

## **Nash & Co Devon Junior Minor League**

### **General Secretary Information Sheet 9**

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#### **Dealing with Disciplinary complaints**

As mentioned in my last newsletter a sub group has been established to review discipline within the League and to develop ways of successfully and consistently dealing with offences with the aim or increasing RESPECT within our League. I am determined to ensure that this becomes my main priority for the remainder of the year. We will be reviewing other systems used by Leagues and it was interesting to read an article in the Evening Herald last night that looked at potential ideas being trialled in other youth leagues in the country. Our aim is to develop a system that can be piloted through the FA but this will take some time to develop.

The sub group currently comprises of Dave Keast our Chairman, Des O'Leary our Treasurer, Steve Conteh, Registration Secretary, Shane Connolly our Mini Soccer Co – Ordinator and myself.

Following our first meeting I can confirm the following that has been agreed and will roll out with immediate effect.

1. Complaints from Clubs and referees need to be submitted to the League Secretary within 48 hours of the fixture. ( Please note at this stage they do not need to be detailed. I just need headline details )
2. General Secretary to check with the County FA's to determine whether referee report has been submitted and to agree whether it is potentially a County or League issue
3. General Secretary to liaise with Discipline sub group to agree if League wishes to action complaint or to inform them that it will be a County matter.
4. Person, Club that have made the complaint to be contacted within 3 days of making the complaint to be informed of League decision in terms of whether to investigate.
5. If decision is to investigate, additional evidence will be requested from the Club or individual making the complaint and all other parties the Disciplinary group feel would help them make an informed decision. All evidence needs to be submitted within 7 days of being requested. The League will inform the Clubs involved of the officials they require to be in attendance. Other people can attend but this is at their discretion (i.e parents ).
6. League Disciplinary Panel to be called comprising of 3 Executive Officers and this will be heard on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday after the game has taken place.
7. Decision of the Panel to be communicated in writing to all parties within 48 hours of the disciplinary meeting

Please note

- If the complaint is to be dealt with by the County Associations then the timescales and processes are different to above.
- The decision of the disciplinary panel can be appealed – please see handbook for appeal process.
- The day of the Disciplinary Hearing will not be changed. Times of hearings will range between 6 – 9.30pm. County FA representatives may be asked to be in attendance.

As you can see from the above the League is working on turning around all cases within three to four weeks of the alleged incident occurring. This is felt to be fairer on all concerned as well as demonstrating a real commitment to dealing quickly with poor behaviour.

The League in discussion with our County FA's is looking at developing a range of actions against guilty parties so that there is consistency in decision making processes and these will be sent to Clubs for consultation prior to the next DJM League Executive Meeting and can be discussed at the Meeting. Please note for serious situations the League has the powers to suspend and remove from membership. Teams, clubs and individuals from its League. The League has already suspended a Manager from our League and so please do not think that the League will not impose these measures where considered appropriate.

I trust at this Stage the above information is succinct and will get the full backing of all Clubs. Please note in relation to time required to make a complaint will require a rule change as currently five days is required to make a complaint but I feel this is too long a period and will be requesting an EGM prior to a League Meeting to propose this change and any others required.

The above is starting the process of clarifying how the League will deal with disciplinary issues in a consistent manner. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any thoughts or concerns.

*I will take all ideas into account but will not water down our determination to do everything in our powers to improve RESPECT within our League. As I have said before I do not see RESPECT as just a word AND therefore we need to practice what we preach.*

### **Illegal Approaches**

Three teams from our League are being charged this week with an illegal approach by their respective County FA's and if found guilty then they will face potential sanctions including Club fines.

Please note that if you are reporting a Club for an illegal approach and the Club decide to appeal you will be asked to provide your evidence to a hearing. Although not our League I have heard of two Clubs that when asked to present evidence have refused and as a result the case has been dismissed. Please ensure if reporting Clubs you are aware that you may be asked to supply evidence to a hearing. If you are not willing to do this then potentially even if the Club you are reporting are guilty the County FA's job is far more difficult.

### **Referee Appointment Information**

Having covered Brian for two weeks as the Referee Appointment Secretary it has given me an insight into the amount of work Brian undertakes each week to ensure teams get referees. Brian has clearly got an excellent rapport with the referees who often go above and beyond to cover fixtures.

My thanks to Brian for the work he does on behalf of the League.

Whilst talking about referees delighted to receive positive reports about the following referees.

Michael Roberts, Ken Wakesham, James Stewart, Jason Hayward, Abbie Vickers, Harry Bryan and Richard Robinson.

### **Respect Barriers.**

Please ensure your Club abides with the rules regarding barriers. Noted in a few games attended recently that reminders have had to be given to teams to ensure they comply. The League is determined to ensure all teams comply with the requirements. A word of praise for Lydford Foxes for the way they set up the ground prior to the game. Three referees have commented to me about this.

### **Message from Steve Conteh**

**\* Cup Rounds please ensure players are legible to play in the next round of the knock out Cups, please contact relevant registration officer if unsure.**

Also please note that County Cup rules are different from League rules. If in any doubt, ask as there is nothing worse than teams being disqualified from Cup competitions due to not following the Cup registration guidelines.

### **Handbook Changes..**

**[For latest updates of Club, Managers and Secretary details go on to the DJM website and online directory](#)**

Efford Community Football Club

Under 16 Manager is now Scott Pickering and can be contacted by phoning Rob on 07446.255.996

Under 15 Manager is now Simon Yorke and can be contacted on 07495.022.301

### **Withdrawal of Teams**

Since the last newsletter unfortunately two further teams have withdrawn from the League and they are as follows

Under 18 Cambridge Division – SB Frankfort

Under 18 Cambridge Division - Tamerton

Under 11 Drake Division – Plymouth Kolts

### **Sheridan Gardens**

I have received complaints from Plymouth City Council re teams using Sheridan Gardens that are banging their boots off in the roads and on the pavements. I have contacted YMCA All Saints, the home team about this. Please note I am not saying it is their fault but as the home team they will be monitoring this. Please can you ensure your Managers are aware of this. Should also apply to all other Council pitches.

### **Devon / Cornwall County Cup Games**

Please ensure if you are playing a home tie and you have a team travelling from outside of area that you ensure the pitch you use has changing rooms and toilet facilities. Any problems with regards to this please contact me.

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

Mark Rowles

General Secretary