

## **Rule Alterations for 2026-27**

In addition to the changes to SCOR:

### **Sunday League**

The same rules apply as Saturday League except:

2. No more than 3 players who have played in step 6 or above will be permitted to play in Division 2 and below of the Dorset Sunday League. For clarification, a player becomes ineligible as soon as he plays at any point in any match at the level mentioned previously, despite being previously registered for the team.
4. A player may dual register for a Veterans team/Saturday League team.

### **U18 league**

The same rules apply as the Saturday League except:

10. Competition Matches should be played in accordance with the Laws appropriate to the relevant age group, as laid down by The FA, as detailed below.

Age Group	Minimum Duration of play per quarter (minutes) (Mini-Soccer)	Maximum Duration of play per quarter (minutes) (Mini-Soccer only)	Minimum duration of play per half (minutes)	Maximum duration of play per half (minutes)	Maximum playing time in one day in all organised development fixtures (minutes)	Maximum playing time in one day in all tournaments and trophy events/festivals (minutes)	Competition structure
Under 17 and Under 18	N/A	N/A	25	45	120	180	Any varieties including one season long league table

### **Veterans League**

The same rules apply as in the Saturday Section except:

7. A player may dual register for a Sunday League/Saturday League team.

### **Womens League**

The same rules will apply as in the Saturday section except:

2. Players register for a club with a team in Division 1 and Division 2 are eligible to play in both teams with a limit of three on the number of Division 1 players participating in a Division 2 game. A Division 1 player is classified as a pleyer who has played four games in Division 1 within the current playing season.

### **League Cup Rules**

9. In all knock out rounds, if the scores are level at 90 minutes, the match shall be decided by kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with Internation Board decisions, from the players on the pitch at the end of fulltime. Both teams shall take up to five (5) kicks. If after both teams have taken five (5) kicks there is no clear winner, the/n the competition becomes "sudden death".

## **Rules of the Geoff Pike Memorial Shield Competition**

1. The entire control and management of the above competition shall be vested in the Management Committee of the Dorset Football League.
2. The competition shall be called the Geoff Pike Memorial Shield which shall not become the property of any one club.
3. The competition shall be open to all clubs competing in the Dorset Sunday League on payment of the entry fee of £20 which shall be paid on or before the Annual General Meeting in each year.
4. The League Management Committee shall have the power to group the competing clubs for the purposes of the draw or exempt any club or clubs from taking part in earlier rounds.

When competing clubs are grouped in mini leagues in the early stages of the competition the rules of the Dorset Football League will apply until the knock out stage is reached. (e.g. When scores are level after 90 mins the result is a draw and there is no extra time or penalties.

Also, in the event of a club being found guilty of playing an ineligible player in the group stages, the sanctions taken by the League Management Committee are as if it were a League game and they are not removed from the competition.

Should the League Management Committee decide to hold a Plate Competition for teams who are knocked out of the Geoff Pike Memorial Shield in the early rounds, rules 5 to 22 inclusive below will also apply to the Plate Competition.

5. The qualification of players will be as per Dorset Football League Rules.
6. For the purposes of the competition, a bone fide playing member of the club is one who being in all other aspects eligible has signed a fully and correctly completed League Registration Form.
7. No player shall be eligible to play for more than one team in any one season's competition and no player shall be permitted to play in the final tie unless he has previously played for his club during the current season in a match under the jurisdiction of the Dorset Sunday League.
8. Any club playing ineligible player/s will have the match awarded to their opponents and the Management Committee may take further action against the club and / or players as it may decide.
9. In all the stages, except group matches) if the match is level at full time, the match shall be decided by kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with International Board decisions, from the players on the pitch at the end of full time. Both teams shall take up to five (5) kicks. If after both teams have taken five (5) kicks there is no clear winner, then the competition becomes "sudden death".
10. At the conclusion of the final the winners shall be presented with the trophy which shall be returned in accordance with League Rule 13A. In the event that a club ceases to exist after winning the competition, the trophy will be returned immediately to the League Secretary.
11. Trophies remain the property of the Dorset Football League.
12. Appropriate medals shall be presented to both teams and match officials.
13. A player dismissed from the field of play for misconduct during the final tie may only receive a medal if sanctioned by the management committee.

14. Protests must be lodged with the General Secretary within 3 days of a match and include a payment of £50 deposit forfeited if the protest is not sustained or is unsuccessful.

15. League Rule 21 applies in respect of reporting fixtures etc.

16. Matches will be scheduled by the Fixtures Secretary but can be brought forward by mutual agreement of the clubs concerned and with permission of the Fixtures Secretary. If a tie at a club's home ground has been postponed on two occasions because of the weather the fixture shall be reversed.

17. Failure to play matches will be dealt with by forfeiture of the fixture. Additionally, the offending club will be reported for non-fulfilment of fixture and dealt with by due process.

A club withdrawing from the competition shall be fined a sum not exceeding £100.

18. Any team playing with less than 11 players will be dealt with as per Rule 20D.

19. Referees for matches up to the final shall be appointed in accordance with Rule 23.

20. Match officials for the final ties shall be appointed by the Management Committee.

21. The club first drawn in all rounds except the Final shall be responsible for making all payments and notification to officials and opponents and shall notify their opponents prior to the game of the total amount due, half of which shall be reimbursed by their opponents immediately after the game at the latest.

In the Final tie the Dorset Football League shall take the whole of the proceeds of the match.

22. Unless varied by these Rules, all Rules of the Dorset Football League shall apply and any matters occurring not covered will be referred to the Management Committee for a decision.