

## Nash & Co Devon Junior Minor League

### General Secretary Information Sheet 10

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#### RESPECT Update

Following on from my last newsletter we are in dialogue with both Devon and Cornwall FA about how we wish to instigate our new Respect programme and I am hoping to get our proposals approved within the next couple of weeks. In short, we are trying to make sure we do not duplicate existing practices and that our proposals are workable. We currently have five cases awaiting to be heard but want to ensure everything is in place prior to commencement. More details to be provided at the League meeting

#### Communicating Fixture Postponements

On a number of occasions in recent weeks Secretaries of Clubs have not been aware of fixture cancellations that have been due to private pitches being put out of bounds. It appears some Clubs are contacting team Managers and not contacting Secretaries. Please note Secretaries of Clubs **MUST** be contacted if games are being called off due to pitches being out of bounds. This does not mean you can not contact Manager **AS WELL as this is sensible** but the Secretary must be aware. On a few occasions Secretaries have phoned me asking if a game has been called off as they have not been informed directly.

#### Fixtures on Full Time

Following a discussion at our P and B meeting last night a discussion took place about fixtures on Full Time. It was agreed that the League would strive to get fixtures a least a month in advance for teams so that it helps them to plan ahead. Please note that on occasions this may not be possible and that fixtures can be scheduled up to five days prior to a potential match day and so this needs to be understood by all concerned.

#### Joining the mini soccer development leagues

As you are undoubtedly aware the mini soccer development leagues stop for a Winter break at the end of November and will restart again in February 2018. New teams can join the development leagues after Christmas at either Under 9 or Under 10 level. If joining the Under 9 League all players must be eight years old to play. If you within your Club have a team that may be interested in applying either of the age ranges then please ensure you inform Shane Connolly our Mini Soccer Co – Ordinator in writing by no later than the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017. To clarify unless we hear to the contrary all existing teams will be carried over to the new development leagues.

Please also note that results of fixtures played this side of Christmas will help determine the formation of the Leagues for 2018.

Clarification of 12 Rules of Youth Football feature that appeared recently in the Plymouth Herald

A recent Herald article has produced a lot of debate and it is interesting to note that this relates to a scheme that was started in Manchester over 5 years ago. The FA produced the following statement

***To clarify that whilst The FA are supportive of the spirit, the overall outcome of improving the standards and environment with youth football we must stress that this is not an approved FA pilot.***

***There has been no oversight from us and we encourage you to relay this to others who may require clarification. We are interested in working with the league to talk through their ideas to ensure any pilot is developed within our rules, regulations and current plans for both Youth Football and RESPECT programme.***

As you are aware we are working on our own in house scheme to ensure RESPECT Is implemented and we will be seeking FA approval for our proposals.

### **Social Media**

Appreciating how difficult it is to police social media sites can I just ask Clubs to remind their parents and coaches that we do not want results of Under 11 games downwards posted on social media.

### **Reporting potential registration issues**

I just wanted to confirm the process for reporting issues where you as a Club feel there has been an issue relating to an error on team sheets or a player that is ineligible to play.

If you feel that there has been a discrepancy or there has been the playing of a potentially ineligible player then you must e mail the relevant Registration Secretary for the League in question. To confirm

Mini Soccer and Girls contact Lewis Bell - e mail [lewisabell@aol.co.uk](mailto:lewisabell@aol.co.uk)

Under 11 – 14's Steve Conteh - e mail [steveconteh111@gmail.com](mailto:steveconteh111@gmail.com)

Under 15 – 16's Ian Rothwell - [i\\_roffers@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:i_roffers@hotmail.co.uk)

Under 18's Steve Avery – [s\\_avery2@sky.com](mailto:s_avery2@sky.com)

They will investigate the issue and if they think there is an ineligible player or a breach of rules they will contact the General Secretary and Treasurer. Des as Treasurer will send out the appropriate fine and then the Club if they wish to protest the decision will send a written protest as per League rules to include cost of appeal to the General Secretary and an appeal will be heard.

I trust this clarifies the situation

### **County Cup Incidents**

Please note that if there is an issue in a County Cup game that involves a team within our League this will be directly referred to the respective County to deal with. The League can not get involved in a competition it does not directly have control over. **if you wish to report an incident please can you ensure it gets sent to either Cornwall or Devon County Football Associations**

### **Message from Steve Conteh re FA Full Time**

As you have probably noticed the FA FullTime site has changed following an update from the FA. No one from the League was made aware of this change

Please can you take this opportunity to feedback on the changes especially as many are saying they find the new site less user friendly. You can also feedback on other aspects of Full Time as the same time. This is your opportunity to help shape the system and therefore I hope within your busy schedules you will find time to complete this.

Link for feedback for Full

Time: [https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/88005d6c54ae4d928846e373fae53447?utm\\_campaign=2216810&utm\\_content=612754786&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=SmartFocus](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/88005d6c54ae4d928846e373fae53447?utm_campaign=2216810&utm_content=612754786&utm_medium=email&utm_source=SmartFocus)

### **Handbook Changes.**

No direct changes to report but Helen, Secretary of Keyham Kolts has asked me to inform Clubs that if phoning her landline number and the number is unrecognised it will divert straight to her answering machine.

### **Withdrawal of Teams**

Since the last newsletter unfortunately one team has withdrawn from the League and they are as follows

Under 18 Horsham Division – YMCA All Saints

### **First Aid Kits**

For all the Clubs who got their teams to register for the free first aid kits with Discount Football the first aid kits will be available to be collected from the LMC meeting on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017. With potentially if every team registered for this option up to 330 first aid kits will be handed out on Monday evening so if teams can arrive a little earlier than normal this will help us greatly.

### **Mini Soccer Pitch Sizes**

The League has received a couple of queries re the size of two mini soccer pitches one being at North Down and one at Tothill. Des O Leary our Treasurer is going to measure both pitches in the next couple of days and we will get back to the teams concerned if there is an issue

### **Low Referee Marks**

A reminder to all Club Secretaries that if you wish to write a low mark report about a referee it needs to be sent to Ian Rothwell our Referee Support Officer who will then liaise with all relevant parties to ensure it gets reviewed and support given to referees if so required.

It is also important that if you feel a referee has had a poor game that you do mark the referee accordingly. In a recent case involving a Club who was complaining about the conduct of the referee when the mark given to him was reviewed it was 85 out of 100. When challenged about this the team said that they did not have the time to complete a report. In short – if a referee has a poor game then please ensure the mark reflects this and a report is written. Without honest marking referees that are struggling and need support will not get it because we will look at marks and assume the referee is doing well.

### **Colour Clashes**

A couple of referees have contacted me and have been frustrated by teams turning up in the same colour kits. In both occasions the home team was in their correct colours so in short the Managers of their opponents have not bothered to check the handbook. Please ensure you remind Managers to check the handbook re colours of their opponents.

### **Praise for Referees**

Teams have contacted me in recent weeks to praise the following referees – Mike Rennie, Abbie Vickers, Derek Street, Mike Roberts and Neil Hunnisett. I will ask Brian to pass these thanks directly to the referees in question.

**Next League Meeting - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at the Jan Cutting Centre starting at 7.30pm**

Mark Rowles

General Secretary