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1. TITLE

The leagues shall be known as:

- 1.1 East Gwent Association Football League (EGAFL)
- 1.2 Islwyn Youth Association Football League (1YAFL)
- 1.3 Newport District Junior Youth Association Football League (NJAFL)
- 1.4 Torfaen Junior & Youth Association Football League (TJAFL)

Sponsors names may be added to the league titles from time to time as agreed by the league concerned and the Gwent County Football Association.

2. AREAS

League areas will be defined by the Gwent County Football Association currently these are:-

- 2.1 EGAFL - The area of the current Monmouthshire County Council
- 2.2 1YAFL - The area of the current Blaenau Gwent Council and the former Islwyn District Council.
- 2.3 NJAFL - The area of the current Newport County Borough Council
- 2.4 TJAFL- The area of the current Torfaen County Borough Council

3. AFFILIATION

All leagues and clubs must affiliate to the Gwent County Football Association.

4. COMPETITION

Leagues to establish divisions, based upon demand, as follows: Competitive Football (11-a-side) - Under 12, Under 13, Under 14, Under 15 and Under 16.

Where leagues decide to play at two-year age groups then divisions shall be Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16.

Non-Competitive (Mini) Football - Up to Under 11

The number of clubs accepted into each division shall be at the discretion of the League Management Committee.

All players must be under the age shown on the 31 August at the commencement of the season.

In normal circumstances each league will run 1 division at each group with teams playing each other twice on a home and away basis, with championship points awarded as below. Leagues to have discretion to vary this where circumstances require it. That is where there is a very high or very low demand for entry into a particular division. In such cases the league must notify member clubs of how the competition winners and runners up are to be determined before the commencement of the season.

For competitive matches championship points will be awarded as follows:-

Win - Three (3) points to the winning teams

Drawn Matches - One (1) point to each team

The team having the most number of points in a division shall be declared winners of that division and the team with the next greatest number of points shall be declared runners-up. In the event of two, or more, teams in the same division having the same number of points then the league shall arrange play off games to determine the division winners and runners up. Goal difference shall not be counted.

5. MANAGEMENT

See Appendix C - Management

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All leagues will hold an Annual General Meeting during June of each year. A minimum of 21 days notice of the date of the Annual General Meeting will be given by the League Secretary to member clubs.

The financial report and balance sheet, duly audited, should be forwarded to clubs at least seven days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting..

7. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The League Secretary shall convene a Special Meeting at any time by order of the League Management Committee and/or by requisition of two thirds of the clubs in membership of the league. Such

requisition to be given in writing to the League Secretary. Special General Meetings shall take place as directed by the League Management Committee.

8. REPRESENTATIVES AT ANNUAL AND SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Each club in membership of the league may send two representatives to the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting but each club will only be entitled to one vote on any issue. Clubs not represented at their Annual or Special General Meeting will be fined as per Appendix E.

Clubs who owe fees or fines to the league or to the Gwent County Football Association or clubs under suspension for any reason shall be allowed to attend the Annual or Special General Meeting but shall not be eligible to vote.

9. CLUBS APPLYING TO JOIN LEAGUES

Leagues will only accept applications from clubs based within the area of the league as defined in rule 2. Clubs from outside of a league area applying to join that league will not normally be allowed to do so except in special circumstances, such applications may only be approved by the Gwent County Football Association who may impose a defined area from which such clubs may draw their players.

Clubs must apply before 30 June each year and will be accepted into the league at the discretion of the League Management Committee and must be notified of their acceptance or otherwise by 1 September each season.

Leagues may accept late applications from clubs but clubs applying to join a league after the commencement of the current playing season will only be allowed to join if there is a vacancy, ie an odd number of teams in a division.

Clubs making false statements in support of their application to join a league will be fined as per Appendix E and will be reported to the Gwent County Football Association.

10. CLUB DETAILS AND GROUNDS

Within 14 days of their acceptance into the league each club shall forward to the League Secretary full details, including name, address and telephone number, of club officials, team colours, locality of their ground and headquarters. Failure to provide such information will result in a fine as laid down in Appendix E.

Teams to play only on grounds approved by the League. Teams to play on their registered ground, use of another ground shall require the permission of the League Secretary.

11. LEAGUE ENTRANCE FEES AND DEPOSITS

Each league shall be entitled to charge an entrance fee and a deposit for each team accepted into the league. The entrance fee and deposit to be fixed by the League Management Committee and published to clubs prior to 31 July each year. Clubs must pay such entrance fees and deposits to the league before 1 September, failure to comply will render the club liable to immediate suspension.

The deposit of a team may be forfeit if that team fails to complete all its commitments to the league by the end of the season as determined by the League Management Committee. Teams withdrawing during the season will automatically forfeit their deposit. Teams completing all commitments will have their deposit returned to them at the end of each season although, with the permission of the clubs concerned, deposits may be held by the league and used against the clubs commitment next season.

12. WITHDRAWALS

Teams withdrawing from the league must pay all league and cup fees and will lose their deposit. In addition they will be liable to a withdrawal fee as specified in Appendix E. (Note withdrawal fee not to apply to mini-football).

13. FIXTURES

All league fixtures will be arranged by the league and reported to the League Management Committee before the commencement of the season. Matches played without the consent of the league will be declared void and offending clubs will be dealt with by the League Management Committee. In all cases league and cup matches shall take precedence over friendly games.

14. PLAYER REGISTRATION

Player registrations for clubs must be renewed each season. No registrations will be accepted after 1 March each season.

Leagues may charge a registration fee for each player, or team, as it sees fit. Details of such fees to be published prior to 31st July each year.

Each player to register with the league on appropriate forms (Available from the league). Completed registration forms to be submitted to the designated league officer, accompanied by a registration fee (if required), a valid Gwent County FA players licence and SAE, no later than 72 hours prior to kick off the game in which the player wishes to compete.

In competitive age groups, where a club enters two, or more, teams in one division then, for the purposes of player registration, the teams will be treated as separate clubs and players may register and play for one team only. Any player wishing to move from one club's team to another within the same division must apply for a transfer in the normal way. Incomplete registration forms and forms not accompanied by the Gwent County FA Players Licence shall be returned to the secretary of the club concerned without being processed. A player is deemed registered immediately his/her forms are received by the designated league officer, provided that such forms are found to be in order. Clubs are responsible for ensuring that a player is free to register for them and is not under suspension. A player may play for the club prior to the registration confirmation being received from the league but the club may be charged with playing an ineligible player if the registration is subsequently not accepted. Receipt of the registration confirmation.

Clubs playing a player prior to receipt of the registration confirmation being received from the league will be charged with playing an ineligible player if the registration is subsequently not accepted. The league will confirm the registration, or otherwise, to the club concerned in writing as soon as possible after receipt of the registration forms.

All registration forms to be submitted by post only and a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed for the return of forms. Personal callers will not be accepted. Leagues may hold pre-season registration meetings which may be declared compulsory with clubs not attending being fined.

15. REGULATIONS AFFECTING PLAYERS UNDER THE AGE OF 16 ON 31 AUGUST AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF EACH SEASON

15.1 Players may register for one team in one division only.

15.2 Once registered for a club in one league players may not register for any other club in any other league.

15.3 Players must hold a valid Gwent County Football Association Junior Players Licence.

15.4 Players must reside within the area of the league with whom they wish to register (See rule 2). Leagues to have discretion in the case of divorced or separated parents providing one parent is permanently resident in the league area.

Any registered player, who subsequently moves outside of the league area, within the current playing season, will be permitted to continue as a registered player for his existing club only, until the end of the current playing season. Such players may apply to register for the same club until the end of the season in which they are 16, provided they have completed two full consecutive seasons, prior to the current season, as a registered player of that club.

15.5 Players must play within two-year age bands. No player shall be permitted to register and play in a division which permits the registration of players two years older (Ages as at 31st August each year).
Example: A player aged 11 on the 31 August may register for either an Under 12 or an Under 13 team. The player cannot register for an Under 14 team.

15.6 No player may play senior football until their sixteenth birthday. Note that rule 14.2 applies until the end of the season in which the player is 16.

If the club for which the player is registered runs senior and junior teams the player may register and play for the senior team of the same club immediately he has had his sixteenth birthday. He may also continue to play for the junior team of the same club.

If the player wishes to play senior football for another club, which only runs senior teams, then the player must apply for a transfer, which, if granted, makes him ineligible to play in any under 16 team (see 15.2). Note for the purposes of this rule senior football also includes Under 18 football.

Players wishing to play senior football must first obtain a Gwent County Football Association Senior

Players Licence and must register in accordance with the rules of the senior league in which the player wishes to play.

16. TRANSFER OF PLAYERS

Players wishing to transfer shall complete a transfer form. Transfer forms for the transfer of players between clubs in the same League will be available from the League Secretary. Transfer forms for the transfer of players between clubs in different Leagues will only be available from the Secretary of the Gwent County Football Association. This form to be signed by the secretary and team manager of the new team, the player, secretary and manager of the old team. No transfer applications will be considered after the 28th February.

After 31 December each year transfers will only be approved where:-

- 1) The player is moving to a new permanent address.
- 2) Players fail to obtain regular football at existing club.

16.1 Transfers between two clubs in the same league

The completed transfer form, the Gwent County Football Association Junior Players Licence and the appropriate transfer fee (See Appendix E) must be presented to the League Secretary, or designated league registration officer, for approval.

Transfer requests to be approved or rejected at the next meeting of the League Management Committee and reported to the Gwent County Football Association within seven (7) days. Transfer requests to be submitted 7 (seven) days prior to the League Management Committee Meeting.

16.2 Transfers between two clubs in two different leagues

An application for a Gwent County Football Association transfer form must be made to the Secretary of the Gwent County Football Association. The transfer form duly completed, Junior Players Licence and appropriate transfer fee to be returned to the Secretary of the Association. The following will then apply:-

The Association will consider the transfer at the next available Council Meeting but may approve or reject it. Immediately after the Meeting that considered the transfer, the Association Secretary will forward the form to:-

- a) If the transfer is accepted to the receiving League Secretary.
- b) If the transfer is decline the transfer form will be sent back to the club making the application.

Note: Where a player holds kit belonging to, or owes monies to, or is in any way in dispute with, the existing club then such details must be entered on the transfer form by the club secretary of the existing club. The League and Gwent County Football Association will take such comments into account when determining whether the transfer is to be allowed or refused.

17. DURATION OF SEASON

Leagues shall determine specify their own dates for the start and end of the season within the period laid down by the Football Association of Wales and The Gwent County Football Association.

18. DAYS AND TIMES OF KICK OFF

Leagues to notify clubs before the commencement of each season notifying days and times of kick offs. Clubs wishing to kick off a league fixture at a different time must apply to the League Secretary in writing, with a copy to their opponents, 7 days prior to the date of the match concerned. In case of one club objecting then the fixture will be played at the time notified by the league as above.

19. REFEREES

Referees in all matches for all divisions when available will be appointed by the League. Referees appointed by the League must accept or reject within 48 hours. The referee's fee and expenses will be as shown in Appendix E. The home club shall pay the referee's fee and expenses; however leagues may, at their discretion, order the home and away club to equally share the payment of the referee's fee and expenses.

20. REGULATIONS RE MATCHES

20.1 Notifying Of Home Ground

The Home Club must notify the visitors and referee (if appointed) by first class post, same to be in the hands of the opponents and referee at least 72 hours preceding the match, with details of the arrangements. Clubs failing to confirm will be fined as per Appendix E for the first offence and at the discretion of the League Management Committee for subsequent offences.

In the event of non-receipt of notification, the opposing club and referee to obtain the information and submit a report to the League Secretary. Non-receipt of notification will not be accepted as an excuse for not playing the match.

20.2 Referee & Assistant Referees

Where a referee has not been appointed by the League, or the appointed referee fails to turn up for the game, the **home club** will appoint a suitable person to referee the game. No game to be postponed because of the lack of a referee. If a game is not played because no referee is available then the league, at its discretion, may charge the home club with breaking a fixture.

If assistant referees are not appointed by the league then both the home and away clubs will each supply a suitable person to act as assistant referee. The home club shall be responsible for supplying flags for both assistant referees.

20.3 Colours

The Away club to change in the event of a clash of colours, except where the home club intends to play in colours not registered with the league. In such cases the home club shall change.

20.4 Postponements due to inclement weather

In the event of a postponement the Home club to notify visitors, referee, and the league on the day of the match.

20.5 Duration of Matches

UNDER 15 & UNDER 16 40 minutes in each half

UNDER 12/UNDER 13 & UNDER 14 35 minutes in each half

The time played in each half must be equal.

20.6 The Ball

The home team will be responsible for supplying the match ball which should be in good condition, the size should be as follows:

UNDER 13/UNDER 14/UNDER 15 & UNDER 16 - SIZE 5

UNDER 12 - SIZE 4

Failure to provide a ball of the size required will result in a fine as detailed in Appendix E

20.7 Corner Flags & Nets

These must be provided and erected by the home club. Nets and corner flags to be in accordance with the laws of the game. Clubs not providing or erecting nets and corner flags will be fined as per Appendix E.

20.8 Substitutes

A club may, at its discretion, use FIVE substitutes at any time in a League match for any reason except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the referee.

The substitution can only be made when play has been stopped for any reason and the referee has given permission. Substitute players shall be nominated prior to the commencement of the game and must report to the referee.

20.9 Late Starts

The referee to report clubs responsible for delaying the start of the game to the League Management Committee. Clubs deemed responsible for the late start will be fined as per Appendix E.

21. RESULTS

Individual leagues to determine how results of competitive matches are to be notified to the league subject to the following.

Each league will require a written match report to be submitted for each competitive game played. Except for the results such match reports to be completed before the start of the game and must include the date of the game, the names of the home and away clubs, the venue, the name of the referee, the final score and the names and Gwent County Licence Numbers of all players taking part in the game or nominated as a substitute. Match reports to be signed by a team official of both the home and away club.

The home club to be responsible for providing and submitting the written match reports to the league. Written match reports to arrive with the league within three days of the date of the game (excluding Sundays).

Clubs not fully completing the match report to be fined as per Appendix E.

Clubs falsifying information on a match report will be fined as per Appendix E.

Clubs not submitting a written match report within the 3 day period will be fined as per Appendix E

Leagues may require the result to be telephoned, faxed or emailed to the league by a set time after the game, clubs not complying with league instructions will be fined as per Appendix E

22. CAUTIONS AND SENDINGS OFF

All Cautions and Sending off must be reported to the Gwent County FA Disciplinary Secretary in writing on official form. The home club shall be responsible for ensuring that any club referee appointed reports the matter as above.

23. POSTPONEMENT OF FIXTURES

If postponement of any league fixture is required, application must be made in writing and be in possession of the League Secretary, at least 7 days before the match is to be played.

A copy of this application must also be sent to the Secretary of the opposing club within the same time scale. The League Secretary will then notify both teams of the postponement, if agreed to. **THIS RULE WILL NOT APPLY WHEN PITCHES ARE DECLARED UNFIT FOR PLAY** (See rule 20.4). Clubs failing to notify their opponents in writing will be liable to a fine as per Appendix E

24. BREAKING A FIXTURE

Clubs charged with breaking a fixture shall be dealt with by the League Management Committee.

If a fixture is deemed to be broken then the game will be awarded to the non-offending club with the result recorded as 1 - 0. The offending club shall be fined as per Appendix E.

The offending club shall pay all match expenses incurred by their opponents.

Teams committing a third offence in the same season will be liable to expulsion from the league.

Where only one team turns up for a scheduled fixture that team and the referee (if appointed), shall wait at the ground until 30 minutes after the scheduled kick off time. If the opponents do not turn up during this period, the team may then accept that the fixture will not be played and they may leave the ground. They must immediately report the matter to the league by telephone and confirm all details in writing within three days. Non receipt of such reports not to prevent the league taking action if it deems the fixture has been broken.

25. TEAMS LEAVING THE FIELD

In the event of any team leaving the field of play without the permission of the referee, the result of the match will be decided at the discretion of the League Management Committee, and the club or clubs involved will be fined (at the discretion of the League Management Committee) as per Appendix E.

26. INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

Any club playing an ineligible player shall be dealt with as follows:

- a) **When the Winning Club plays an ineligible player:**
The match shall be awarded to the non-offending club.
The result will be recorded as 5-0.
- b) **When the losing side plays an ineligible player:**
 1. The result of the game will stand.
 2. The goals scored by the losers shall be disallowed.
- c) **In drawn matches where one club plays an ineligible player:**

1. The match shall be awarded to the non-offending club.
 2. The result will be recorded as 5-0.
- d) **When both teams play an ineligible player.**
1. The match shall be declared a 0-0 draw
 2. No points shall be awarded
- e) In all cases clubs will be liable to fines and expenses as the Executive direct.
- f) Any player taking part in a match in which he is not eligible, shall be reported to the Gwent County Football Association. He is also liable to have his registration cancelled at the discretion of the Executive.

The defaulting club shall pay such expenses of opponents as the league direct and shall be fined as determined in Appendix E.

Any player taking part in a match in which he is not eligible, shall be reported to the Gwent County FA. He is also liable to have his registration cancelled at the discretion of the League Executive Committee.

27. SEARCH OF REGISTER

Should doubt arise as to the eligibility of any player, the League Secretary will give such registered information as necessary, or required, on payment of a fee as directed in Appendix E. All applications will be made in writing and must be accompanied by the fee. This will not constitute a protest which should be made in the usual way. Frivolous requests being proved, fee will be retained.

28. PROTESTS

Protests must be lodged with the League Secretary within 10 days of the match to which they refer, and an exact copy of such protests shall in addition be forwarded by recorded delivery post, by the club protesting, to the secretary of the club against which the protest is directed, within such time limits as aforesaid. To prevent frivolous protests, a fee as shown in Appendix E must accompany the protest or they will be rendered void. If the Committee deem the protests frivolous, the fee will be forfeited. The protest must be confined to the incident. No reference to be made to any previous incident. The club protesting must provide all necessary evidence to support their protest – this to include all statements which must be in writing. Such statements must bear the name and address of the person making the statement and must be signed. Such persons must be prepared to attend any hearing as required. If individuals are referred to in the protest their full names must be given..

29. CONDUCT

The League Management Committee shall have powers to deal with any offending club or clubs as they deem fit, but all cases of misconduct of players, officials or spectators will be dealt with by the Gwent County FA. All offending clubs will be invited to attend disciplinary hearings.

30. FINES

All fines must be paid within 10 days of receiving notice from the League (Such notification to be given within 10 days of the fine being imposed) or the offending club will be placed under suspension until such time as the fine is paid, the only exception being, when the offending club has given notice in writing of an appeal. All fines to be paid to the League Secretary.

31. APPEALS

Any club being dissatisfied with the decision of the League Management Committee may appeal to the Gwent County FA enclosing their fee. Appeals to be made within time limits laid down by the Gwent County FA in their Constitution Handbook.

32. TROPIHES AND MEDALS

For competitive divisions, and where funds permit, each league to present 16 medals to the winners and 16 medals to the runners up in each division. Additional medals may be provided for each club if requested. The league may require the cost of additional medals to be borne by the requesting club.

33. CUSTODY OF SHIELDS AND CUPS

Clubs who hold League Trophies are required to insure the trophy or trophies they hold for their full value. Clubs to furnish to the league the names of two responsible persons who will act as trustees for the league trophies held by the club. The club shall pay the repair costs for any trophy damaged whilst in possession of the club, or if repair is not possible, shall provide a new replacement trophy as directed by the league.

All trophies to be returned to the league by the 28 February following or earlier if directed. Clubs failing to comply will be fined as directed in Appendix E.

34. REPRESENTATIVE AND INTER LEAGUE MATCHES

34.1 The league shall enter any inter-league competition arranged by the Gwent County FA.

34.2 The League Management Committee shall have the power to arrange special matches, the proceeds of which shall be devoted to the General Funds of the League.

34.3 Any player selected to play under the auspices of the League in Inter-League games or otherwise, and failing or refusing to do so, shall, in the absence of good and sufficient cause, be dealt with at the discretion of the League Management Committee. Any club which shall be found to have encouraged or instigated such conduct on the part of a player shall be deemed guilty of misconduct and shall be dealt with at the discretion of the League Management Committee.

34.4 Leagues may decide their own criteria for the selection of their representative squads and the recruitment of representative team managers and coaches.

35. DISBANDED CLUBS

The players of any disbanded team which has discharged its liabilities to the League, shall be eligible to register for any other club in the League immediately withdrawal of such team is accepted by the League Management Committee. Results of matches of disbanded teams to be completely eliminated from the League records.

36. RULEBOOKS

A copy of this rulebook is to be supplied to each club secretary in each league, each team manager in each league and each member of the League Management Committee.

The Gwent County FA will supply each league with sufficient copies of the rulebook for this purpose following each reprint. The Gwent County FA may levy a charge for the total number of rulebooks supplied to each leagues.

Leagues may pass on this charge to member clubs.

Plea of not having a rulebook or not having knowledge of the rules, shall not be accepted as a plea of clemency if any charge be made against the team, club or league.

37. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION WITH THE LEAGUE

All communications with the League must be in writing from the club secretary, the league reserves the right not to act on correspondence received from any person other than the club secretary.

Correspondence which requires an answer should be accompanied by S.A.E. Clubs failing to answer correspondence from the league within 10 days will be liable to a fine as directed in Appendix E.

All telephone communications with the league must be confirmed in writing, by the club secretary, within three days. The league reserves the right not to act on telephone communications until such confirmation is received.

No telephone calls to be made to League Officials, Club Secretaries or Team Managers after 900pm unless by prior arrangement.

38. FRIENDLY MATCHES

A friendly match may only be arranged when the team concerned has no prior commitment in the league or league cup competitions.

For friendly matches against:-

- a) Teams within the same league area - No permission necessary
- b) Teams outside the league area, but within Gwent - Permission from the League Secretary and Gwent F.A.
- c) Teams outside of Gwent but within Wales - as (b)
- d) Teams outside Wales - as (c) plus the F.A. of Wales

In cases (b),(c) and (d) initial requests must be submitted to the League Secretary at least 21 days prior to the date of the match. Failure to give sufficient notice may result in permission being refused.

A club guilty of playing matches without permission will be dealt with under the classification of misconduct and is liable to a fine as directed in Appendix E, and in addition will be reported to the Gwent County F.A.

39. CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREES

To get the most effective co-operation from club assistant referees, the following procedure should be adopted.

1. BOTH club assistant referees should report to the referee BEFORE the start of the match, and receive instructions, and be informed that no matter what their personal opinion the decision of the referee is final, and must not be questioned.
2. The work allotted to them as assistant referees is to signal when the ball is ENTIRELY over the touch line, and to indicate WHICH side is entitled to the throw-in, subject always to the decision of the referee.

Keeping in mind their distinctive duties outlined above, it is essential there should be some conference between the three officials BEFORE any match. As the chief of this trio, the REFEREE must be able to indicate clearly to his assistants how they may best help him. His instructions must be specific, in order to avoid confusion on their side, the assistant referees must fully appreciate the referee's prior authority, and accept his rulings without question, should there be any difference of opinion amongst them. Their relationship to him MUST be one of assistance and neither undue intervention nor opposition.

The home club is to provide flags for the use of both assistant referees.

40. ALTERATION TO RULES

No alteration shall be made to these rules except by the Gwent County Football Association. Clubs wishing to propose rule changes must do so in writing to their League Secretary prior to 1 February each season. Leagues to hold a Rules Revision Meeting specially convened for that purpose in March of each season when proposals from Clubs and those, if any, proposed by the League Management Committee will be voted upon. Proposals receiving the assent of at least two thirds of the members present at the Rules Revision Meeting shall then be forwarded by the League Secretary to the Secretary of the Gwent County FA. These will then be approved or rejected by the Gwent County FA in May of each year. Rule changes made by the Gwent County FA shall become operative at the commencement of the following season.

41. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

Any matter arising which is not provided for in these rules shall be dealt with at the discretion of the League Management Committee and shall be reported to the Gwent County FA.

42. MINI - FOOTBALL

Rules 1 to 12 (inclusive) 17, 18, 27 to 31 (inclusive), 35 to 37 (inclusive), 40 and 41 apply to mini-football

42.1 GENERAL

There must be no league or cup competitions. No league or club to organise a competitive league or cup competition.

Mini-football is intended to teach children how to compete and win fairly, skillfully and within the rules of the game.

Mini-football is for all children, irrespective of ability, under 11 on 31 August at the start of each season. It is intended for boys and girls and young footballers with disabilities and learning difficulties.

42.2 AGES, DIVISIONS AND SESSIONS (FIXTURES)

- a) Leagues shall organise mini-football sessions for players up to and including Under 11.
- b) All sessions organised by the league shall take precedence over club arranged matches.

42.3 TEAM SIZE AND SUBSTITUTES

- a) Team size to be:-

Under 6 & Under 7	5 v 5
Under 8 & Under 9	7 v 7
Under 10 & Under 11	8 v 8

Teams must be of equal numbers at all times. If one team does not have the required number of players present then the other team must reduce the number of players in its team until the teams are equal.

- b) Any number of substitutes may be used at any time with the permission of the game leader. Players substituted may re-enter the game at any time.
- c) All players in the squad must be given an equal playing time during the session.

42.4. PITCH, EQUIPMENT AND PLAYING SURFACE

- a) The playing area to be of a maximum of:
 - Under 6 & Under 7 – 40yds x 30yds
 - Under 8 & Under 9 – 50yds x 30yds
 - Under 10 & Under 11 – 55yds x 35yds

A goal area to be marked across the field, from touchline to touchline, 10 yards from, and parallel, to each goal line.

- b) The recommended size for goal posts for all ages is 12ft x 6ft. If portable goal posts are used these must be securely fixed to the ground.
- c) Ideally games should be played on dedicated mini-football pitches but any level surface which is suitable for football may be used. **THERE MUST BE NO DEBRIS OR DANGEROUS HAZARDS EITHER ON THE FIELD OF PLAY OR IN THE IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING AREA.** The game should not be played on sections of full size pitches where full size fixed goal posts form part of the touchline or goal lines or are within three (3) yards of these lines.
- d) Cones and marker discs may be used for pitch marking. Corners must be marked. The general aim is to provide a safe, supervised environment for the players and their families.

42.5 DURATION OF SESSIONS AND GAMES

- a) In round robin sessions teams to play a maximum of three games and each game shall not exceed 20 minutes duration (10 minutes each half). Half times to be taken and teams to change ends. There must be a break of five minutes between each game.
- b) In sessions involving two teams only, games to be of a maximum of forty minutes (2 x 20 minutes). If there is enough substitutes to allow rolling substitutions; play can be extended to 3 x 15 minutes on 3 x 20 minutes. Common sense must prevail and the welfare of the children must be taken into consideration when deciding on the length of play. Five minute breaks to be taken between halves.

42.6 KICK OFF

The kick off to be taken in the centre of the field. The normal football rules apply to the kick off.

42.7 THROW INS

Law 15 applies and the throw in should be taken in the normal way, game leaders can, and should,

show flexibility. For example, in the case of a foul throw in, the game leader should allow the throw to be retaken by the same team; if necessary the game leader should advise the player concerned of the correct way to take the throw in.

42.8 CORNER KICKS, FREE KICKS AND PENALTIES

These are to be taken in the normal way except:

- a) Opponents must be three yards from the ball when the kick is taken.
- b) All free kicks are indirect.
- c) No penalties are awarded. Offences in the goal area are penalised with an indirect free kick.

42.9 GOAL KICKS

- a) To be taken anywhere in the goal area.
- b) Under 10 and Under 11 players must kick the ball off the ground as normal. Goalkeepers in younger age groups may kick the ball from their hands anywhere in the goal area.
- c) Opponents must be at least three yards away when the kick is taken.

42.10 GOALKEEPERS

- a) May handle the ball in the goal area and there are no restrictions on the number of steps they may take when holding the ball.
- b) Cannot handle the ball outside of the goal area.
- c) May play the ball outside or inside the goal area with their feet but may then be challenged by an opponent.
- d) Under 10 and Under 11 may only throw the ball or kick it from the ground. Goalkeepers in younger age groups may kick the ball out of their hands.
- e) May handle the ball if it is passed to them by a team mate.

42.11 GOALAREA

There are no restrictions on the number of players allowed in the goal area.

42.12 GAME LEADERS

- a) A game leader is appointed to supervise each game. The club hosting the mini-football session is to appoint the game leader.
- b) The role of the game leader is to supervise the game, awarding free kicks, throw ins etc. as a normal referee would and, in addition, he/she should explain the rules as the game proceeds, if necessary demonstrating certain points as to how the game is restarted, eg. a throw in.
- c) Game leaders shall perform their duties from the side of the playing area.
- d) The game leader is urged to be extremely flexible in the way the game is supervised, especially with the younger children.

42.13 RESULTS AND MATCH REPORTS

- a) Leagues may require match reports to be submitted for each game. Such match reports must not show the match result but may list the names and Gwent County FA licence numbers of each player taking part.
- b) Leagues must not request match results to be telephoned to a league officer or any other person.
- c) Leagues to report any person, team or club attempting to collate results of various teams to the Gwent County FA.

42.14 PLAYER REGISTRATION

- a) Note rules 15.2, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5 apply
- b) Each player to register on a simple registration form provided by the league.
- c) Players to register for a club only. Players may play for any team run by the club subject to age restrictions. This gives clubs the opportunity to select equal size squads for each team if they run more than one team at each age group.
- d) No player to play for more than one team on the same day.

42.15 MATCH REGULATIONS

The club hosting the mini-football session shall be classed as the home club.

- a) The home club shall contact the visitors by telephone, or in writing, at least 72 hours prior to

- the date of the session to confirm all details.
- b) The pitch and all required equipment shall be provided by the home club.
- c) In the event of colour clashes the away team(s) shall change, except where the home club wishes to play in colours not registered with the league in which case the home club shall change.
- d) In the event of postponements due to inclement weather then the home club shall notify visitors and the league.

42.16 TEAMS NOT ARRIVING, INELIGIBLE PLAYERS AND TEAMS LEAVING THE FIELD

In the event of one team not turning up for a league organised session or if a team plays an ineligible player or if a team leaves the field without the permission of the game leader. The matter shall be dealt with as follows:-

- a) Leagues may impose fines as per Appendix E
- b) For a second offence leagues may instruct such teams to appear before the League Management and/or disciplinary committee.
- c) Teams committing a third offense may be expelled from the League.

42.17 FESTIVALS ETC

Rule 38 applies except that any festival organised by a club involving three or more teams/clubs requires the permission of the league of which that club is a member irrespective of whether the clubs are all members of the same league or not.

42.18 TROPHIES/MEDALS/AWARDS

No trophies, medals or awards of any kind indicating winners, runners up, finalists, most improved team, most sporting team etc., shall be presented to any team or the individual players of any team.

They exception to this is where a league or club wishes to recognise the involvement of players in a particular session, e.g. a festival. In such cases exactly the same award must be presented to each and every player taking part, or in the case of one award per team, to each and every team taking part.

42.19 EXPLANATORY NOTES

The mini-football rules contained in this handbook are based on the football Association of Wales requirements for mini football.

Mini-football is non-competitive and therefore it is not important that clubs play each other on a home and away basis. Also the usual sanctions for breaking fixtures and playing ineligible players etc. cannot apply.

However each team that makes a commitment to entering into the organisation of mini-football must recognise that it has certain responsibilities towards the league and other member clubs.

Clubs may well end up hosting sessions on a home and away basis but this is mainly to ensure that the work required in preparing the pitch and pitch hire costs are spread equally across all teams.

Clubs/Teams that persistently break the rules may be expelled from membership of the league subject to the usual disciplinary procedures.

42.20 OTHER

- a) Club and team officials must ensure that every player in the team gets an equal opportunity. Winning is not important.
- b) Officials and spectators are asked to encourage the players at all times.
- c) Club and team officials must consider weather and ground conditions very carefully before games go ahead.

APPENDIX A CUP RULES

1. All teams registered with the league must enter the respective cup competition(s) as directed by the league and pay a fee to be determined by the league.
2. Each round will be drawn. Draw will be made by the League Management Committee.

First drawn club will have the choice of ground. Semi-finals to be played on pitches as directed by the League Management Committee.

In semi-final matches, if nets and corner flags are not supplied and erected by the host club, the first drawn club shall supply and erect nets, the second drawn club shall supply and erect corner flags. In all rounds and semi-finals both clubs shall supply a suitable match ball.

3. Date of rounds to be decided by League Management Committee, conference dates may be set.
4. In the event that a ground is unavailable, the tie will be reversed. In ties that are reversed the second drawn team becomes the home club. All cup matches will take precedence over league matches.
5. For each round of the cup, in the event of a draw at full time, extra time of 10 minutes each way will be played. Should a draw still result, penalties will be taken as per the rules laid down in Appendix B.
6. A player may only play for one team in one age group in the cup competition. No player registered after the 1st March each year may take part in the cup competition. Any club that plays an ineligible player will be struck out of the competition and the tie awarded to the opponents. A player must be registered 14 days immediately previous to the match.
7. Nets and corner flags must be provided in all rounds.
8. In all rounds and semi-finals referees will be appointed by the league.
In all rounds, but not semi-finals or finals, if the appointed referee is not available then league rule 20.2 applies.
Referees fee and expenses to be paid by the home club in rounds and by the league in semi-finals and final. Ground and dressing room fee to be paid as before stated.
9. Colours - In the event of colour clashes the following will apply:-
 - a) In all rounds and semi-finals league rule 20.3 will apply, the second drawn team will be classed as the away team irrespective of changes to the venue.
 - b) In finals colours shall be mutually agreed by the two clubs, or by the toss of a coin.
Teams wishing to play in colours not registered with the league must change.
10. Any club who fails to play an arranged cup match on the appointed date will be struck out of the competition, unless permission has been given for the postponement.
11. NOTIFICATION - In all rounds league rules 20.1 and 20.2 shall apply. The first drawn club shall be classed as the home club.
In semi-finals the league secretary shall confirm all details with the referee.
12. All league rules will apply if not before amended.

APPENDIX B

KICKS FROM THE PENALTY MARK - PROCEDURE

1. The referee shall choose the goal at which all the kicks will be taken.
2. The referee shall toss a coin and the team whose captain wins the toss shall take the first kick.
 - (a) Subject to the terms of the following paragraphs (c) & (d) both teams shall take five kicks.
 - (b) The kicks shall be taken alternately.

- (c) If before both teams have taken five kicks, one has scored more goals than the other could, even if it were to complete its five kicks, the taking of kicks shall cease.
 - (d) If, after both teams have taken five kicks, both have scored the same number of goals, or have not scored any goals, the taking of kicks shall continue in the same order, until such time that both have taken an equal number of kicks (not necessarily five more kicks) and one team has scored one goal more than the other.
4. The team which scores the greater number of goals, whether the number of kicks is in accordance with the terms of the foregoing paragraph (3) (3c) or (3d) shall qualify for the next round of the competition, or shall be declared winner of the competition as the case may be.
 5. (a) With the exception referred to in the following paragraph (b) only the players who are on the field of play at the end of the match, which shall mean at the end of extra time insofar as a match in which extra time is authorised is concerned, and any who have left the field temporarily, with or without the referee's permission, are not on the field of play at that time, shall take part in the taking of kicks.
 - (b) Provided that his team has not already made use of the maximum number of substitute permitted by the rules of the competition under which the match was played, a goalkeeper who sustains an injury during the taking of kicks, and who, because of the injury, is unable to continue as goalkeeper may be replaced by a substitute.
 6. Each kick shall be taken by a different player and not until all eligible players of any team including the goalkeeper, or the named substitute by whom he was replaced in the terms of paragraph 5 as the case may be, have taken each kick, may a player from the same team take another kick.
 7. Subject to the terms of paragraph (5) any player who is eligible, may change places with his goalkeeper at any time during the kicks.
 8. Other than the player taking the kick from the penalty mark, and the two goalkeepers, all players shall remain within the centre circle, whilst the taking of kicks is in progress.
 9. The goalkeeper who is a colleague of the kicker shall take up a position within the field of play outside the penalty area at which the kicks are being taken behind the line which runs parallel with the goal line and at least 10 yards from the penalty mark.
 10. Unless stated to the contrary in the foregoing paragraphs, 1 to 9, the laws of the game, and the International Board decisions relating thereto, shall, insofar as they can, apply to the taking of kicks.

NB: In the event of light falling before the end of the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, the result shall be decided by the toss of a coin or the drawing of lots.

APPENDIX C MANAGEMENT

1. General

Each league shall determine its own policy on the structure of its League Management Committee, the way that its officers are appointed and rules relating to Life Members. Subject to the following:-

- 1.1 Each league shall appoint a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer (or Secretary/Treasurer and Assistant Secretary/Treasurer) The League Secretary (or Secretary/Treasurer) will be responsible for all correspondence with the Gwent County FA.
- 1.2 No club shall have more than two members sitting on the League Management Committee,

- such number to exclude Life Members if appointed.
- 1.3 The Management Committee of each league shall meet at least once per month during the football season. Proposed dates, times and venues of such meetings throughout the season to be published by 31st August at the commencement of the season. All meetings to be confirmed in writing in advance to Management Committee members. Changes of date, time or venue to be confirmed in writing at least 7 days prior to the new date, time or venue.
 - 1.4 Each league to keep minutes of its Management Committee, Annual and Special General Meetings. Such minutes to include at least brief details of the financial report. Copies of such minutes to be sent to the Gwent County FA.
 - 1.5 Life members, if appointed, shall be entitled to vote at all meetings of the league. The Number of Life Members appointed shall not exceed one third of the numbers entitled to sit on the Management Committee of the League (excluding Life Members)
 - 1.6 Leagues may form sub committees as required for the better conduct of the league.
 - 1.7 All members of League Management Committees must be over the age of 18.
 - 1.8 Leagues to reimburse expenses and agree honorariums as they see fit. Details of such to be approved by the Annual General Meeting of the League.
 - 1.9 All monies shall be held in bank accounts in the name of the league only.

2. East Gwent Association Football League

(Note. That this league runs senior and junior divisions and that the management rules relate to the senior and junior clubs)

For the purposes of this rule the League Management Committee for the East Gwent League is known as The Council.

MANAGEMENT

The affairs of the league shall be managed by a Council to consist of a President, Life Members, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Assistant Secretaries as required and 12 members of the Council. The 12 Members of The Council shall be nominated by the clubs and elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Officers shall be elected by the Council at the first Council meeting after the Annual General Meeting.

Members of the Council who have served 15 years on the Council, not necessarily continuously, shall be eligible for election as Life Members of the League with full voting powers. At no time shall the number of Life Members exceed Five.

Vice-Presidents shall not exceed 15 in number and have no voting powers at any meeting of the league.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The 12 members of the council shall be nominated by the clubs, not less than 14 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. Each club must nominate candidates, up to 12 in number, but not more than one of its own members, or otherwise be liable to be fined as per Appendix E.

The League Council may also nominate 12 candidates. Voting will be for eight members from the senior clubs and four members from the junior clubs.

The President of the League shall conduct the business of the Annual General Meeting, or, in his absence, a person elected at the start of the meeting by the clubs present. Members of the League Council term of office shall cease at the start of the meeting and shall not be eligible to vote in the election of council members of the league at this meeting. Any vacancy occurring on the council shall be filled by the next nominee on the voting list at the Annual General Meeting. If there is no qualified candidate the Council shall have the power to co-opt.

3. Islwyn Youth Association Football League

For the purpose of this rule the League Management Committee for the Islwyn Youth League is known as The Full Executive Committee.

MANAGEMENT

The league shall be managed by its Officers, Life Members and up to, but no more than, two (2) nominated representatives from each club. This will be known as the Full Executive Committee. Each club will be able to nominate a reserve who may attend in case of absence.

At no time will any club be able to send more than two (2) nominated members to any Full Executive Meeting.

Should any club wish to change a representative, during the season, this must be done in writing to the League Secretary, and written acknowledgement received back to the club, before the new nominee can take his or her place on the Full Executive Committee.

DISCIPLINARY

Disciplinary matters will be dealt with by a Disciplinary Committee of seven (7) elected from the attendees at the July Full Executive Meeting. Two (2) reserves shall also be elected to serve in case of absence. Any five (5) members will form a quorum, which will then report its findings to the Full Executive Committee.

Meetings of the Full Executive Committee shall be held on the first Tuesday of each month, or as ordered by the Chairman and League Secretary. All Full Executive Committee meetings should not continue beyond 10.00pm. Clubs not represented at any Full Executive Meeting will be fined as directed in Appendix E.

Minutes of all Full Executive Committee Meetings will be circulated to member clubs.

4. Newport & District Junior & Youth Association Football League

For the purposes of this rule the League Management Committee is known as The Executive Committee.

MANAGEMENT

The league shall be managed by the Executive Committee to consist of Life Members, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Fixture Secretary, Registration Secretary, General Secretary, President, Vice-President, and eight Executive Members.

MANAGEMENT MEETINGS

Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held each month during the football season or as ordered by the Chairman and Secretary. Any member absent from three consecutive meetings without sufficient reason shall be considered to have resigned and the vacancy be filled by the next nominee on the voting list at the last Annual General Meeting.

ELECTION

All officers and Executive Members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

5. Torfaen Junior & Youth Association Football League

For the purposes of this rule the League Management Committee is the Executive Committee.

MANAGEMENT

The affairs of the League shall be managed by an Executive Committee to consist of Life Members - President - Vice-President - Chairman - Vice Chairman - Secretary/Treasurer - Assistant Secretary - and nine Executive Members. Officers shall be appointed for a two year term.

LIFE MEMBERS

A member of the Executive Committee shall be eligible for Life Membership after serving 15 years, not necessarily continuously. Such members have full voting powers. Such members not to exceed five in number. Such members may hold any office in the league.

MANAGEMENT MEETINGS

Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held each month during the football season or as ordered by the Chairman and Secretary. Any member absent from three consecutive meetings without sufficient reason shall be considered to have resigned and the vacancy be filled by the Management Committee.

ELECTION

The members of the Executive Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

The officers shall be appointed by the Executive Committee at the first meeting after the Annual General Meeting.

APPENDIX D STANDING ORDERS FOR LEAGUE MEETINGS

- 1. CONTROL OF MEETINGS**
The Chairman of the League shall have control of the meeting, and in case of a tie on voting for any motion or amendment, he shall have power to give a second or casting vote.
- 2. MOVING OF RESOLUTIONS**
Every motion or amendment shall be moved and seconded (and if so required shall be reduced to writing) before it is discussed or put to the meeting.
- 3. MEMBERS SPEAKING**
A member shall address the Chair, only the Chairman shall have power to check or call to order a speaker. When the Chairman rises no one else shall continue, nor shall anyone else until the Chairman has finished.
- 4. MATTERS NOT BEFORE THE MEETING**
No member shall speak on any matter, not before the meeting.
- 5. MEMBERS TO SPEAK ONCE ONLY.**
No member shall speak twice on any motion, unless permission be given to explain, except the mover of the original resolution, or of an amendment that displaces an original resolution.
- 6. RESOLUTIONS ETC. NOT TO BE WITHDRAWN**
A motion or amendment once made and seconded, shall not be withdrawn without the consent of the meeting.
- 7. AMENDMENTS TO BE RELEVANT**
Any amendment must be relevant to the motion on which it is moved.
- 8. REJECTED AMENDMENTS**
If any amendment be rejected, other amendments may be moved on the original motion, providing notice has been given.
- 9. AMENDMENTS CARRIED**
If any amendment is carried, the original amendment as thereby amended, shall become the question upon which any further amendments may be moved.
- 10. NOTICE TO RESCIND RESOLUTION**
Notice of motion must be given and appear on the agenda before any decision arrived at can be varied or rescinded. Any motion having been passed by the Executive Committee Meeting shall not be rescinded without the consent of at least two thirds of those present. No motion to alter or rescind any resolution passed within the preceding 6 months, and no motion or amendment to the same effect as one which has been rejected within the preceding 6 months, shall be proposed. When any such motion or amendment has been disposed of by any Executive Committee it shall not be open to any member to propose a similar motion within a further period of 6 months.
- 11. URGENT MATTERS**
Any matter of pressing importance not on the agenda, may be dealt with at once upon a motion of 'urgency' being duly moved, seconded and carried by a two thirds majority of the members present.

- 12. INTEREST**
If a member of member(s) has any interest in any matter put before the meeting then the member(s) shall withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed and resolved.
- 13. TIME LIMIT FOR SPEECHES**
No member shall address the Executive Committee for a longer period than 5 minutes on any one question, except the mover of the resolution, who may speak on bringing forward his proposition for a period not exceeding 10 minutes.
- 14. PRIORITY OF SPEAKER**
When two or more members rise at one time, the Chairman shall decide who shall have priority of speaking.
- 15. OBJECTIONABLE MATTERS**
If the Chairman shall be of the opinion that any motion proposed to be made is of an objectionable character, he may at once put it to the vote (on which there shall be no discussion) whether it shall be entertained or not, and if two thirds of the members present decide not to entertain such motion the matter is disposed for that meeting.
- 16. QUORUM**
Five members shall form a quorum of the Executive Committee, and without a quorum no business shall be transacted. This does not refer to sub-committees.
- 17. CONDUCT OF MEMBERS**
Should there be any dispute which involves the conduct or otherwise of any member, or members of the Executive Committee, the said member shall retire during its consideration.
- 18. RESOLVING INTO COMMITTEE**
The Executive Committee may, by vote, resolve itself into a Committee, and whilst in Committee there shall be no restriction as to the number of times a member may speak.
- 19. PRIVILEGE**
The evidence of witnesses, statements of members, general discussion and other matters within and before the Executive Committee and Sub-Committees shall be deemed to be privileged and private.
The Executive Committee shall have the power to censure or suspend from service on the Executive Committee any member proved to be guilty of a breach of this rule.
- 20. DURATION OF MEETINGS**
All Executive Committee meetings will terminate no later than 2 hours after the Chairman declared the meeting open.

APPENDIX E

FINES

Rule	Brief Outline of Offence	Maximum Fine
8	Clubs Not Attending	£10.00
9	Clubs Making False Statements	£20.00
10	Not Notifying League of Club Information	£10.00
20.1	Not Notifying Visiting Club	£10.00
	Not Notifying Referee	£10.00
20.6	Failure To Provide Ball	£5.00
20.7	Failure To Provide Corner Flags, Nets & Assistant Referee Flags	£5.00
20.9	Late Starts	£5.00
	First Offence	£5.00

	Second Offence	£10.00
	Third Offence – Up To	£25.00
21	Clubs Not Fully Competing the Match Report	£5.00
	Clubs Falsifying Information on the Match Report	£20.00
	Clubs Not Submitting a Match Report Within the 3 Days	£5.00
	Clubs Not Notifying Result by Set Time	£5.00
23	Clubs Not Notifying Opponents of Postponement Request	£5.00
24	Clubs Breaking a Fixture	
	First Offence	£10.00
	Second Offence	£15.00
	Third Offence	£20.00
25	Teams Leaving The Field	£50.00
26	Ineligible Player	£50.00
33	Failure to Return League Cups or Trophies Per Cup Rule	£10.00
37	Failure to Answer Correspondence	£10.00
	Clubs Not Attending Any Compulsory Meeting	£10.00
East Gwent – Clubs Not Attending Appendix D		£4.00
Islwyn – Clubs Not Attending Appendix D		£5.00
Except for rule 25 none of the above fines may be suspended. Fines imposed under rule 25 and other fines not listed above, may be suspended in all, or part, for a fixed period of time.		
FEES		
See separate League notice for details of current League fees, cup fees etc.		
12	Withdrawal Fee	Up To £50.00
16	Transfer Fee	£5.00
27	Search of Register Fee	Per Player £5.00
28	Protest Fee	£25.00
19	Referee Fee & Expenses - As Per Gwent County F A Regulations	

REFEREES WANTED



Throughout the Country local football depends on the service of keen, dedicated people who make a vast contribution to the national game as referees, enabling players to more easily enjoy their matches.

CAN YOU HELP?

Every year more clubs registered with the Gwent County Football Association. There are more and more matches to which referees must be appointed.

CAN YOU HELP?

If you have played the game at any level you will know how important it is to have a qualified referee present.

CAN YOU HELP?

If you are physically fit, with good eyesight and are at least fourteen years of age and willing to attend a local course of instruction, in preparation for a straight forward examination.

WILL YOU HELP?

If are interested in accepting the challenge of refereeing local football matches:

PLEASE CONTACT:

Referee Development Secretary:

Mr.K.R.Jones

21 Maes Bedw

Cymmer Porth

Rhondda CF39 9HF

Tel: 01443 681 381