility for age groups is based on academic years, as follows:

U7s	Years 1 & 2
U9s	Years 3 & 4
U11s	Years 5 & 6
U13s	Years 7 & 8
U15s	Years 9 & 10
U17s	Years 11 & 12

#### 17. **Duration of League Match**

U7s	10 minutes per game (Round Robin Fixtures)
U9s	15 minutes per game (Round Robin Fixtures)
U11s	20 minutes per game (Round Robin Fixtures)

U13s	35 minutes each way (can play 30mins)
U15s games	35 minutes each way
U17s games	40 minutes each way

All games must start on time. No allowance will be given at any time. Please adhere to the fixture list.

## 18. **Substitute Players**

For U13, U15 and U17 age groups teams any number of substitutions are allowed and players are allowed back on the field of play if the manager so wishes. Substitutions will be allowed on a roll on roll off basis.

## 19 **Basic Rules for Play**

All players, at all levels, must wear shin pads. Players who are not wearing shin pads will be required to leave the field. At all levels, where there is a goal margin of more than 8 goals is reached, managers should end the game and swap players around. Where scores are kept (U13s, 15s and 17s) the score line when this is reached is the one that should be recorded e.g. 8-0, 9-1, 11-3 etc.

### Under 7s (Years 1&2), U9s (Years 3&4) and U11s (years 5&6)

Players must be Primary School pupils.

No limit to the number of players you can sign on.

Football at this level will be organised, as far as practical, in accordance with the FAW Small Sided Football Regulations.

### Under 13s (Years 7&8 only)

Each team should consist of 9 players and maximum match day squad of 18. Players can be used on a roll on / roll off basis. Football at this level is non-competitive and played in line with the FAW Small Sided Football Regulations

### Under 15's (Years 9&10 only)

Each team should consist of 11 players and max match day squad of 20 players. Players can be used on a roll on / roll off basis. There is however no limit on the number of players who can be part of the squad. Normal FAW rules apply

### Under 17s (Years 11&12 only)

Each team should consist of 11 players and max match day squad of 20 players. Players can be used on a roll on / roll off basis. There is however no limit on the number of players who can be part of the squad. Games are to be played in compliance with FAW Laws of the Game

#### **20. Managers and / or Team Coaches**

The manager takes full responsibility for the conduct of his or her team.

All managers / coaches must be qualified to run a team. The minimum requirement is a FAW Leader Award.

If a Manager / coach of a team is unavailable on a match day, another suitably qualified coach should cover on the day.

All coaches and others directly involved in organising teams must have a valid DBS (Disclosure Barring System) check. Teams should have sufficient back up to ensure a qualifying person can run a Saturday in the absence of the regular coach. If they cannot, they must postpone (forfeit) the game. (Note: Parents who help through refereeing must have a DBS),

#### **21. Tournaments, Competitions or Similar Events**

All players in the Junior League are obliged to play for a Representative team if chosen unless there are exceptional circumstances. Team managers should encourage players chosen to represent the League wherever possible rather than select them for club games.

The Representative team should have first choice on a player for a tournament or competition and Junior League managers should respect and support the league where players have been chosen.

Squad sizes are unlimited to enable teams to fulfil fixtures when players have been selected for these games.

#### **22. The Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee is made up of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Honorary Vice President(s), President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Registration Secretary, Fixture and Results Secretary, Press Officer, Girls Football Co-ordinator, CWFA Representative(s) and Executive Support.

They are the persons elected into office at the Annual General Meeting and are responsible for running the Junior League for the following year.

They will decide whether to extend or reduce the number of games in the League.

They ensure that fixtures are arranged and pitches are available.

They will deal with any matter not covered by a particular rule once it is brought to their attention.

Other managers may be co-opted onto the Executive during the year to assist with the running of the league or to assist with any new initiatives or work.

In order to minimise costs all league correspondence should be conducted via e-mail unless a manager specifically asks otherwise.