



THE JUNIOR PREMIER LEAGUE
(Affiliated to The Football Association – Wembley)



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY, 21st JULY 2022 ONLINE VIA GOOGLE MEETS AT 7.00 P.M.

MINUTES

The Chairman Mr. M Brock welcomed all to the AGM and began by outlining the agenda for the evening:

- Welcome and introductions
- Apologies
- Matters Arising
- Chairman's Report
- Treasurers Report
- Election of Officers
- Constitution of the Competition
- Amendments to the Competition Rules
- New clubs wanting to join the League
- Fix the date for the commencement of the season and kick off times applicable to the Competition
- AOB

1) Welcome, Introduction & Apologies

Welcome from Martin Brock the Chairman of the Junior Premier League. Almost every member of the team in the meeting tonight, we have just recently expanded the team. We've had a new member join us this week and then there's another one coming on board on the 8th of August as well. We have had quite a few clubs say they couldn't attend the meeting.

2) Matter Arising

Minutes from Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 27th July 2021 were circulated to clubs ahead of the meeting. Confirmation of no matters arising from those minutes.

3) Chairman's Report

Last season we managed to get through without a lockdown. However, there were a lot of teams that had players out due to Covid-19. We had to take a stance during the season that we were going to award games in the case of postponing due to players out through Covid. We took this stance quite simply because there is a finite amount of time in a season and we had to have one consistent rule. In most cases teams got through their fixtures and all competitions did complete with winners. Thank you to everyone for doing their best in what was another difficult season.

Staff changes: We are delighted to welcome Sam Hill to the team. Sam has joined as the Compliance and Discipline Officer, and is going to be based at our new office that's recently opened in Middlesbrough. Sam will be working alongside our Director of Football Steve Connolly and another new member, Rachel Horsley. Rachel will be looking after our Mini Soccer, Rep Teams and RTCs. Please bear in mind that our staff based in the office will be working during office hours, so please only attempt to contact them during those hours.

Admin system: The FA insists all player registrations must be done on Whole Game System (WGS). We will continue to run our own registration system. Our new app is due for release soon, this will be the home for our player registrations. It's not all done on a mobile, it can be accessed from a PC or Laptop. The most important thing is parents, from September, will be able to view scores, fixtures, team sheets and so on. It will be a lot easier to use than our previous system and website which, due to the size of the league, was too full of information.

League expansion: We've grown by about 25% in the boys, and the Warriors league has grown by about 300% as more and more people want to join the League. We will touch on regions that have new clubs joining later in the meeting, where we will have to take a vote in some cases. Also on expansion, we have grown our under 18s offering, and we have recently introduced under 7s to certain areas. If you've got under 7s or under 18s please speak to us, as we want to continue to grow and progress across the country. Likewise, if your club has a girls set-up please get in contact and we can look to bring your teams into our Warriors League from next season.

FA relationships: We still have a very good relationship with them. We are pleased to say we had an audit last summer that lasted into the beginning of this season and we received high praise. Thank you to all of you, for doing everything properly on WGS, and thanks to my team for having everything in place and where it should be. But it is a reminder to continue to do everything correctly. We are still the only nationally affiliated youth league in the country.

COVID contingency: Important to still recognise it is part of our daily lives. We hope it doesn't affect us this season, but we have put a request in to the FA to extend our season if there is another lockdown.

Cup competitions: Our Cup competitions went superbly. The U13-U16 STATSports finals were held at Macclesfield FC and all finals were a great spectacle to watch. The standard continues to rise, which is a testament to the coaches in our league.

4) Success

- Only nationally affiliated youth league
- England's largest youth league - Due to have 25,000+ players in 2022/23
- Seven U16s from our Warriors League invited to England Lionesses pathway
- 1 in 11 players sign for Professional Academies
- 12 Central Venues now across the country with further demand.
- Teams from almost every County in England
- New partnerships with top brands and organisations
- Close working relationships with National FA
- Only league to partner with FA on Lionesses Talent ID
- New office opened in July 2022
- New app in development
- JPL USA launched

5) Website and admin site

Following on from feedback on our previous system, we have taken the opportunity to do a complete overhaul. We have been working with a new developer to create an integrated and comprehensive system to support club development.

The release will bring an APP/Player portal and new website for easier team & player registrations, fixtures, match data. This will be live soon for player registrations, but please bear with us as we fix final bugs.

Website design is being improved to make it easier to navigate and view on all devices. A reminder that all players **MUST** be registered on whole game system.

6) Treasurer's Report

Confirmation of the accounts being circulated to clubs via email. No issues raised on accounts. The recent FA audit brought with it high praise. We confirmed that we are in a positive position and have no issues meeting our obligations financially.

7) Election of Officers and Management Committee

No nominations for Committee were received from any member clubs.

Confirmation of Committee for 2022/23:

Chairman (Martin Brock)

Secretary (Alex Watson)

Compliance Officer (Sam Hill)

Treasurer (Pamela Johnson)

Head of Girls Football (Pamela Johnson)

Child Welfare Officer (Pamela Johnson and Rich Martin)

Referees Secretary (Rich Martin)

Director Of Football (Steve Connolly)

Social Media Manager (James Tanner)

Mini Soccer Officer (Rachel Horsley)

Customer Services Officer (Dave Richens)

Auditor(s) – TC Group (chartered accountants)

No objections made.

The above committee changes were proposed and seconded, and the committee were elected 'en-bloc'

8) Constitution of the competition

Mini Soccer U7s to U11s:

- Development (6 - 8-week block) to match the level of teams.
- Competitions in line with FA guidelines - we are not allowed to do one long competitive season.
- Winter and Summer competitive blocks

U12s to U18s:

- Regional Leagues (8 -10 Teams playing each other home and away)
- Only League winners will enter end of season play offs for National Champions title
- National Cup & Trophy competition - we will not be having shield event this season.

Fixtures:

- Working towards fixture release in mid-August (16th August)
- To be included in these fixtures you must be affiliated, fees paid and completed essential admin.
- Aiming for the season to start on Saturday 10th September.
- Cup and Trophy competition will start in November (JPL) & September (Warriors)
- League matches to be concluded at the end of March. End of April used for any catch-up, but none will take place beyond this point.
- Season is proposed to be concluded by the end of May 2023.

Cup Finals:

- All cup final venues will be set by the league, dates and venues are not negotiable and will not be changed this season.
- If your club is interested in hosting cup finals, please get in touch.

Nationals Weekend:

- Biggest event the JPL has ever planned
- Winners of U13s, U14s, U15s, U16s Leagues will be invited
- Date set for 20th & 21st May - two-day event to decide National Champions
- University of Warwick booked
- Invite only to league winners
- If you can't participate there is no alternative available, we reserve the right to invite 2nd place if required
- Will be additional entry fee

9) Amendments to the Competition Rules

- No League domestic rule changes were put forward.
- We will implement the 'Late Postponement/Non-Fulfilment' rule. If opposition incur costs due to a late postponement a fine of £100 will be added by us and then passed on to the club.
- All players to be registered on WGS AND JPL system

10) New clubs wanting to join the League

Votes took place on clubs that had objections raised. Clubs were contacted directly by the JPL on their result. All new clubs that fit criteria have been made aware to the members in the locality of this new club. All new clubs are now subject to 1 year probation period

- All Clubs must be England Accredited (formerly Charter Standard) or working towards (this must be evidenced by your County FA)
- All clubs must be affiliated to their County FA by August 15th
- All teams at your club must be registered to the league on the whole game system. Reminder that we are a National League, so we will be found in the 'Nationally Affiliated' leagues.
- All contact with the JPL must come through club secretaries or designated JPL contact
- Clubs can give us a deputy key contact to help with the workload
- For all official business an email is required
- League business can not be carried out via Whatsapp or phone.
- A vote was taken on Wimborne Town FC (admitted to league), Next Gen in Doncaster (rejected by members), Fairford Town FC (rejected by members), St Albans ITC (rejected by members), Welwyn Garden City FC (accepted by members)

11) Fix the date for the commencement of the season and kick off times applicable to the Competition

- Season will run from Sept 10th, 2022
- The last date of the season for league fixtures will be 30th April (subject to COVID complications).
- Cup & Trophy finals will take place in April - May 2022
- Kick off times can be between 9am and 2.00pm – be considerate of the opponent's traveling time. *If a team is traveling over 90 minutes kick off must be at earliest 10am (Traveling time from registered home venue to opposition home venue)
- Kick off times outside this period require both clubs and League agreement.
- More than 5 days' notice required when changing from the standard 10.30am kick off time (Sunday – midnight)
- Postponements will not be accepted with less than 5 days' notice and must include proof of County Cup, District football, education reasons.

12) AOB

- Next year's AGM will be held in July 2023
- Webinars will be announced in due course for all coaches/clubs – these will be more informative on the season ahead
- Videos will be circulated for help with the administration within the JPL
- Coaches pack will be circulated to all club administrators/coaches on app release

The Chairman thanked the Committee for their continued hard work and recorded his best wishes to the member clubs for a restful summer and for the forthcoming 2022/2023 playing season. The Meeting closed at 8.05pm.