

MSWL United

Rules - Version 9.13 – November 2023

Effective from MSWL-1 Season 46 and MSWL-2 Season 36

GM: Allan Sellers

Anti-Copyright: These rules are anti-copyright, which means you are actively encouraged to use them, and set up your own league using them, so long as no profit-making is involved, and you include a statement similar to this one.

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Credits: MSWL United's core mechanics come from United, a game invented by Alan Parr, to whom many people are eternally grateful.

Martin Burroughs wrote the rules document which was the key source for these rules. Martin credited the following with helping him: Martin Draper, Ian Le Brocq, Keith Morton, Arthur Owen, Alan Parr, Richard Ramsden, and Peter Stanton. Thanks to all of them for helping out Martin.

Thanks also to Martin for developing the rules on an anti-copyright basis, allowing Allan Sellers the opportunity to create his own version and set up the MSWL United leagues.

Ellis Simpson created version 9.0, reformatting and reorganizing Allan Sellers' text, and - with Allan's blessing and participation, and Kevin Martin's feedback - made editorial improvements. Ellis continued with updates through version 9.6. Stewart Miller began with updates for 9.7 up to 9.11, with Carl Oakes picking up the role of rules editor, beginning with 9.12.

1. Introduction

MSWL United is an online football management game. Each player takes the role of a football team manager, and has total control over coaching, team selection, tactics, the buying and selling of the team's players, and finances.

Managers and Players

From here onwards:

- **manager** means a player of this game
- **player** means a member of a team

Squad

Each team has a squad of players: a minimum of 18 and a maximum of 30.

Season

The season is divided into 10 regular sessions followed by the close season. Each regular session has a deadline, by which time managers must submit orders for their teams using the online order form on the web site.

After the deadline, the GM runs the software to work out all events happening in the game, and he issues reports on the web site. Then the next session begins. (See *Season Format and Competition Structure* on page .)

Chance

Many events in the game have a percentage chance of happening. To work these out, the software generates a random number from 0.01 to 100.00. If the number is less than or equal to the chance, the event happens. Otherwise it does not happen. **Example:** If there is a 60% chance of a Goalkeeper making a save, a random number of up to 60.00 means success, and 60.01-100.00 is failure.

Learning the Game

To learn the game, read the rules, concentrating on sections 1-7. Then, browse the web site and look at the league in progress. Send any questions to the GM, Allan Sellers: allan.sellers@gmail.com.

2. Players

Each player has the characteristics shown in the following table:

Characteristic	Details
Name	The software chooses each player's name at the start of a player's career. This avoids duplication. Names never change.
Type	Each player is a Goalkeeper (Gk), Sweeper (Sw), Defender (Df), Midfielder (Mf), or Forward (Fw). A player's type never changes.
Age	A player's Age runs (from youngest): Schoolboy (SBY) to Apprentice (APP) to Age I, Age II, Age III, Age IV, Age V, etc. Note: A Youth player is one whose Age is SBY or APP.
Skill Level	A whole number from 2 upwards. A player's Skill Level rises through Coaching and falls through Aging. A player with a Skill Level of less than 2 retires instantly, leaving the league.
Nationality	A player's Nationality has no effect.
Fitness Modifier	<p>A whole number of 2 or less; it may be negative and may rise or fall during a season. At the start of every season each player's Fitness Modifier is reset to 0, except for Youth players whose Fitness Modifier is reset to 2.</p> <p>Reductions to Fitness Modifier If a player plays 3 or more matches in a session, his Fitness Modifier reduces by 1 immediately after the third match. Exception: a Gk's Fitness Modifier reduces if he plays 4 or more matches in a session. Injuries may also affect a player's Fitness Modifier. Note: If a non-Gk starts a session with a Fitness Modifier of -2, plays the first three matches, and plays in the 4th match, he plays in that 4th match with a Fitness Modifier of -3.</p> <p>Increasing Fitness Modifier A player playing no matches in a regular session increases his Fitness Modifier by 1, unless it is already at the maximum of 2. A player's Fitness Modifier may also increase through Coaching. (See <i>Coaching Players for Fitness</i> on page .)</p> <p>Fit and Unfit Players A player with a Fitness Modifier of -3 or lower is unfit and is unable to play in any match. A player with a Fitness Modifier of -2 or higher is fit and is able to play in any match.</p>
Total Level	<p>Each player's contribution to his team's performance, being the total of his Skill Level and Fitness Modifier.</p> <p>Exception: the Captain's Total Level is the total of his Skill Level, Fitness Modifier, and Age. (See <i>Captain</i> on page .)</p>

Captain

Before Session 1 of each season, each manager may select one of the team's players to be the Captain. The player must be:

- Age I or older, and
- A Df, Mf, or Fw

The appointment as Captain ends in the next close season. Regardless of what happens to a team's Captain, the manager may not select a replacement until the next close season.

Example: a manager may not appoint a new Captain mid-season to replace an injured, suspended, or traded Captain.

The Captain's Total Level in a match is the total of his Skill Level, Fitness Modifier, and Age.

The Captain may not play in the Goalkeeper or Sweeper position. (See *Player Position* on page .)

Aging

At the end of each season, each player's Age increases by 1. A player becoming Age II and older, loses Skill Levels equal to his new Age. **Remember:** a player with a Skill Level of less than 2 retires instantly, leaving the league.

Player Examples

Total Level: A player shown as I/9 Mf is an Age I Midfielder of Skill Level 9. If his Fitness Modifier is 2, his Total Level is 11. If his Fitness Modifier is -1, his Total level is 8.

Captain: A III/10 Fw with a Fitness Modifier of 1 who is a Captain, has a Total Level of 14.

Aging: At the end of the season, an SBY/5 Df becomes an APP 5/Df; a I/9 Mf becomes a II/7 Mf.

3. Team Selection

Areas of Play and Outfield

The available Areas (of play) are: Goalkeeper, Sweeper, Defense, Midfield, and Forward.

The Defense, Midfield and Forward areas are the Outfield.

Area Total

An Area Total is the sum of the Total Levels of every player in that Area, plus any extra levels from adjustments. (See *Adjustments to Levels* on page .)

Player Position

Each player's natural Area for his position, is the one corresponding to his type. (For example, a Sweeper's natural position is the Sweeper Area.) A manager may play a player in a different Area (out of position) but the player will not be as effective in it. **Exception:** a manager may not play the Captain in the Goalkeeper or Sweeper position. The following table shows any temporary adjustment to a player's Total Level, according to his Area of play.

Area	Player Type				
	Gk	Sw	Df	Mf	Fw
Goalkeeper	NE	0	0	0	0
Sweeper	0	NE	-2	-4	-5
Defense	0	-2	NE	-2	-4
Midfield	0	-4	-2	NE	-2
Forward	0	-5	-4	-2	NE

0 means the player has a Total Level of 0. **NE** means there is no effect on the player's normal Total Level. A negative number is the effect on the player's Total Level.

Example: a II/7 Mf with a Fitness Modifier of 1 has a Total Level of 8. If he plays in the Forward area, there is a -2 modifier, and his Total Level is 6.

Selection

For each match, managers must select a team which obeys the selection rules. The manager:

- Must not select a suspended or unfit player
- Must select exactly 11 players. (If a manager is unable to field 11 players for a match, he must field as many as possible. The GM, at his discretion, may fine the offending team.)
- Must assign each player to an Area.
- Must assign only one player to the Goalkeeper Area.
- Must assign at least two players to each of the Defense and Midfield Areas.
- Must assign at least one player to the Forward Area.
- May assign one player to the Sweeper Area.

- Must ensure the Area Total of any Outfield Area is not more than **three** times that of any other Outfield Area. **Exception:** the Area Total of a team's Defense may not exceed **four** times the Area Total of its Forward Area. This restriction applies after all adjustments to levels, but before injury and discipline effects. (This is called the Team Balance rule.)

Example: If the Forward Area Total is 20, the Defense Area Total may not be more than 80 nor less than 7, and the Midfield Area Total may not be more than 60 nor less than 7.

Note: The online orders page ensures managers comply with the selection rules; if a team selection breaks the Team Balance rule, the page displays an error message until the manager corrects the selection. If a final team selection breaks the rule, which may happen with NMR orders, the software ignores surplus Area Totals.

4. Playing a Match

The software plays a match and calculates the result. It works out each team's Area Totals, and then resolves the following, in order, adjusting Area Totals as appropriate:

- Red and yellow cards
- Injuries
- Penalties
- Attacks
- Shots
- On-target shots
- Goals

Where required, the software also works out Extra Time and Penalty Shootouts.

There is a match example on page showing the main match mechanics in action.

Attacks

The software compares the Area Totals of the two teams in a match as follows:

Forward Area	If a team's Forward Area Total is greater than the opposing team's Defense Area Total, the team earns a number of attacks equal to the difference.
Midfield Area	If a team's Midfield Area Total is greater than the opposing team's Midfield Area Total, the team earns a number of attacks equal to half the difference, rounding fractions up.
Defense Area	If a team's Defense Area Total is greater than the opposing team's Forward Area Total, the team earns a number of attacks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ If it does not have a player in the Sweeper area, equal to one fifth of the difference.▪ If it does have a player in the Sweeper area, equal to one third of the difference.

Examples of Attacks

Team/Area Totals	Defense	Midfield	Forward
United	48	30	40
City	33	35	32

The software calculates United's attacks as follows:

Forward Area	United's Forward Area Total is 40 and City's Defense Area Total is 33. United earn 7 attacks.
Midfield Area	United's Midfield Area Total is 30 and City's Midfield Area Total is 35. United earn no attacks. (But City earn 3 attacks.)
Defense Area	United's Defense Area Total is 48 and City's Forward Area Total is 32. If United have a player in the Sweeper position, they earn 6 attacks. If they don't, they earn 4 attacks.

Shots

If the opposing team do not have a player in the Sweeper area, all attacks become shots. If the opposing team does have a player in the Sweeper area, attacks must first beat him. The percentage chance of the player stopping each attack is equal to $30 + (\text{player's Total Level} \times 2)\%$. A stopped attack has no effect. An attack which is not stopped becomes a shot.

Example: a player with a Total Level of 10 has a 50% chance of stopping each attack.

On and Off Target

There is a 35% chance of each shot being off target. If a side has already scored 2 goals (including penalty kicks) the chance increases to 40%, then by a further 5% after each goal scored to a maximum of 75%. (The intention, here, is to curb ridiculous scorelines.) An off target shot has no effect. On-target shots test the opposing Goalkeeper.

Goalkeeper and Goals

The percentage chance of the Goalkeeper saving a shot is equal to $40 + (\text{player's Total Level} \times 2.25)\%$. A saved shot has no effect. A shot which is not saved is a goal!

Example: a player with a Total Level of 13 has a 69.25% chance of saving each shot.

Goalscorers and Times

Players in each Area take the shots generated there. For example, if a team creates shots in Midfield, players in Midfield take those shots. Within each Area, the software allocates the shots to players; the higher the player's Skill Level, the greater the player's chance of taking the shot.

The software randomly spreads goal times over the 90 minutes of a match, plus injury time.

Extra Time

In extra time, each player's Total Level reduces by their age; SBYs and APPs suffer no reduction. Also, each Goalkeeper is unaffected.

The software works out the extra time result as a normal match, using the adjusted Total Levels. However, the number of attacks is reduced by two-thirds, as is the chance of injuries, penalties or red or yellow cards occurring.

Penalty Shootout

Each side takes 5 penalties, each with a different player. (See *Penalties* on page .) If the score is tied after 5 penalties, each side takes 1 more penalty at a time (with different penalty takers), until the score is no longer tied. In the unlikely event of a tie after 11 penalties, the shootout continues with each team's players alternating, taking their second penalty, until the tie is broken.

5. Adjustments to Levels

The following may affect Area Totals (not individual player Levels): **Home Advantage, Great Performance Points, Playing for a Draw, Offside Trap, and Hardness.**

Note: A manager may add no more than 3 levels (from any mix of sources) to each of the Goalkeeper and Sweeper Areas in a match. A manager may only add levels to the Sweeper Area if there is a player playing there.

Home Advantage

Unless a match is being played at a neutral venue (for example, a cup final) the first named side is the home team. The home side receives 7 extra levels to split between the three Outfield areas. **Exception:** a team with an effective Groundsman receives 9 extra levels.

Great Performance Points (GPPs)

Occasionally in a season, a team plays above itself. To mirror this, during each close season it receives 30 GPPs (possibly adjusted as detailed below) to use as follows:

- A manager may use a maximum of 10 GPPs in any match.
- A manager may not assign more than 9 GPPs to any one area. Each GPP assigned adds 1 level.
- A manager may not buy or sell or transfer GPPs.
- GPPs unused at the end of the season are lost.

When awarding GPPs, the GM subtracts 1 from the standard allowance of 30 for each NMR (failure to submit orders) in the preceding season.

Playing for a Draw (PFD)

A manager ordering his team to PFD, receives 7 extra levels in total to assign between the Sweeper, Defense and Midfield areas. No more than 3 of these extra levels may be allocated to the Sweeper area. However, the number of attacks the team generates in each Area is halved. (Fractions of an attack are rounded up.)

Example: Villa's manager orders them to PFD. He assigns 1 extra level to the Sweeper area, 0 to Defense and 6 to Midfield. Villa create 0 attacks in Defense, 3 in Midfield, and 2 in the Forward area. Because they are PFD, this becomes 2 in Midfield and 1 in the Forward area.

Offside Trap (OST)

A manager may order his team to play the OST in a match, only if they do not have a player in the Sweeper area. Using the OST:

- Halves the number of attacks the opposition creates from its Forward Area (rounded up)
- Doubles the number of attacks the opposition creates from its Midfield Area

Hardness

In each match a manager orders his team to use a level of hardness from 0 (weeds) to 10 (assassins), receiving extra levels equal to the hardness level chosen. The manager assigns these levels to the various areas as he desires, but no more than 9 to one area. (See *Discipline* on page and *Injuries* on page .)

Example: Choosing a hardness level of 6 gives a manager 6 extra levels to assign to Area Totals. However, he may only assign levels to the Sweeper Area (maximum of 3) if a player is playing there.

6. Discipline

Red and Yellow Cards

In every match there is a chance of each player in a team being booked or sent off, based on the level of hardness (**H** in the formula) the player's team is using. **Exception:** when applying the formula to the Goalkeeper, **H** means the amount of hardness levels assigned to the Goalkeeper Area only.

- Booking Chance = $1.5 \times (3 + (1.5 \times H))\%$
- Sending Off Chance = $0.25 \times (3 + (1.5 \times H))\%$

Example: A manager uses a hardness level of 7. He assigns the 7 extra levels, using none in the Goalkeeper area. So, the Booking Chance for the Goalkeeper is 4.5% and the Sending Off Chance is 0.75%. The other players have a Booking Chance of 20.25% and a Sending Off Chance of 3.375%.

Penalties

In every match there is a 10% chance of each team conceding a penalty for every hardness level it ordered. Each 10% chance is separate, so a team may concede as many penalties as the hardness level ordered. A team using a hardness level of 0, however, has a 5% chance of conceding a penalty.

A team's top (highest Skill Level) Df, Mf or Fw takes any penalty awarded. (If a tie, the penalty taker is randomly selected from the tied players.) The chance of a penalty being scored is:

- $50 + (4 \times \text{penalty taker's Skill Level}) - (2 \times \text{Goalkeeper's Skill Level})\%$, to a maximum of 95%

Note: the penalty scoring chance formula uses Skill Level (not Total Level) and disregards hardness and GPPs.

Discipline Effects

A booking has no effect on match calculations. A player who is sent off, however, operates at half his Skill Level (rounded up) in the match.

A player incurs Disciplinary Points (DPs) for each booking (4 DPs) and dismissal (10 DPs). DPs are cumulative during the regular season. Reaching 10 DPs brings a one match suspension, 20 DPs a two-match suspension, and so on. Suspensions normally start in the first match of the next session. However, suspensions occurring in session 10, start in the first match of session 1 of the next season.

7. Injuries

In every match there is a chance of each player in a team being injured, based on the level of hardness (**H** in the formula) the player's team is using, and the level of hardness (**O** in the formula) the opposing team is using. The Injury Chance is:

- $((H \times 0.25) + (O \times 0.75) + 2.5)\%$. **Exception:** the Injury Chance for the Goalkeeper is halved.

Example: if United use a hardness level of 8 and City use a hardness level of 4, the chance of injury for each United player, other than the Goalkeeper, is $((8 \times 0.25) + (4 \times 0.75) + 2.5)\% = 2 + 3 + 2.5$ or 7.5%. The Injury Chance for the Goalkeeper is 3.75%

Injury Effects

A player who is injured in a match, operates at half his Skill Level (rounded up). A player's Fitness Modifier (FM) may also be reduced by the injury, depending on a software generated random number (RN) of 1-100:

RN	1-30	30-45	46-60	61-70	71-80	81-90	91-100
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Effect	None	FM -1	FM -2	FM -3	FM -4	FM -5	FM -6
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Any change in a player's Fitness Modifier takes place at the end of the session, for reasons of simplicity. If a player is injured more than once in a session, only the most severe injury applies.

8. Backroom Boys

A backroom boy (BRB) is one of the following off-field staff, using their experience as ex-players to aid their team: Coach, Groundsman, Physio, Youth Coach, or Youth Director. The following table details each BRB's effect:

BRB	Effect
Coach	Lowers each player's coaching cost by 1 CP. This applies to every player coached; not just one per session.
Groundsman	Increases home advantage from 7 to 9.
Physio	Lowers the Fitness Modifier lost by any injury by 1, and negates the effect of an injury which causes no Fitness Modifier loss.
Youth Coach	Can train one Youth player once per regular session. Each training is equivalent to playing in one match. No Youth player may be trained more than once per session. Youth Coaches do not train in the close season. Example: If a Youth Coach trains an APP, the player can only play 1 match in the same session.
Youth Director	The first 4 SBY discovered count as if they have already played 1 match.

A manager may change any Age V (or older) player in the team into an Age I BRB at any time before the player retires. **Exception:** after the session 10 deadline. In this case, the manager must wait until aging occurs to start the following season. Therefore, a Manager wanting to convert a player to a BRB before end of season aging, must do so before creating his session 10 orders. A backroom boy is no longer a player and is unable to play in matches. Backroom boys age to Age II at the end of their first season, then retire at the end of their Age II season.

Important: A team may have any number of BRBs, however only six are effective. Of the six, there may be no more than:

- 1 x Coach
- 1 x Groundsman
- 1 x Physio
- 2 x Youth Coaches
- 1 x Youth Director

Backroom boys have a nominal value of 160k (Age I) or 80k (Age II). It is nominal, because a BRB may not be sold to the non-league or traded.

9. Coaching and Coaching Points

At the start of each regular session, a team receives Coaching Points (CP) as follows:

- **1 CP** for each non-Youth player. **Exception:** players with a FIT of -3 or less do not contribute CP.
- **10 CP** for each game it won in the preceding regular session, except FA Shield games.
- **5 CP** for each game it drew in the preceding regular session, except FA Shield games.
- **4 CP** for winning an FA Shield game in the preceding regular session.
- **2 CP** for drawing an FA Shield game in the preceding regular session.
- The number of CP carried over from the preceding regular session, to a maximum of 15; any excess is lost

Note: For CP purposes, a penalty shootout win in any cup competition counts as a draw, not a win.

Example: In session 1, each team receives CP for games won and drawn in the preceding regular session, namely session 10 of the preceding season.

Coaching Players for Skill

To raise a player by 1 Skill Level costs his new Level in CP. (However, see *Coach* on page .)

The following restrictions apply to coaching for Skill Level:

- Coaching is always to the next Skill Level; partial coaching is not allowed.
- A player may only be raised 1 Skill Level in a session.
- Youth players may not be coached.
- An Age I player may be raised a maximum of 5 Skill Levels in a season.
- Older players may be raised a maximum of 3 Skill Levels in a season.

Note for experienced players: The costs for coaching Gk and Sw are not doubled.

Coaching Players for Fitness

To raise a player's Fitness Modifier by 1 costs his Age in CP. For Youth players, the cost is 1 CP.

A player's Fitness Modifier may only be raised by 1 through coaching in a session. However, a player can also rest in the same session, and so increase his Fitness Modifier by 2.

Note: Although a player's maximum Fitness Modifier is 2, it is still possible to coach such a player for fitness. So, if the player loses fitness in the session (from injury, or by playing too many matches), the coaching for fitness reduces the fitness loss.

10. Youth Players

In every season, a team can discover up to 6 schoolboys (SBY). In addition, in every season a team can discover up to 6 apprentices (APP), less 1 for every SBY discovered in the preceding season. All Youth players begin their careers at Skill Level 2 and Fitness Modifier 2 and are discovered by managers using the Roster Moves tab on the Transactions page on the web site.

Example: In season 1, City discovered 5 SBY. In season 2, they may discover up to 6 SBY. However, they may only discover 1 APP.

Schoolboys

A SBY increases his Skill Level by 1 for every 3 matches played. However, a SBY may only play 1 match per session. At the end of the season, the SBY becomes an APP; he carries forward any matches accumulated towards his next Skill Level.

Example: A SBY plays 10 matches in a season. He increases his Skill Level by 3, and therefore carries forward 1 match towards his next Skill Level as an APP.

If a team has an effective Youth Director, the first 4 SBY discovered in a season count as if they have already played 1 match. In other words, they need play only 2 more matches to increase their Skill Level by 1. After that first increase, each such SBY increases his Skill Level for every 3 matches played, as normal. SBYs discovered after the first 4 receive no benefit from a Youth Director.

Apprentices

An APP increases his Skill Level by 1 for every 4 matches played. However, an APP may only play a maximum of 2 matches per session. At the end of the season, the APP becomes an Age 1 player (and any matches accumulated towards his next Skill Level have no effect) if he has reached at least Skill Level 5. Otherwise, the APP fails to make the grade and leaves the game.

11. Deals

Trades

Managers may exchange a combination of players, BRBs and/or cash, provided both managers give the GM details of the deal using the Trade part of the web site. The GM may, in extreme cases, veto deals he considers unfair to a manager.

When trading BRBs please note, on the web's trade proposal form you cannot initiate the trade for a BRB from your team, however you can select a BRB from the other team to trade to you. Managers may also trade Age V (and older) players who have not yet been converted to a BRB.

All trades must be made 48 hours or more in advance of the next regular session deadline and are subject to the transfer deadline. Loans and delayed-payment style deals are not allowed.

Auction

At the end of each session 1-6, there is an auction with 8 players available. During the close season, there are two auctions, each with 10 players available.

The software determines the type of player by generating a random number (RN) of 1-100 and applying the result as follows:

RN	1-10	11-16	17-44	45-72	73-100
Type	Gk	Sw	Df	Mf	Fw

The software then determines the Age and Skill Level of players in the auction by generating two random numbers of 1-100 and applying the results according to the following table. The first number determines the player's age. The second number, cross referenced to the row for the player's age, determines his Skill Level.

RN-1	RN-2	1-20	21-55	56-85	86-100
1-10	APP	4	5	6	7

11-35	Age I	8	9	10	11
36-60	Age II	11	12	13	14
61-80	Age III	10	11	12	13
81-100	Age IV	9	10	11	12

Example: The first random number is 18, so the player is a Df. The next random number is 63, so the player is Age III. The final random number is 41, so the player has a Skill Level of 11.

Auction Procedure

Auctions are resolved as follows:

Each lot has a reserve price equal to the player's non-league value. (See *Non-League Sales*, below.) To be valid, a bid must match or exceed the reserve price.

Lots are auctioned strictly in the order shown (based on the player's value).

A manager may submit one bid for each lot, with the highest bid winning. Tied bids go in favor of the team in the lowest division, then lowest league points, then lowest top 11 player average Skill Level.

If there is only one valid bid, the amount paid is equal to the reserve price. If there is more than one valid bid, the amount paid by the winning bidder is set at 1k more than the next highest valid bid. **Exception:** if the winning bid is a tied bid, the amount paid is the amount bid.

Example: There are two bids for one auction item. City bid 123k and United bid 456k. United's bid succeeds and is set at 124k.

Bids putting teams into debt are reduced to whatever level is required for their bank balance not to be overdrawn.

Non-League Sales

A manager may bypass the auction and sell players to a nominal non-league; such players are out of the game for good. The non-league value (and price received) for a player is: $(7 - \text{age}) \times (\text{Skill Level} - 2) \times 10\text{k}$, plus 15k per match towards next Level for Youth players. For this calculation, Youth players count as Age 0.

Transfer Deadline

No transfers between players or sales to the non-league are allowed in the last 3 sessions of the season: 8, 9, and 10. After the transfer deadline, the next opportunity for deals and sales is after close season aging.

A manager wanting to sell a player after session 7, must do so before session 8 matches start, and must not include the player in session 8 match orders.

A manager may still discover a SBY or APP after the transfer deadline, if he has not used his full season's quota.

A manager may still change an eligible player into a BRB after the transfer deadline. (Although such a BRB is only available for the remaining sessions as an Age I BRB, and becomes an Age II BRB in the close season, for some players it may be better than the alternative of aging and retiral - and never becoming a BRB.)

12. Finance

Money is measured in k, or thousands of pounds. It is exchanged in obvious ways (selling players and so forth) and can be also gained or lost in other ways.

Bank Account

A club cannot overdraw its bank account for any reason.

Income

The following table shows income received:

Event	Income (K)
League Winner (Division 1/2/3)	500/300/200
League Runner-Up (Division 1/2/3)	300/200/100
League Third Place (Division 1/2/3)	150/100/50
Each Regular Session (Division 1/2/3)	95/80/65
FA Cup (Winner/Runner-Up/Semi-Finalist)	400/250/200
AP Cup (Winner/Runner-Up/Semi-Finalist)	250/150/75
FA Shield (Winner/Runner-Up)	200/75
Youth Cup (Winner/Runner-Up)	150/75
Leading Scorer (Each Division)	25
Prediction League (Top score per session – includes ties)	20
Prediction League (1st/2nd/3rd scores in season)	75/50/25
Sponsorship (See Sponsorship)	Varies

Taxation

Once a season, immediately after the session 8 has been run, a team with a bank balance of 3,500k or more is taxed as follows:

- 3,500k to 4,499k pays tax at 10% of its bank balance
- 4,500k - 5,499k pays tax at 20% of its bank balance
- 5,500k+ pays tax at 30% of its bank balance

Note: The timing of taxation means it applies if a team's bank balance, after session 8 income, is 3,500k or more.

When session 8 runs your team WILL get income from the division (see above) and could get a media bonus.

To clarify, any team that completes session 8 (and would have 3500k or more) **before** session 9 is run will be taxed.

13. Sponsorship

~~This was removed in 2021. Doing a strikethrough of the info below in case it is revisited in the future.~~

~~In the Close Season, using the same deadline as the second pre-season auction, each club may draft a sponsorship package (“package”):~~

~~Packages are detailed in the table at the end of this section of the rules.~~

~~Drafting is achieved by each team submitting a bid list of the packages, in preferential order. For example, if a team wants package C first, A second, and J third, its bid list would start C, A, J and so on.~~

A team’s bid list must include the same number of packages as its order in the draft. For example, a club third in the draft must submit three packages in its list.

An error in a team’s bid list—for example, quoting the same package twice, or not listing enough packages—means the list is ignored and the club will not draft a package.

Drafting for each package for each division is resolved based on the team’s league position at the end of the immediately preceding season as follows:

Draft	Division 1	Division 2	Division 3
1 st	3 rd in Division 2	3 rd in Division 3	10 th in Division 3
2 nd	2 nd in Division 2	2 nd in Division 3	9 th in Division 3
3 rd	1 st in Division 2	1 st in Division 3	8 th in Division 3
4 th	7 th in Division 1	7 th in Division 2	7 th in Division 3
5 th	6 th in Division 1	6 th in Division 2	6 th in Division 3
6 th	5 th in Division 1	5 th in Division 2	5 th in Division 3
7 th	4 th in Division 1	4 th in Division 2	4 th in Division 3
8 th	3 rd in Division 1	10 th in Division 1	10 th in Division 2
9 th	2 nd in Division 1	9 th in Division 1	9 th in Division 2
10 th	1 st in Division 1	8 th in Division 1	8 th in Division 2

To receive sponsorship money, the club must meet the conditions set out in the package. Sponsorship packages do pay out if the club is not the only club to attain the target. For example, if a club takes package A (most league goals scored) and another club scores the same number of league goals, sponsorship payment is still made.

Sponsorship payments are made at any time after the end of the season before the next Close Season.

ID	Description	Sponsorship (Division 1/2/3)
A	Most league goals scored in division	200/175/150
B	Fewest league goals conceded in division	200/175/150
C	Best goal difference in division	200/175/150
D	Four consecutive league wins	175/150/125
E	Three consecutive league wins	150/125/100
F	Four away league wins	175/150/125
G	Three away league wins	150/125/100
H	Four away league shutouts (no goals conceded)	175/150/125
J	Three away league shutouts (no goals conceded)	150/125/100
K	Lowest average hardness in division	150/125/100
L	Community participation – no NMRs in the season	125/125/125

ID	Description	Sponsorship (Division 1/2/3)
M	Community participation – no NMRs in the season	100/100/100

14. Miscellaneous Rules

No Moves Received (NMR)

A manager unable to submit orders for matches and coaching should tell the GM as soon as possible. (NMR only applies to match orders and coaching; managers never have to submit orders for auctions, for example.)

If the manager does not notify the GM in good time (at least 48 hours before the deadline), the software automatically creates lineups for the team- with no use of CP or Youth coaching - and marks the team as NMR. If the GM receives notice in good time, he, or someone he nominates, submits complete orders for the team and the team is not marked NMR.

One NMR is acceptable, but two in a season may result in a manager's dismissal.

If a team suffers an NMR (for whatever reason), the following apply:

- The manager receives one set of 5 Youth Coach slots for use immediately after session 10.
- Each SBY may receive a maximum of 1 of the available slots. **Exception:** a SBY at Skill Level 5 who has played 1 game towards qualifying at the next level, may not receive a slot.
- Each APP may receive a maximum of 2 of the available slots. **Exception:** an APP at Skill Level 10 may not receive a slot.

The manager must email the GM with details for using the Youth Coach slots after the session 9 deadline and before the session 10 deadline. Failure to do so means the slots are lost.

Regardless of how many NMRs occur, the manager only receives one set of Youth Coach slots.

These NMR arrangements apply to the manager whether or not he was in charge when the NMR occurred.

Order of Sessions

Within each session, events take place in the following order:

- Matches (League, FA Cup, FA Shield, AP Cup, and Youth Cup; in that order)
- Receive income
- Coach players
- Auction (sessions 1-6 only)

Close Season

At the end of each season, and before the next one, the close season takes place in this order:

- Aging (players and backroom boys)
- GPPs awarded
- Prize money awarded
- The transfer deadline ends
- Managers may trade or sell players to the non-league

- Fitness Modifier is reset
- Any new rules take effect
- First auction (a session with a deadline, but no income)
- Second auction (a session with a deadline, but no income)

The next session is session 1 of the new season.

Note: There is no coaching in the close season.

Media Bonus

Each team is eligible for a media bonus as follows:

- Each entry or comment posted in the following categories is eligible for a 5k bonus payment:
 - Comments Wall (front page)
 - Auctions
 - Blog
 - Forum
 - Journal/Team News
 - Matches (pre-match and post-match)
 - Rankings
 - Trades
 - Transfer List (adding a player or making a hopefully snarky comment)
 - Coaches Poll Ranking (comments and votes)
 - Prediction League comments
 - Olmec Hates You comments
- The maximum session bonus is 40K per club.
- Bonuses can be obtained during each of the ten regular match sessions and the two pre-season auction sessions.

Prediction League

The details for this are on the Prediction League part of the web site.

Costs

There is no cost to play the game. However, the GM may set up a donations link for those willing to help with various costs such as hard-drive replacements, backup drives, and keeping a fast internet connection to the web server.

Managerial Conduct

All managers must follow these principles:

- Have fun - and remember, it's just a game.
- Never use foul, bad, or inappropriate language on the web site. If unsure whether a certain word is inappropriate, simply don't use it. Breaches will incur fines.

This approach is for two reasons. First, the site should be family friendly. Second, the GM may use the web site on his resume when he is searching for a job, and the right impression matters.

- Avoid political discussions.
- Never flame managers online or start personal attacks. If someone has offended you, contact the GM. If you are good friends with someone and want to write a scathing piece or joking article, that is fine so long as you make sure you have some smilies in there.
- You may lose games due to software issues. If anything of this type happens, contact the GM with full details, so he can try to correct it and prevent it from repeating. Moping or complaining is not welcomed.

In summary, this is intended to be a fun game and an entertaining diversion. If you must talk about politics, then find a political site and talk about them there. Have some fun and treat everyone with respect.

Suggestions

Constructive suggestions as to how to improve the rules and the game are always welcome.

15. Appendix

This appendix has the following parts:

Content	Page
● Season Format and Competition Structure	
● League Differences	
● Match Example	
● Possible Future Additions	
● Changes from Previous Versions	

Season Format and Competition Structure

The following table shows the matches played in each session. After the table, there are details about each of the competitions.

Session	League	FA Cup	FA Shield	AP Cup	Youth Cup
1		R1		G1, G2	
2	1, 2	R1-Replay		G3	
3	3, 4	R2	R1		
4	5, 6	R2-Replay		R2	
5	7, 8	Qrtr-Final		Qrtr-Final	
6	9, 10	Q-Replay	Qrtr-Final		R1
7	11, 12			Semi-Final	R2
8	13, 14	Semi-Final	Semi-Final		Qrtr-Final
9	15, 16			Final	Semi-Final
10	17, 18	Final	Final		Final

After session 10, the close season takes place.

League

There are 3 divisions of 10 teams each, with 3 points awarded for a win, and 1 for a draw.

The top 3 teams of divisions 2 and 3 are promoted, and the bottom 3 teams in divisions 1 and 2 are relegated.

If teams are level on points, league positions are decided by best goal difference, then most goals scored, then away goals scored, then by the league results between the tied teams. If teams are still tied, and the positions are important, play-off matches are held in the close season.

FA Cup

This is the main cup competition, stretching throughout the season. The format is one leg knockout, with a random draw to determine the home team for rounds 1, 2 and the quarter final. Draws are replayed at the opposing team's ground. If there is no result after 90 minutes of a replay, extra time is played. If the score is still tied after extra time, there is a penalty shootout. The semifinals and final are neutral field and do not have replays for tied scorelines. These matches go straight to extra time, and then a penalty shootout if required.

FA Shield

The 16 losing teams in Round 1 of the FA Cup enter this competition. The format is one leg knockout, with a random draw to determine the home team. There are no replays for tied scorelines, with matches going straight to extra time, and then a penalty shootout if required.

Alan Parr Cup (AP Cup)

This starts with a group format: 8 groups of 4 teams, each playing one game at a neutral venue against the other teams in the group. The top two advance from each group, with ties resolved in favor of the team with the better goal differential, then the number of goals scored, then a coin toss.

The format from round 2 matches onwards is one leg knockout. The 16 qualifiers from the group phase are drawn into random pairs. Home field for each pair is determined by the group phase results: best finish, then points, then goal differential, then goals scored, then coin toss. This process is repeated for all subsequent rounds, i.e. the quarterfinals, semifinals, and final. There are no replays for tied scorelines in the knockout stages, with matches going straight to extra time, and then a penalty shootout if required.

Youth Cup

In Youth Cup matches, each team must have a minimum of 8 Youth players in the lineup. This is known as the "8 player minimum." The format of the Youth Cup is one leg knockout, with all matches at a neutral venue. There are no replays for tied scorelines, with matches going straight to extra time, and then a penalty shootout if required.

Note: At the start of each session with a Youth Cup fixture, the GM will publish a warning notice on the website landing page, indicating any teams that do not - taking into account suspensions and injuries - meet the 8-player minimum.

If a team is still unable to meet the 8-player minimum by the Thursday of the session, the GM will:

- Add as many APP/2 players as necessary to meet the 8-player minimum.
 - The GM will first add to the team its undiscovered APP/2 players, if any, each with a Fitness Modifier of 2.
 - If the team needs more players than unused APP players, the GM will add sufficient APP/2 players, each with a Fitness Modifier of -2. The GM will freely select the player type for each such APP added to the squad.
- If required, sell sufficient players to the non-league as he may freely select, to reduce the squad size to 30. (This may happen, even after the transfer deadline.)

If, for whatever reason, a team plays and wins a Youth Cup fixture in breach of the 8-player minimum, the team will forfeit the match. The GM will award the opposing team a 1-0 win and progression to the next round. However, because it would be too time consuming, the GM will not adjust the match statistics, discipline, injuries, and so on. There is one exception: if both teams in a Youth Cup fixture do not meet the 8-player minimum, the actual match result will stand.

Non-League Teams

Two non-league teams take part in the cup tournaments. The GM is responsible for these teams, preparing them before the start of each season. However, the game software selects their lineups for matches. Non-league teams remain unchanged during the season. For example, they receive no CP, and do not coach their players.

League Differences

All the rules apply to both the MSWL United League and the MSWL United 2 League. This part exists as a placeholder for differences that may apply in the future.

Match Example

The following match example shows the main match mechanics.

Teams

United United

	P	Name	L	F	T
1	G	Wassall	2	2	4
2	D	Draper	6	1	7
3	D	Tyler	4	2	6
4	D	Parr	6	-1	5
5	M	Lewis	11	2	13
6	M	Dickson	8	0	8
7	F	Stretch	9	-1	8
8	F	Huby	10	1	11
9	F	Carter	7	-1	6
10	F	Bass	4	-2	2
11	F	Burroughs	15	-1	14

Citrus City

	P	Name	L	F	T
1	G	Orange	5	-2	3
2	S	Lemon	12	0	12
3	D	Lime	4	0	4
4	D	Grapefruit	5	2	7
5	M	Ortaline	3	0	3
6	M	Tangerine	14	1	15
7	M	Seville	11	1	12
8	M	Minneola	10	2	12
9	M	Jaffa	3	2	5
10	F	Valencia	8	2	10
11	F	Outspan	3	0	3

Note: L = Skill Level, F = Fitness Modifier, and T = Total Level.

Area Totals

	Goal	Sweeper	Defense	Midfield	Forward
United	4	0	18	21	41
City	3	12	11	47 33	13

Notes: (a) City's Midfield Area Total of 47 breaks the Team Balance Rule. It may be no higher than 33 (three times the lowest outfield area) and is therefore reduced to that. (b) It is assumed no players are playing out of position. (c) Total Levels are subject to adjustment for injuries, dismissal, home advantage, hardness and so on. For ease of explanation, this example assumes (unrealistically) there are no adjustments.

Attacks

	Defense	Midfield	Forward	Total
United	18-13=5, divided by 5 = 1	21-33=0	41-11=30	31
City	11-41=0	33-21=12, halved to 6	13-18=0	6

Resolution

Note: for ease of illustration, this example assumes no penalties, injuries or dismissals.

The software works through United's 31 attacks by determining how many City's Sweeper stops - he has a 54% chance of stopping each one. Then, the software works out how many shots go off-target. Finally, City's Goalkeeper has a 46.75% chance of saving the on-target shots.

Similarly, the software goes through City's 6 attacks. However, as United have no player in the Sweeper position, all attacks become shots. The software works out how many shots go off-target. And finally, United's Goalkeeper has a 49% chance of saving the on-target shots.

City's Sweeper and Goalkeeper combination is likely to be more effective than United's Goalkeeper. But United have the better chance of winning with so many more attacks.

Possible Future Additions

The following are some additions to the game that for possible future implementation. In all cases, details are being worked out.

Rivals

At the start of each season each team is assigned 3 or 4 rivals. In matches against rivals:

Each team must use at least 3 levels of hardness

The winning team receives 3 GPPs

Each team receives 1 GPP for a draw

Acclimation

Players can acquire the ability to play out of position with no, or reduced, ill effects. The target is to determine the right level of usage to avoid teams full of acclimated players.

Special Players

Players with special characteristics. For example, lower aging effects or coaching costs.

Own Goals

The chance for an own goal is based on the number of players in Defense and Midfield, and the number of opposition Attacks.

Marketing Manager

A new type of backroom boy.

Team Auction of Players

Managers may create their own auction using one or more of the team's players.

Clarification of 4 Game Sessions

The addition of code to the order entry program, to prevent a non Gk who starts the session with a Fitness Modifier of -2, playing in all 4 matches.

Changes from Previous Versions

This part of the rules tracks changes made other than minor edits and corrections. References to changes in a season are to the original United league. From Version 9.0 onwards, changes relate to rules versions and not seasons.

Current Version

9.13 sees the addition of Manager Poll comments and votes and Prediction League comments to the Media Bonus.

Version 9.12 Changes

This version (9.12) clarifies the [Trade](#) of BRB's. For technical reasons you cannot offer a BRB on the site's trade page, however you can propose to buy one from another manager.

Version 9.11 Changes

This version adds wording to clarify that after session 8 is run, all revenue from session 8 including player sales and income (per division AND media bonus) is added in. After all that if your team has 3500k or more, you will get taxed.

Version 9.10 Changes

This is version 9.10 of the rules, replacing version 9.9. [Adjustment to Levels](#): this version reduces the maximum number of levels which may be added (from any mix of sources) to each of the Goalkeeper and Sweeper Areas in a match from five to three.

Version 9.8 Changes

This is version 9.9 of the rules, replacing version 9.8. This version removes the [Sponsorship](#) feature.

Version 9.8 Changes

This is version 9.8 of the rules, replacing version 9.7. This version describes the [Media Bonus](#) payment scheme in Miscellaneous Rules. Media Bonus replaced the old Participation Bonus.

Version 9.7 Changes

This version includes an edit to the [Alan Parr Cup](#) section which clarifies the draw procedure for the knockout stages and an edit to the [FA Cup](#) section which clarifies that the semifinals and final are played at neutral venues.

Version 9.6 Changes

This version includes an edit to the [Playing for a Draw](#) rule about the limit on extra Sweeper levels and a clarification (the exception) to the 1st bullet point in [Coaching and Coaching Points](#).

Version 9.5 Changes

This version adds [Sponsorship](#) rules and an increase in [Prediction League](#) prize money. The Coach of the Season section has been removed as it is no longer applicable.

Version 9.4 Changes

This version includes financial awards for success in the [Prediction League](#).

Version 9.3 Changes

This version has a new way of dealing with teams unable to meet the player requirement for Youth Cup matches. (See the note on page in the Youth Cup section.)

Version 9.2 Changes

- Modified team selection and Team Balance rules to allow only one player in the Forward Area. (Previously, the minimum was two.) Also allowed the Defense Area Total to be up to four times that of the team's Forward Area.
- Ended ability of the Captain to play in the Goalkeeper or Sweeper position.
- Added the BRB type of Youth Director.
- Ended ability to trade BRBs.

Version 9.1 Changes

- Added the Captain.
- Reduced CP awards for FA Shield matches.

Version 9.0 Changes

Version 9.0 of the MSWL United rules replaced version 8.1. Although the text was different, there were no rule changes from version 8.1.

Season 8 Changes

- Added Taxation.
- Added Coach of the Season Award.

- Changed the penalty taker rule, allowing the top Fw, Mf, or Df to take a penalty. Previously, the penalty taker was the Fw with the highest Skill Level.
- Added the prediction league.
- Added one more player to each auction.
- Added the capture of Area Totals. (This idea from Rob Peterson.)
- Added the capture and display of before and after league standings. (This idea from C-Ball.)
- Added a roll of honor to show who won what, and in which season. (This idea from Simon, and perhaps Andy)
- Discarded Manager of the Month.

Season 7 Changes

- Per Season 6 voting, BRBs removed from all auctions. In addition, the “generic value” of BRBs was revised such that:
 - An Age I BRB was valued at 160k (down from 275k)
 - An Age II BRB was valued at 80k (down from 225k)

Season 6 Change

Added NMR rule.