

RULES OF THE MONTGOMERYSHIRE AMATEUR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

1. The League shall be called “The J.T. Hughes Montgomeryshire Amateur League”. The affairs of the League shall be governed by a Management Committee consisting of the President, Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. All to be elected at the AGM.
2. **Structure and Membership**
 - 2.1 Clubs shall be affiliated to the CWFA and the affiliation fee must be paid electronically via COMET.
 - 2.2 Reserve teams of Clubs with a First Team in Tier 4 shall be eligible for participation in the League and its cup competitions.
 - 2.3 The annual fees payable for admission to the League and its cup competitions shall be determined by the MAFL and paid by Clubs through COMET.
3. **Governance**
 - 3.1 The Members shall meet annually at an AGM.
 - 3.2 The Members shall appoint the Officers at an AGM.
 - 3.3 The Members may appoint Life Vice Presidents at an AGM.
 - 3.4 The affairs of the League shall be managed by the Management Committee.
 - 3.5 The Management Committee shall meet as often as reasonably required throughout each season.
 - 3.6 No active referee shall be a Club Representative or Officer or serve on the Management Committee.
 - 3.7 A Management Committee consisting of three Officers including the Chairman shall deal with all matters of urgency with full powers to act and shall report its decisions to the next meeting of the Management Committee.
 - 3.8 The Management Committee shall have jurisdiction over all matters appertaining to the League, whether specifically provided for in these rules or not.
4. **Meetings**
 - 4.1 the quorum for the AGM or other General Meeting shall be determined by the number of member clubs elected.
 - 4.2 the quorum for a Management Committee meeting shall be four.
 - 4.3 the quorum for an Emergency Committee meeting shall be three.
 - 4.4 the AGM shall be held between June 15th and July 18th each year.

- 4.5 Clubs may appoint two persons including the Club Representative to attend the AGM or other General Meeting.
- 4.6 At an AGM or other General Meeting, a Club shall have one vote.
- 4.7 The Officers shall be entitled to attend and vote at a General Meeting.
- 4.8 At a General Meeting, in the event of a tie the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
- 4.9 A minimum of 14 days' notice shall be given to all Members and Life Vice Presidents of any General Meeting and shall include notice of any proposed changes to the Rules.
- 4.10 Each Club Representative, each Officer and each Life Vice President must submit to the Management Committee a valid e-mail address and contact telephone number.
- 4.11 Notices served as an attachment to an e-mail addressed to the e-mail address of a Club Representative, an Officer or a Life Vice President shall be deemed properly served on the day that the e-mail is sent.

5. Conditions of Play

- 5.1 All clubs must be affiliated to the CWFA. All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game and FAW rules.
- 5.2 Three points shall be awarded for a win, and one point for a draw.
- 5.3 Each Club shall register its colours with the League Secretary. Clubs shall not play each other in the same colours. In the event of any two Clubs registering the same colours, the visiting Club must change colours. No club shall have kit comprising of an all-black shirt.
- 5.4 All outfield players participating in a fixture must wear the registered colours of their Club, failing which the Club may be charged with a disciplinary offence. Under garments must match the main colour of the shirt and the main colour of the shorts. Taped socks must match the colour of the socks.
- 5.5 A goalkeeper shall participate in colours distinct from the outfield players of both teams.
- 5.6 All players participating in a fixture must wear a shirt displaying a number which shall not be the same number as displayed on the shirt of another player of the same team failing which the Club may be charged with a disciplinary offence.
- 5.7 Any Club refusing the referee's instruction to start a match, or continue a match, and any official of a Club alleged to have encouraged or instigated such conduct may be charged with a disciplinary offence
- 5.8 Each Club involved in a fixture that is recorded on COMET shall submit an electronic Team Sheet via COMET in accordance with the relevant competition deadline.

5.9 Players shirts shall be clearly numbered in accordance with the Team Sheet. A player shall not change shirt number during the match, except for a change of goalkeepers or if there is blood on the shirt. Any infringement of this rule may lead to the Club being charged with a disciplinary offence.

5.10 Clubs must provide a telephone number and e-mail address of a Club official who shall be the primary contact of the Club and those contact details shall be made available to all Club secretaries and the Management Committee.

5.11 Any Club failing without just cause to fulfil a fixture on the appointed date or causing a fixture to be abandoned may be charged with a disciplinary offence and if proved may have three points deducted from its record.

5.12 The League Secretary shall fix the times of kick-off of League and cup fixtures but shall retain an absolute discretion to change the kick off time of a match if deemed appropriate.

5.13 Any Club considered responsible for delaying the start, or re-start, of a match shall be reported by the referee to the Management Committee.

5.14 Fixtures may be played under floodlights, if required by the League Secretary

5.15 Each Club is responsible for ensuring that it holds appropriate insurance cover for all its on and off field activities including public liability insurance.

6 Promotion

6.1 At the end of each season's league competitions the Club scoring the highest number of points in the league shall be declared the champions. If two or more Clubs are equal on points, goal difference shall determine the league champions. In the event of goal difference being equal, the league champions shall be the Club which has scored the most goals. If two or more Clubs have the same points, the same goal difference and have scored the same number of goals, then the Club which won the most League games shall be declared champions. If all the above shall be equal, then the head-to-head results between the Clubs shall determine the champions.

6.2 The league champions shall be entitled to apply for promotion to Tier 4 of the Pyramid in accordance with the Pyramid Regulations.

6.3 Clubs wishing to be considered for promotion to Tier 4 must apply in accordance with the Pyramid Regulations.

7. Substitutes

7.1 A Club may nominate a maximum of five (5) substitutes for any reason other than to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the referee. Players substituted may return to the field of play (Rolling Substitutes). This applies to all league and cup matches under the jurisdiction of the MAFL.

7.5 A substitute player may not be used unless his full name and FAW Number is recorded on the electronic COMET team sheet.

8. Withdrawal

8.1 Whenever a Club resigns from the League the points awarded in respect of its completed fixtures shall be deleted from the League table.

9. Registration of Players

9.1 Only amateur players within the definition of Amateur Players in the FAW Rules are eligible to participate in the League and any cup competitions organised by the League

9.2 Players shall register to play for a Club in strict compliance with Section H of the FAW Rules and FAW COMET Regulations

9.3 It shall be the duty of the League Secretary to report to the Management Committee evidence that an ineligible Player has played in a league fixture or cup competition organised by the League.

9.4 A Club approached by a Player or intending to approach or negotiate with a Player must comply strictly with Section H of the FAW Rules.

10. Transfers

All transfers must be carried out in accordance with the FAW Rules and FAW COMET Regulations

11 Match Officials

11.1 All match officials shall be affiliated to FAW or CWFA. Affiliation and any payment for affiliation will be made via COMET.

11.2 Subject to availability, match officials shall be appointed for each fixture by the League Secretary. The appointments will be made via COMET and match officials must accept or reject their provisional appointment via COMET.

11.3 Match officials must be paid in their dressing rooms at such rate including expenses as determined by CWFA following FAW guidelines.

11.4 In the event of a fixture not being played the referee and any appointed match official shall be paid half his or her fee and traveling expenses provided he or she has made the journey to the Ground.

12. Postponements

12.1 A match may only be postponed in the following circumstances;

12.1.1 when an official referee of the League having regard to the safety of the players considers the condition of the playing surface to be unfit.

12.1.2 when travel conditions are such as to prevent a Club travelling to the match venue.

12.2 It is the responsibility of the home Club to ensure that the League Secretary is made aware of any postponement under Rule 12.1 as soon as practically possible.

12.3 In addition to postponements under Rule 12.1 Clubs shall be allowed **THREE** late league postponements per season (Late postponements can be described as within 5 days of the fixture date). An application for a postponement must be made to the League Secretary at least three weeks before the draft fixture date – this type of postponement will not be included in the quota of three league postponements. If a club exceeds its 3 match quotas then 3 points will be deducted. In Cup competitions, clubs are expected to play on the date set by the League. Failure to do so may lead to the forfeiting of the tie.

12.4 Whenever there is doubt as to the fitness of the playing surface -

12.4.1 the home Club must arrange for a Ground inspection to take place between 9.30 am and 11:00 am on the date of the match.

12.4.2 the match referee may arrange for a registered referee local to the match venue to inspect the pitch and give his report.

12.5 In the event of a postponement under Rule 12.1.1;

12.5.1 the traveling club should be notified not less than three hours before the scheduled kick-off time, and

12.5.2 home Club must ensure that the league/cup secretary changes the status of the match to 'postponed' on COMET.

12.6 Following the conclusion of a match, the match referee is responsible for -

12.6.1 checking that the match events entered by the home Club are correct, and

12.6.2 adding details of the yellow/red cards including the times they were shown, and

12.6.3 adding good and clear descriptions of any misconduct, and

12.6.4 submitting a match report using COMET as soon as practicable and in accordance with the COMET Regulations.

12.7 A match referee failing to comply with Rule 12.6 may be charged with a disciplinary offence.

12.9 The match referee must report to the League Secretary any Club which has caused or contributed to the kick-off being delayed.

12.10 The match referee must report to the League Secretary any delay of the kick-off time caused by the late arrival of the referee or other appointed match official.

12.11 A referee or other match official unable to accept a League appointment must inform the League Secretary via COMET. The League Secretary shall have the power to appoint a substitute referee via COMET, and the League Secretary shall inform the home Club of the change via COMET.

13 Match Results

13.1 The home Club must record the details of the goal scorers and substitutions on behalf of both teams (along with times of each) on COMET as soon as practicable or following the end of the match.

13.2 A Club providing false details of a Player shall be charged with a disciplinary offence.

14 Grounds

14.1 The playing surface must be clearly marked in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

14.2 Dressing rooms are to be open and available for approximately one hour before the start of the match.

15 Fixtures

15.1 League fixtures shall be drawn up by the League Secretary. A draft set of fixtures will be sent to the clubs one month in advance. However, the draft fixture schedule shall be subject to change due to the number of Reserves sides in the League.

15.2 Clubs must be prepared to play fixtures from the first Saturday of the League season, and to play mid-week evening fixtures.

15.3 Clubs may agree to play an evening fixture at an alternative time and date provided permission is obtained from the League Secretary.

15.4 Clubs must play their home fixtures on their registered Ground. Permission to play on any other ground must be obtained from the League Secretary or the Management Committee.

16. Duration of matches

All league matches shall be 90 minutes in duration. In the event of a game being abandoned after 70 minutes the result could stand, at the discretion of the Management Committee, or replayed. In the event of any match not being played due to causes over which neither club has any control, it shall be re-played at a later date. Kick off times shall be 2:30pm in the Spring/Summer months and 2:00pm in the Autumn/Winter months. Evening matches can be arranged during the season and clubs are expected to support those clubs who have floodlight facilities.

16. Protests, claims and complaints

16.1 All protests, claims or complaints shall be lodged with the League Secretary within three days of the date of the fixture or occurrence, excepting those relating to the playing surface, which must be lodged with the referee before the commencement of the game.

16.2 The findings and decisions of the Management Committee shall be subject to appeal to CWFA.

17 Playing an ineligible player

17.1 Any player wilfully signing more than one registration form shall be disciplined by the Management Committee with a fine and / or suspension. Any club playing an ineligible player or a player under another name may have three points deducted and fined, subject to the discretion of the Management Committee.

17.2 A club may not play more than three players who appear on the club's Senior COMET team sheet for the previous game. This applies to Reserves teams.

18 Officer's responsibilities

18.1 The Officers shall be responsible for the safe custody of all cups, monies and property of the League, and shall deal with the same as instructed by the Management Committee, excepting that when Clubs receive the various cups from the League, those Clubs shall be responsible for the safe custody of the relevant cup(s), and shall return them to the League in good order and sound condition when requested.

18.2 The League funds shall be banked in the name of the League, and all cheques signed by any two of the Chairman, League Secretary and Treasurer.

19. Alteration to rules

19.1 No alteration shall be made to these rules except at the AGM, or any special General Meeting, convened for the purpose. At least 7 days' notice must be given to the League Secretary of any proposed alteration or addition to these rules and the same shall be forwarded to Clubs at least 14 clear days prior to the meeting.

19.2 In the event of the League not having a rule on a particular issue any FAW rule or regulation upon that issue will apply.

19.3 In the event of any conflict between these rules and the rules and regulations of FAW, the FAW rule or regulation shall prevail.

20. Gate monies

20.1 The gate monies collected at a League fixture shall belong to the home Club.

20.2 In respect of any League fixture each Club shall be responsible for its administrative and advertising expenses.

21. Conduct

21.1 Misconduct players, officials, spectators etc, shall be reported by the referee to the CWFA via COMET as soon as possible following conclusion of the match and in accordance with the COMET Regulations.

21.2 Fines and administration charges imposed by these rules or by the Executive Committee must be paid within 14 days of notice being given to the Club, unless an appeal is lodged in which case, they are payable within 14 days of the appeal if the appeal is unsuccessful in whole or in part.

21.3 Notwithstanding anything contained in these rules to the contrary, Clubs, players and officials aggrieved by any decision of the Management Committee shall have right of appeal to CWFA.

22. Attendance at meetings

23.1 In the event of any member of the Management Committee (not including Life Members) failing to attend three consecutive meetings the said member will be deemed to have vacated his or her position, and a replacement shall be appointed by the Management Committee.

PLAYING AREA	In accordance with the Laws of the game, the touchline must be longer than the goal-line. The minimum length is 90m (100 yds.) the maximum length is 120m (130 yds.). The minimum length of the goal-line is 45m (50 yds.) the maximum length of the goal-line is 90m (100 yds.).
PLAYING SURFACE	The field of play must either be a natural grass surface or a 3G synthetic surface and must be maintained in good condition.
FIELD MARKINGS	The field of play must be marked in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Field markings shall be white in colour and clearly visible to match officials and players.
GOAL POSTS AND NETS	Goal posts and goal nets must be maintained in good condition and meet the requirements of the Laws of the Game.
CHANGING ROOMS	Separate and secure accommodation must be provided for both teams and the match

	officials. It must be located within a proximity of the playing area acceptable to the Management Committee.
SHOWER FACILITIES	Showering facilities must be provided for both teams and match officials.
MATCH OFFICIALS	A separate dressing room should be provided for the match officials to include washing facilities.