



GFSN League Rules and Regulations 2025 Edition

Foreword

The GFSN National League began with four founding teams and has since expanded into a two-division competition involving 20 full member clubs across England, Scotland, and Wales. Alongside this, additional affiliate clubs participate in national competitions such as the GFSN Cup and Shield, showing continued enthusiasm for inclusive LGBTQ+ football.

Originally established in 2009 to bring clarity and consistency to league operations, these rules have evolved to reflect the growing competitiveness and organisational needs of the league. The updated 2025 Rules ensure the league remains true to its founding spirit—while providing a clear, enforceable structure.

The **'GFSN'** now operates independently from its parent association, with its own committee and constitution to guide its development and uphold its inclusive values.

These rules govern the organisation, competitions, and conduct of participants in the GFSN National League, Cup and Shield. They apply to all matches, clubs, players, and officials involved in GFSN-sanctioned events.

Supporting Policies

Supporting policy documents such as the Code of Conduct, Data Protection Policy, Safeguarding Policy, and Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Policy are adopted by the GFSN Committee and are enforceable under these Rules. All clubs and participants are expected to comply with these documents as a condition of entry into GFSN competitions.

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Name

1.1 The official name of the competition is the GFSN.

2. Purpose and Aims

The Spirit of the GFSN is defined by a commitment to inclusion, connection, and community within LGBTQ+ football.

It reflects the shared values of respect, fairness, and support—on and off the pitch—and celebrates the role football plays in bringing people together.

2.1 To offer inclusive, fair, and community-driven football for LGBTQ+ individuals and allies across the UK.

2.2 To provide multiple levels of competition accommodating various ability levels.

2.3 To strengthen community engagement and sustain LGBTQ+ friendly football clubs.

2.4 To promote opportunities for social connection and friendship through football, both on and off the pitch.

Membership & Eligibility

3.1 All clubs must support the aims and values of the GFSN.

3.2 All member clubs agree to comply with:



- These GFSN League Rules & Regulations
- Any official updates or communications issued by the GFSN Committee

3.3 Full Member Clubs

Clubs that compete in League fixtures during the season. Full Members hold voting rights at AGMs and EGMs.

3.4 Associate Member Clubs

Clubs that participate in Cup and/or Shield competitions but do not compete in the League. Associate Members do not hold voting rights but may be considered for future Full Membership.

3.5 Criteria for Full Membership Application

Eligibility Criteria for Entry:

To be eligible for entry, a club must have played at least five 11-a-side friendlies against recognised LGBTQ+ friendly clubs within the past year. This must include:

- At least three away fixtures beyond 20 miles
- At least one fixture beyond 100 miles to demonstrate commitment to wider participation in the network
- Entry is subject to a majority vote by Full Member Clubs at the AGM.
There is no appeals process, but clubs may request feedback from the Competitions Secretary regarding their application.

3.6 Termination of Membership

Membership ends if a club:

- Notifies the Chairperson of withdrawal.
- Is expelled by three-fourths of Full Member Clubs following an EGM.
- Fails to pay required fees or fines by the set deadline.

If a club withdraws mid-season, their results may be expunged or retained to preserve fairness. Withdrawal results in removal from the National Cup and Shield.



Governance and Committee

4.1 Committee Structure

The GFSN is governed by a committee responsible for overseeing the operation and strategic direction of the League, in accordance with these Rules. The Committee shall consist of the following core roles:

- Chairperson
- League Secretary
- Treasurer
- Competitions Secretary
- Media & Communications Lead
- Development Officer
- Referee Secretary
- Disciplinary Officer
- Community Engagement Lead
- Members Secretary

To ensure effective League operation, the following roles must be always filled:

Chairperson, League Secretary, and Treasurer. If fewer than these are filled, the Committee is considered non-functional and must resolve this via appointment or an extraordinary meeting.

Additional roles may be created or amended by the Committee as necessary to support governance but must be approved at the next AGM.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chairperson

- Provides leadership to the Committee and League
- Chairs Committee meetings and the AGM



- Acts as a figurehead and representative
- Ensures governance structures are upheld

League Secretary

- Manages correspondence and administration
- Prepares agendas and minutes for meetings
- Maintains League documentation
- Supports internal communication

Treasurer

- Manages finances, budgets, and reporting
- Operates the League's bank account
- Prepares annual statements for AGM
- Advises on financial planning

Competitions Secretary

- Coordinates all League and Cup fixtures, results, and standings
- Arranges schedules and resolves fixture issues
- Maintains and updates competition rules
- Reports regularly on competition progress

Media & Communications Lead

- Manages the League's website, social media, and communications
- Promotes results, events, and news
- Ensures consistent branding and messaging
- Acts as liaison with external media

Development Officer

- Leads initiatives on growth and retention



- Supports sustainability and new competitions
- Promotes equality, diversity, and inclusion
- Seeks funding and partnership opportunities

Referee Secretary

- Maintains contact with qualified match officials
- Acts as liaison between referees and the League
- Advises on referee procedures
- Supports training and development

Disciplinary Officer

- Oversees disciplinary matters in line with League Rules
- Reviews misconduct reports
- Chairs or refers cases to panels
- Keeps accurate records of decisions

Community Engagement Lead

- Develops partnerships and sponsorships
- Organises community campaigns and events
- Promotes League values through outreach
- Encourages inclusive participation

Members Secretary

- Maintains club registers and contacts
- Manages registrations and membership queries
- Informs clubs of League updates
- Coordinates membership communications



The roles and responsibilities of the GFSN Committee an overview of the minimum requirements and may involve other actions as appropriate for the running and development of the organisation.

Committee Elections

5.1 Election Timing

Elections take place at the AGM. If needed, elections may be conducted electronically with equal access for all Full Member Clubs.

5.2 Pre-Election Process

The General Secretary must:

- Advertise vacancies
- Invite applications or nominations
- Provide at least 14 days' notice

5.3 Candidate Eligibility

Nominees must:

- Confirm in writing their willingness to stand
- Provide a short statement to share with clubs

5.4 Voting Procedure

- One vote per club per vacancy
- Simple majority required
- Voting may occur at AGM or electronically
- Unopposed candidates must still receive a majority in favour

5.5 Tie-Break Procedure

- If tied, a second vote is held between the top candidates
- If still tied:
 - Chairperson decides



- If for Chairperson role, a neutral member or volunteer may decide with agreement

5.6 Co-Option of Members

- Committee may co-opt members into vacancies between AGMs
- Co-opted members serve until the next AGM election

5.7 Unfilled Roles

- Can be temporarily covered by others
- Committee must re-advertise and may call a General Meeting if necessary

Meetings

6.1 Types of Meetings

- **AGM (Annual General Meeting):** Held annually with at least 21 days' notice.
- **EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting):** Can be called by the Committee or 3+ Full Member Clubs, with 7 days' notice.
- **General Meetings:** Convened as needed.

6.2 Quorum and Voting

- **AGM/EGM:** Quorum = two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of Full Member Clubs
- **General Meetings:** Quorum = one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of Full Member Clubs
- Each Full Member Club gets one vote per item
- Chairperson has casting vote in case of a tie

6.3 Minutes

- Meeting summaries must be circulated within 14 days
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Financial Rules

7.1 Membership Fees

- Full Member Clubs: £70
- Associate Member Clubs: £40
- Treasurer monitors cost and recommends adjustments
- Any change in fees must be voted on by Full Member Clubs

7.2 Payments and Penalties

- Fees due by **September 30th**
- Late payment = £15 fine

7.3 Club Funds and Banking

- Funds must be held in a League-named bank or building society account
- Withdrawals require signatures from **two Executive Committee members**
- Three Executive Committee members (including the Treasurer) must be designated signatories

7.4 Financial Year

- Ends **31st July** each year
- Treasurer presents a financial summary at the AGM
- Records must be kept up-to-date and available for review upon request

7.5 Fundraising

- The Executive Committee may carry out fundraising
 - All activities must reflect GFSN values and comply with ethical standards
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League Competition Format

8.1 Format Approval

- Must be approved by majority vote at or before the AGM
- If changes occur (e.g., withdrawals), alternatives may be proposed but require two-thirds approval

8.2 Points and Standings

- Win = 3 points
- Draw = 1 point
- Loss = 0 points

8.3 Tiebreakers (if teams are level on points)

1. Head-to-head result
2. Goal difference
3. Goals scored
4. Fair play ranking
5. If still level, the Committee may order a play-off

Championship Trophy

9.1 Trophy

- Awarded to League Champions
- Must be returned by **30th April** the following year in good condition
- Champions cover transportation costs
- Any loss or damage must be repaired or replaced at the champion club's expense

9.2 Commemorative Medals



- Divisional winners receive **22 medals**
 - Additional medals may be requested at the club's cost
 - Delivery of extra medals is not guaranteed alongside the originals
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Fixtures, Confirmations, Rearrangements, Abandonments, and Postponements

10.1 League and Cup match dates must be fixed and published by the Competitions Secretary within one month of the season start.

10.2 The fixture list should aim to:

- Avoid conflicts with major tournaments or GFSN calendar events
- Minimise winter travel (Jan/Feb) to reduce weather disruptions

10.3 The League cannot guarantee all criteria in 10.2 will be met.

10.4 Clubs may request certain dates be kept free:

- Requests must be in writing
- Submitted 21 days before the AGM
- Include clear justification

10.5 These requests are not guaranteed.

10.6 Each club must appoint a **fixture representative** to coordinate matches.

10.7 Match confirmation sent to opponents must include:

- Date and kick-off time
- Venue and pitch surface
- Home kit colours
- Relevant logistics



10.8 Fixtures may be rearranged by **mutual agreement**, with notice sent to the Competitions Secretary at least two weeks before the earlier of the two dates.

10.9 If no agreement is reached, the club seeking the change must contact the Competitions Secretary at least **four weeks** before the scheduled date.

10.10 The Chair will make the final decision based on:

- Reason for the request
- Grounds for refusal
- Other relevant factors

10.11 Clubs are expected to collaborate in good faith. Rule 10.10 is a last resort.

10.12 If a club fails to fulfil a fixture:

- The match is forfeited
- The club loses 3 points
- The opponent is awarded a **3–0 win** (for League matches)

10.13 In Cup or Shield knockout matches, the opponent progresses automatically.

10.14 In Cup Finals, the Committee decides whether to replace the forfeiting team.

10.15 The Committee may investigate forfeits and impose further sanctions.

10.16 Every effort must be made to play matches, but **player safety is the priority**.

10.17 The referee alone decides if the match can be started, continued, or resumed.

10.18 If a game is abandoned with **60 minutes or less** played, it must be replayed.

10.19 Replay logistics are agreed between teams or set by the Committee if no agreement is reached.



10.20 If both clubs agree that a replay is impractical, the score at abandonment may stand.

10.21 The Committee may override such an agreement to protect competition integrity.

10.22 If a match is abandoned **after 60 minutes**, the score stands. No appeals allowed.

10.23 The referee is the sole arbiter of timekeeping.

10.24 Abandonment must be reported to the Competitions Secretary, including time and reason.

The Pitch and Changing Facilities

11.1 Matches must be played on a suitable surface (e.g., grass or 3G), with consideration for winter weather risks.

11.2 The home team must ensure access to appropriate changing and showering facilities, where within their control.

11.3 A valid pitch booking or written permission from venue owners is required.

11.4 No match may be played without valid booking/permission. Proof must be available on request.

11.5 If away players need separate changing facilities, this must be communicated to the home club at least **14 days** in advance.

Kit Colours

12.1 Each club must communicate their home and away kit colours in advance of fixtures.

12.2 Any mid-season kit changes must be communicated clearly to all upcoming opponents.

12.3 In the event of a clash, the **away team must change**.



12.4 The home team must confirm the away team's kit colours before the fixture.

12.5 Disputes are resolved by the Competitions Secretary, whose decision is final.

12.6 On match day, the referee has full discretion to resolve any kit clash, including requiring changes.

Match Officials

13.1 The home team is responsible for sourcing a **qualified referee** for all GFSN competitions.

13.2 For **National Cup finals**, the **Competitions Secretary** appoints officials.

13.3 If a qualified referee cannot be sourced externally:

- A qualified referee from either club may be used
- In exceptional cases, a **non-qualified referee** may be used
- The Competitions Secretary must be notified and agreement obtained

13.4 If a home club knows more than 48 hours in advance that it cannot provide a qualified referee, it must notify the Competitions Secretary immediately.

13.5 Clubs are encouraged to support **referee training** among their members.

13.6: The referee shall have two assistant referees (linespersons). Each team is required to provide one competent volunteer to act as an assistant referee. The referee retains final authority on all decisions in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

13.7 If no suitable volunteers are available, or the referee deems them unsuitable, they may proceed without assistants.

13.8 Final-round match officials (e.g., Cup finals) are appointed by the Competitions Secretary.

13.9 Referees must submit a **match report** within 48 hours of the match. The home team must provide the reporting form or link.

13.10 If a yellow/red card is mistakenly issued to the wrong player, the Competitions Secretary may transfer the sanction to the correct individual.



13.11 To request a change under 13.10, a club must submit written reasoning and evidence within 7 days.

13.12 The GFSN supports the FA's "**Respect**" campaign. Abuse of referees will be dealt with firmly under disciplinary rules.

Match Reporting

14.1 The **home team manager** must provide the match report form to the referee before the match.

14.2 The referee must submit the completed match report to the Competitions Secretary within **72 hours**.

14.3 Both home and away managers must complete an **online match record** within 72 hours.

14.4 Each club's match record must include:

- Names of starting players
- Substitutes
- Goalscorers
- Cautions and reasons
- Dismissals and reasons
- Additional requested information
- Optional manager comments

14.5 Failure to submit the form:

- First offence: warning
- Further offences: **£15 fine per incident**

14.6 Falsifying or withholding match report information may result in disciplinary action.

14.7 Information in the match record may be published by the GFSN.



Cup Competitions

15.1 The GFSN will run Cup competitions, including but not limited to the **National Cup** and **Shield**.

15.2 Formats and eligibility are determined by the Committee.

15.3 All Full Member clubs are invited to participate in all Cup competitions.

15.4 Associate Member clubs may be invited to Cup and Shield competitions.

15.5 Byes into preliminary rounds of the National Cup are granted to:

- Previous season's Cup winners
- Previous season's divisional Fair Play Award winners

15.6 National Cup winners receive a trophy, which must be returned by **April 30th** of the following season.

15.7 The returning club covers transportation costs.

15.8 Any damage to the trophy must be repaired at the club's expense.

15.9 Cup and Shield winners each receive **20 commemorative medals**.

15.10 Extra medals may be ordered at the winner's expense.

15.11 The National Cup Final is held at a **neutral venue**, selected by the Committee. Venue cost is covered by the League.

15.12 The League covers the cost of match officials for Cup finals.

The Players

16.1 Each match is played by two teams of no more than **11 players**, one of whom must be the goalkeeper.

16.2 A match may not start or continue if either team has **fewer than 7 players**.

16.3 Any person may play in GFSN competitions if they:



- Are registered to a participating club
- Are not suspended or banned
- Are **18 years or older**

16.4 A player may appear **once** for another club they are registered to, but:

- Not in the same division
- A player may register for a new club and continue playing
- No player may represent more than **two clubs per season**

16.5 A player may represent **only one club** in a given GFSN National Cup & Shield.

Participation = “cup-tied” for the duration of that season.

16.6 Home managers are responsible for checking Cup eligibility under Rule 16.5.

16.7 Breaches of Rule 16.5 or 16.6 may lead to disciplinary proceedings.

16.8 There is **no maximum age**, but clubs are responsible for determining fitness.

16.9 All clubs must obtain **Personal Liability Insurance** for players—or ensure players have it individually.

16.10 Participants agree to hold harmless the GFSN or its officers for injury claims arising in competition.

16.11 Maximum squad size for any GFSN match is **18 players**.

16.12 Local agreements to exceed 18 players are not permitted unless GFSN grants an **exceptional inclusion-based allowance**.

16.13 **Rolling substitutions** are permitted in all GFSN matches.

16.14 The referee may refuse substitutions if rolling subs are being abused.



GFSN Team Participation and Ethos

17.1 Teams are expected to align with the ethos of the GFSN—promoting inclusion, development, and community in all GFSN competitions in the ‘**Spirit of the GFSN**’.

17.2 Teams should be **appropriate for the competition** e.g. Shield and development competitions should feature players who may not regularly participate elsewhere

17.3 This supports player development and reinforces inclusion across all skill levels.

17.4 Giving opportunities to developing players helps achieve equal access and a sense of belonging.

17.5 The Committee may assess team selections and engage with clubs where alignment with GFSN ethos is in question.

Duration of Matches

18.1 All GFSN matches (League and Cup) consist of **two equal halves of 45 minutes**.

18.2 Time may be added at the referee’s discretion for:

- Substitutions
- Injuries
- Time-wasting
- Other interruptions

18.3 If a Cup or Shield Knockout match ends in a draw after 90 minutes, it proceeds directly to **penalty kicks**.

18.4 In **exceptional circumstances**, both managers and the referee may agree to a shorter match duration on the day.

- Halves must be of equal length



- A half-time break must still occur

18.5 Half-time must not exceed **15 minutes**.

On-Field Disciplinary Rules

19.1 The GFSN National League adheres to the **Laws of the Game** as issued by FIFA.

19.2 Referees may issue **cautions** (yellow cards), **dismissals** (red cards), and use **sin bins** during GFSN matches, in line with the Laws and GFSN rules.

19.3 Clubs are responsible for reporting all **yellow/red cards** or **sin bins** their players receive in the **post-match report**.

19.4 Managers should clarify any cautions or dismissals with the referee after the game to avoid discrepancies in reporting.

19.5 Managers must notify the Competitions Secretary if they do not receive a suspension notice following a caution or dismissal.

Failure to receive communication is **not a valid defence** if a suspended player takes part in a match.

19.6 A player who receives **two yellow cards** in one match will be shown a **red card** and must leave the field.

19.7 A player who receives a **straight red card** must also leave the field of play immediately.

Rule 19.8: Suspensions apply only to the competition in which the offence occurred, as follows:

- **League and Cup** (combined)
- **GFSN Shield** (separate)
- **GFSN Development League** (separate)

19.8: Sanctions for Misconduct

The following table outlines fines, match suspensions, penalty points, and relevant notes for each offence type.

Yellow Cards and Caution Offences

Code	Description	Fine	Suspension	Penalty Points
AA	Aggressive attitude	£10	None	1
DP	Dangerous play (e.g. high foot)	£10	None	1
FT	Foul tackle (most common offence)	£10	None	1
SP	Pulling or pushing an opponent	£10	None	1
OT	Other (must be specified by referee)	£10	None	1
US	Unsporting behaviour (e.g. time-wasting)	£10	None	1
SBI	Dissent toward official or opponent	£10	None	1

Note: 3 yellow cards in a season = **1-match suspension**

Red Cards and Dismissal Offences



Code	Description	Fine	Suspension	Penalty Points
R1	Two yellow cards in the same match	£20	1 match	3
R2	Serious foul play	£20	3 matches	3
R3	Denying a goal-scoring opportunity	£20	1 match	3
R4	Spitting at an opponent	£50	Suspended & subject to investigation **	10
R5	Discriminatory or offensive abuse (e.g. racist)	£50	Suspended & subject to investigation **	10
R6	Violent conduct	£50	Suspended & subject to investigation **	10

* Suspensions marked "Suspended" will begin only after investigation and may result in longer bans or permanent exclusion.

Fair Play Marking and Spirit of the GFSN Award

20.1 All GFSN clubs are expected to uphold the values of **inclusion, respect**, and **fair play** both on and off the field. These principles form the basis of the **Spirit of the GFSN Award**.

20.2 After each match:

- Referees must give each team a **Fair Play score**.
- Each club manager must also score their **opponents** on Fair Play.



20.3 The **Spirit of the GFSN Award** is awarded to the club with the **highest average Fair Play score** at the end of the season.

In the event of a tie, the Committee will consider:

- Written comments from referees and managers
- Disciplinary records

20.4 Clubs consistently receiving **low Fair Play scores** may be:

- Offered support to improve conduct
- Referred to the GFSN Committee for review and potential sanctions

20.5 Clubs should use the following **guidance** when assigning Fair Play scores:

Scores 1–4:

Deemed extremely poor to poor behaviour. The referee shall be contacted and asked to provide a misconduct report outlining the incidents that led to the low score. These may trigger disciplinary review.

Scores 5–6:

Considered somewhat below average. These scores will affect the team's overall fair play rating, but the league will not take immediate action unless the team's average score consistently falls in this range or below.

Scores 7–8:

Regarded as average to slightly above average and represent the expected standard of conduct for all GFSN clubs.

Scores 9–10:

Denote excellent behaviour, demonstrating respect, inclusion, and exemplary conduct beyond expectations. These scores positively influence fair play standings and Spirit of the GFSN Award considerations.

20.6 These scores are used to track conduct and determine award winners but may also inform disciplinary actions.



Disciplinary Procedures

21.1 The GFSN operates its own disciplinary system based on fairness, transparency, and proportionality.

21.2 The **GFSN Committee** oversees all disciplinary matters and may:

- Review misconduct reports
- Issue suspensions, fines, or warnings

21.3 Clubs or individuals involved in disciplinary matters will be notified in writing of:

- Allegations or complaints
- Sanctions or hearings
- Any rights of response

21.4 Players, managers, and clubs may submit written statements or evidence in their defence.

21.5 In serious cases, the Committee may convene a **disciplinary hearing**, with invitations sent to relevant parties.

21.6 The Committee may co-opt neutral individuals to ensure impartiality.

21.7 Disciplinary sanctions may include:

- Warnings or cautions
- Match bans
- Points deductions
- Disqualification from competitions
- Fines
- Suspension or expulsion from the League

21.8 The Committee's decision is **final** in all disciplinary cases, unless an appeal is permitted under Rule 22.



Appeals

22.1 Clubs, players, or individuals subject to a disciplinary decision may **appeal** in writing within **7 days** of notification.

22.2 Grounds for appeal are limited to:

- Procedural unfairness or bias
- New evidence not previously available
- Sanction considered **disproportionate**

22.3 Appeals must be submitted via email to the **GFSN Committee** and must:

- Clearly state the **decision being appealed**
- Identify the **grounds for appeal**
- Include all relevant **supporting evidence**

22.4 The GFSN will convene an **appeal panel** comprising:

- GFSN Committee members not involved in the original decision
- Or external/neutral individuals, where needed to ensure impartiality

22.5 Appeals are **reviewed on paper** only (i.e., no live hearings).

The panel will consider:

- Original evidence and reasoning
- New evidence or mitigating circumstances
- The proportionality of the original sanction

22.6 Appeals will be concluded within **14 days** of submission where possible.

22.7 The appeal panel's decision is **final** and will be communicated in writing.

Rule Breaches

23.1 If a club is found to have breached GFSN rules, the GFSN Committee may issue appropriate sanctions, including:



- **Written warnings**
- **Match result reversals**
- **Match replays**
- **Points deductions**
- **Expulsion** from League or Cup competitions

23.2 Sanctions are proportionate to the nature and severity of the breach.

23.3 The club will be notified in writing and given an opportunity to respond before sanctions are confirmed.

23.4 The Committee may also impose **finances, suspensions, or eligibility bans** for specific players or officials if they contributed to the breach.

Conflicts of Interest

24.1 All Committee members must declare any **personal or professional conflicts of interest**.

24.2 Where a conflict exists, the member must:

- Declare it at the earliest opportunity
- Withdraw from related discussions
- Refrain from voting on the matter

24.3 The GFSN maintains a **Register of Interests**, reviewed annually.

Data Protection

25.1 The GFSN complies with the **UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)**.

25.2 Data is collected only when:

- Necessary for the running of the League or Cup
- Required for safeguarding or insurance

25.3 All personal data is:



- Stored securely
- Not shared without consent (except where legally required)

25.4 Members have the right to:

- Access their personal data
- Request correction or deletion

25.5 The GFSN will review its Data Protection practices annually.

Safeguarding

26.1 The GFSN is committed to the **safety and wellbeing** of all participants.

26.2 Clubs must:

- Follow FA Safeguarding guidance
- Report concerns promptly to the GFSN Safeguarding Officer or relevant authority

26.3 Safeguarding applies to all members

26.4 The GFSN may suspend or ban players or clubs following a safeguarding investigation.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

27.1 The GFSN is a proudly inclusive League. Discrimination on any basis is not tolerated.

27.2 The League welcomes players and clubs of all:

- Sexual orientations
- Gender identities
- Races, ethnicities, and faiths
- Abilities and ages

27.3 The Committee may take disciplinary action in response to:

- Discriminatory behaviour or language



- Clubs that do not uphold the League's ethos of inclusion

27.4 Clubs are encouraged to actively promote **diversity and participation** at all levels.

Other Matters

28.1 Any matters not explicitly covered by these rules will be decided at the discretion of the GFSN Committee, in line with the principles of **fairness, transparency**, and the **ethos of the League**.

28.2 The Committee may consult:

- Referees
 - FA advisors
 - Safeguarding officers
 - External specialists
- ...where appropriate to reach an informed decision.

Dissolution

29.1 If the GFSN League is dissolved, a final General Meeting must be called to confirm closure.

29.2 After all liabilities have been settled, any remaining funds or assets will be donated to a registered:

- **LGBTQ+ football charity**, or
- **Inclusion-focused organisation**,
...as agreed by a majority vote of Full Member clubs.

29.3 No Committee member, club, or individual shall financially benefit from the dissolution of the League.

Amendments to the Rules

30.1 Substantive changes to these Rules and Regulations must be approved by a **majority vote** of Full Member clubs at a properly convened **AGM or EGM**.



30.2 The Committee may make **editorial or formatting changes** (e.g., numbering, layout, spelling) without a member vote, as long as they do **not affect the meaning or effect** of the rules.

30.3 Any proposed substantive amendments must be circulated to members at least **14 days** in advance of the meeting.

Editorial Notes

This final version of the GFSN League Rules and Regulations includes updates made in July 2025 following the formal adoption of the updated league rules at the EGM on 16/07/2025.

All changes dated 19/07/2025 are **editorial, structural, or formatting-related** and do **not affect the meaning or substance** of the rules.

These include:

- Improved layout and section numbering
- Consistent language and tone throughout
- Reordered sections for better clarity (e.g., placing governance sections together)
- Reformatting of tables (e.g., Sanctions Table) for accessibility and readability
- Standardised punctuation, headings, and style

In accordance with **Rule 30.2**, these changes do **not require a member vote**, as they do not alter the meaning or effect of any rule. The content and principles of the rules remain unchanged.

Revision 13.6 (21/10/2025):

The referee shall have two assistant referees (linespersons). Each team is required to provide one competent volunteer to act as an assistant referee. The referee retains final authority on all decisions in accordance with the Laws of the Game.



Updated in accordance with the member vote requiring the use of Volunteer Assistant Referees.