

**BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE**  
**STANDARD CODE OF RULES**

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## DEFINITIONS

### 1. (A) In these Rules:

“Affiliated Association” means an Association accorded the status of an affiliated Association under the Rules of The FA.

“AGM” shall mean the annual general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

“Deposit” means a sum of money deposited with the Competition as part of the requirements of membership of the Competition.

“Club” means a Club for the time being in membership of the Competition and “Team” means a side from a Club especially where a Club provides more than one Team in a division in accordance with the Rules.

“Competition” means the Birmingham & District Football League.

“Competition Match” means any match played or to be played under the jurisdiction of the Competition.

“Secretary” means such person or persons appointed or elected to carry out the administration of the Competition.

“Contract Player” means any Player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play under a written contract of employment with a Club.

“Fees Tariff” means a list of fees approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any matters for which fees are payable under the Rules.

“Fines Tariff” means a list of fines approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any breach of the Rules.

“Ground” means the ground on which the Club’s team(s) plays its Competition Matches.

“Management Committee” means in the case of a Competition which is an unincorporated association, the management committee elected to manage the running of the Competition and where the Competition is incorporated it means the Board of Directors appointed in accordance with the articles of association of that company.

“Match Officials” means the referee, the assistant referees and any fourth official appointed to a Competition Match.

“Non Contract Player” means any Player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play for a Club but has not entered into a written contract of employment.

“Officer” means an individual who is appointed or elected to a position in a Club or Competition which requires that individual to make day to day decisions.

“Player” means any Contract Player, Non Contract Player or other Player who plays or who is eligible to play for a Club.

“Playing Season” means the period between the date on which the first competitive fixture in the Competition is played each year until the date on which the last competitive fixture in the Competition is played.

“Rules” means these rules under which the Competition is administered.

“Sanctioning Authority” means the Birmingham County Football Association Limited.

“Scholarship” means a Scholarship as set out in Rule C 3 (a) (i) of the Rules of The FA.

“Team Sheet” means a form provided by the Competition on which the names of the Players taking part in a Competition match are listed.

“The FA” means The Football Association Limited.

“WGS” means the Whole Game System and the procedures for the operation thereof as determined by The FA from time to time.

“written” or “in writing” means the representation or reproduction of words or symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.

### (B) Unless stated otherwise, terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

## **NAME & CONSTITUTION**

2. (A) The Competition will be known as the Birmingham & District Football League (or such other name as the Competition may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A Club which ceases to exist or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall thereupon automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.
  - (B) This Competition shall consist of not more than 140 Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority. These Clubs will be known as Full Member Clubs. The Competition may also include Associate Member Clubs who will be eligible to compete in the Veterans (V.B.Hale) and/or the Youth Cup competitions only. Associate Member Clubs shall have no voting rights at any Annual General Meeting (AGM) or Special General Meeting (SGM). The objective of the League shall be to further the best interests of football, played by non-contract players
  - (C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be Birmingham, Solihull, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire
  - (D) The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Competition acting (save where otherwise specifically mentioned herein) through the Management Committee in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of The FA.
  - (E) All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a member of the Competition to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee in relation thereto, subject to the provisions of Rule 7.
  - (F) The Rules are taken from the Standard Code of Rules (the "Standard Code") determined by The FA from time to time. In the event of any omissions from the Standard Code then the requirements of the Standard Code shall be deemed to apply to the Competition.
  - (G) All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority and must have a constitution approved by the Sanctioning Authority. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Sanctioning Authority and the constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding 14 in number.
- (H) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination
    - (i) The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (to include those contained in the Equality Act 2010).
    - (ii) This Competition and each Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise.
    - (iii) Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.
  - (I) Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the

Competition including, but not limited to, Charter Standard and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (J) All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The FA from time to time.
- (K) Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing in the Competition in any other competitions (with the exception of FA and County FA Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (L) At the AGM or a SGM called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the constitution of the divisions at their discretion. When necessary this Rule shall take precedence over Rule 22.
- (M) Only one Team shall be permitted from any Club to participate in the same division as another Team from the same Club unless there is no viable alternative because of logistical issues and/or reasons linked to participation and geographical boundaries. The Competition will obtain the prior approval of the Sanctioning Authority in the event of a division comprising of more than one Team from the same Club. This Competition will ensure that, where permission is given, Teams from a Club operating in the same division are run as separate entities with no interchange of players other than via transfers of registration in accordance with these Rules.

#### **CLUB NAME**

- 3 Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority and from the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

#### **ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT**

- 4 (A) Applications by Clubs for admission to the Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same Club must be made in writing to the Secretary and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee per Team as set out in the Fees Tariff, which shall be returned in the event of non-election. The application shall also include a copy of the club rules, which must include a clearly defined disciplinary policy

At the discretion of a majority of the accredited voting members present applications, of which due notice has been given, may be received at the AGM or an SGM. To obtain election, the application must be supported by at least two thirds of the League meeting present and voting.

When Rule 22(B) is applied or a Team seeks a transfer or, is compulsorily transferred to another division, no Entry Fee shall be payable.

- (B) The annual subscription shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Club/Team payable on or before the SGM of the Competition in each year [August].

All Clubs will pay a Deposit to the League at the start of each season [as set out in the Fees Tariff] to cover possible charges, expenses etc., which the club may be responsible for if their team(s) do not complete the season. The Deposit, or any part thereof remaining, after the deduction of any unpaid charges, expenses, fines etc. will be refunded to the Club at the end of the season.

- (C) In the event of any issue concerning the membership of any Club with the Competition the Management Committee may require a Deposit to be paid (in accordance with the Fees Tariff) by or on behalf of the Club on such terms and for such period as it may in its entire discretion think fit. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the entry fee, annual subscription and deposit (if required) have been paid.
- (E) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 15<sup>th</sup> July of its Sanctioning Authority affiliation number for the forthcoming Playing Season. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, its Officers and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

#### **MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION**

- 5 (A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and 9 members who shall all be elected at the AGM.
- (B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination provided that the Officer notifies the Secretary in writing not later than 30<sup>th</sup> April in each year.

All other candidates for election as Officers of the Competition or members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the secretaries of two Clubs, not later than 30<sup>th</sup> April in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the AGM.

- (C) The Management Committee shall meet as and when required, save that no more than three calendar months shall pass between each meeting.

On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Management Committee.

- (D) Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.
- (E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Officers and sent to the Secretary.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (F) A League meeting of all Clubs will be held on the second Tuesday in August, September, and December and a date to be confirmed in March. A record shall be kept of the attendance of Clubs at each meeting. Fifteen Clubs shall form a quorum for the transaction of business.

Attendance at every League meeting of Clubs is compulsory. Clubs who fail to attend will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. The Hon. Secretary shall give seven days' notice of every League meeting together with an agenda of the business.

All decisions shall be determined by a show of hands, unless a ballot is required by Rule. The Chairperson can, at any time, order a ballot, if deemed appropriate.

If the Chairperson at any League meeting of Member Clubs shall be of the opinion that any motion proposed to be made thereat, is of an objectionable character, it shall be competent for him either before or after the same is brought forward to put it to the vote (on which no discussion shall be allowed), whether the same shall be entertained or not, and if two thirds of the members present decide not to entertain such motion, the same shall be considered as disposed for that day.

Whenever, during the transaction of business, it is stated to the Chairperson that a quorum is not present, the Chairperson shall declare the meeting at an end, and the names of those present shall be recorded in the minutes.

## **POWERS OF MANAGEMENT**

- 6 (A) The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all sub-committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of The Football Association or Affiliated Association.
- (B) Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each Season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any Club which may have withdrawn during the season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the Season.
- (C) Each Member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee Meetings and have one vote thereat, but no Member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such Member or to the Club so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest. (This shall apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).

In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman of the Management Committee shall have a second or casting vote.

- (D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition. Any action by the Competition must be taken within 28 days of the Competition being notified.

With the exception of Rules 6(I), 8(H), and 9, for all alleged breaches of a Rule the Management Committee shall issue a formal written charge to the Club concerned. The Club charged shall be given 7 days from the date of notification of the charge to reply. In such reply a Club may:

- (i) Accept the charge and submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
- (ii) Accept the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or
- (iii) Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
- (iv) Deny the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee.

Where the Club charged fails to respond within 7 days, the Management Committee shall determine the charge in such manner and upon such evidence as it considers appropriate.

Where required, hearings shall take place as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of the reply of the Club as more fully set out above.

Having considered the reply of the Club (whether in writing or at a hearing), the Management Committee shall make its decision and, in the event that the charge is accepted or proven, decide on the appropriate penalty (with reference to the Fines Tariff where applicable).

With the exception of Teams playing at Step 7 of the National League System, the maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Management Committee must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

The maximum fine permitted for a breach of a Rule by a Team playing at Step 7 of the National League System is £500.

No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

All breaches of the Laws of the Game, or the Rules and Regulations of The FA shall be dealt with in accordance with FA Rules by the appropriate Association.

- (E) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7.

Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 7 days.

- (F) 33% of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any sub-committee thereof.
- (G) The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill in an acting capacity, any vacancies that may occur amongst their number.
- (H) A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (I) Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision. Any Club failing to do so will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.
- (J) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or Competition Match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.
- (K) The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the AGM or SGM called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Playing Season.
- (L) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

## **PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS**

- 7 (A) (i) All questions of eligibility, qualification of Players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee.
- (ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the Competition Match.
- (B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within 14 days (excluding Sundays) of the Competition Match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.
- (C) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the inquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.
- (D) All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.
- (i) All parties must have received 7 days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.
- (ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should indicate such when forwarding the written response.
- (E) The Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Management Committee shall direct.
- (F) Any appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of the posting of the written notification of the decision causing the appeal, accompanied by a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff), which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. A copy of the appeal must also be sent to the Secretary. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority, in such respect the Sanctioning Authority may (but is not obliged to):
- (i) invite submissions by the parties involved;
- (ii) convene a hearing to hear the appeal;
- (iii) permit new evidence; or
- (iv) impose deadlines as are appropriate.
- Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee.
- (G) No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.



- (H) All protests, claims or complaints relating to these Rules and appeals arising from a Player's contract shall be heard and determined by the Management Committee, or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee. The Clubs or Players protesting, appealing, claiming or complaining must send a copy of such protest, appeal, claim or complaint and deposit a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff) which shall be forfeited in the event of the protest, appeal, claim or complaint not being upheld, and the party not succeeding may, in addition, be ordered to pay the costs at the direction of the Management Committee.

All such protests, claims, complaints and appeals must be received in writing by the Secretary within fourteen days of the event or decision causing any of these to be submitted.

- (I) Any club who appears before the Management Committee or any sub-committee thereof may be charged an administration fee (as set out in the fees tariff) to partially cover the costs that may be incurred by that committee.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

- 8 (A) The AGM shall be held not later than 15<sup>th</sup> June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least 8 members are present and entitled to vote:-

- (i) To receive and confirm the minutes of the preceding AGM.
  - (ii) To receive and adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts.
  - (iii) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
  - (iv) Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Season.
  - (v) Election of Officers of the Competition and the Management Committee members.
  - (vi) Appointment of auditors.
  - (vii) Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14).
  - (viii) Fix the date for the commencement of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.
  - (ix) Fix the date for the end of the Playing Season (save for Step 7 which shall be determined by The FA).
  - (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an AGM.
- (B) A copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet, statement of accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 14 days prior to the meeting, together with any proposed Rule changes.
- (C) A signed copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet and statement of accounts shall be sent to the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of its adoption by the AGM.
- (D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. 14 days' notice shall be given of any AGM.
- (E) Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the Playing Season being concluded or who are not continuing membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the Season being concluded.
- (F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.
- (G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Club.

- (H) Any continuing Club must be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (I) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM.
- (J) Where a Competition is an incorporated entity, the Officers of the Competition shall ensure that the Articles of Association of the Competition are consistent with the requirements of these Rules.

#### **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

- 9 Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call a SGM.

The Management Committee may call a SGM at any time.

At least seven (7) days' notice shall be given of a meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.

Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.

Any Club failing to be represented at a SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs.

#### **AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED**

10. Each Club shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the Competition together with the application for membership for the coming Season, or upon indicating that the Club intends to compete.

"We, (A) (name) [ ] of (address) [ ] (Chairman)/(Director) and (B) (name) [ ] of (address) [ ] (Secretary)/(Director) of [ ] Football Club (Limited) have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the [ ] Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, if elected or accepted into membership, to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7."

The agreement shall be signed by:

- (i) Where a Club is an unincorporated association, the Club chairman and secretary; or
- (ii) Where a Club is an incorporated entity, two directors of the Club.

Any alteration of the chairman and /or secretary of the Club on the above agreement must be notified to the Birmingham County Football Association(s) to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

#### **CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB**

- 11 (A) Any Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a Team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the Secretary in writing by 31<sup>st</sup> March each season. This does not apply to a Club moving in accordance with Rule 22(B). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (B) The Management Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a Team being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season, including, but not limited to, issuing a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (C) Notwithstanding the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 6(I), in the event of a Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50, the Management Committee shall be empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.

#### **EXCLUSION OF CLUBS, TEAMS. MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

- 12 (A) At the AGM or SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, notice of motion having been duly circulated on the agenda by direction of the Management Committee, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to: (i) remove a member of the Management Committee from office; (ii) exclude any Club or Team from membership, both of which must be supported by more than two thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A member of the Management Committee or Club which is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.
- (B) At the AGM, or at a SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by more than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.
- (C) Any Officer or member of a Club proved guilty of either a breach of Rule, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a Player or Players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of clause (A) and/or (B) of this Rule.

#### **TROPHY**

- 13 (A) The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the cup or trophy:-

“We (A) (name) and (B) (name), the Chairman and Secretary of [ ] FC (Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of cup or trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the cup, trophy and case [where appropriate] to the Competition Secretary on or before the second Tuesday in December. If the cup, trophy or case [where appropriate] is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair.”

Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

The Management Committee shall have the power to withhold trophies at its discretion.

#### **ALTERATION TO RULES**

- 14 Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at a SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. Any alteration made during the Playing Season to these Rules shall not take effect until the following Playing Season.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by 30<sup>th</sup> April in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 7<sup>th</sup> May and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 21<sup>st</sup> May. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if two thirds [2/3] of those present, entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or SGM shall be submitted to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA (as applicable) at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

#### **FINANCE**

- 15 (A) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.
- (B) All expenditure in excess of £250 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.
- (C) The financial year of the Competition will end on 30<sup>th</sup> April.
- (D) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be verified annually by a suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

#### **INSURANCE**

- 16 (A) All Clubs must have valid public liability insurance cover of at least ten million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.
- (B) All Clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Players' personal accident insurance cover must be in place prior to the Club taking part in any Competition Match and shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time to time by the Sanctioning Authority. In instances where The FA is the Sanctioning Authority, the minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which a Club affiliates.

Failure to comply with Rule 16(A) or 16(B) will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

#### **DISSOLUTION**

- 17 (A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a SGM by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant SGM.

- (B) In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.
- (C) The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:
  - (i) Any surplus assets, save for a trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or Affiliated Association or The Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the Sanctioning Authority.
  - (ii) If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the Sanctioning Authority may decide.

## **MATCH RELATED RULES**

### **QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS**

- 18 (A) A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:
- (i) signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by an Officer of the Club, which is submitted to the Competition 7 days prior to the Player playing and whose registration has been confirmed by the Competition prior to that Player playing in a Competition Match;
- or
- (ii) signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink on a match day prior to playing which is countersigned by an Officer of the Club and witnessed by an Officer of the opposing Club, and submitted to the Competition within two days (Sundays excluded) subsequent to the Competition Match. The Player shall not play again on a subsequent match day until the Club is in possession of the approval of the Competition. A maximum of 30 Players may be registered in accordance with this paragraph 18(A)(ii);
- or
- (iii) registered through WGS.

Any registration form which is sent by either of the means set out at Rules 18(A) (i) or (ii) above that is not fully and correctly completed will be returned to the Club unprocessed. If a Club attempts to register a player via WGS but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via WGS, the registration will not be processed.

For Clubs registering Players under Rules 18(A) (i) or (ii), registration forms will be provided in a format to be determined by the Competition. For Clubs registering Players via WGS (under Rule 18 (A) (iii)), Clubs must access WGS in order to complete the registration process.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (B) (i) Contract players are not permitted in this Competition with the exception of those Players who are registered under Contract with the same Club who have a team operating at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System.

It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any Player registered to the Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any Player aged 10 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

- (iii) Each Club must have at least 11 Players registered 7 days before the start of each Playing Season. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (C) A Player that owes a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) to any club(s) shall be permitted to register and play for a Club in Competition Matches, save that the Player may be liable to be suspended from playing for that Club should the Player fail to comply with the terms of the Football Debt Recovery Regulations in respect of that Football Debt.
- (D) A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered.
- (E) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes.

In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club, priority of registration shall decide for which Club the Player shall be registered. The Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

- (F) It shall be a breach of Rule for a Player to:-
- (i) Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.
  - (ii) Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season except for the purpose of a transfer.
  - (iii) Submit a signed registration form or submit a registration through WGS for registration that the Player had willfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (G)
- (i) The Management Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rules 18(G) (ii) and (iii) below.
  - (ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player or may fine any Player, at their discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 7).
  - (iii) The Management Committee shall have power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 7) subject to the right of appeal to the Sanctioning Authority. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the Player is registered or intending to be registered with.

Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition.

- (iv) For a Player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18(G)(iii) but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the Player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition would be empowered to consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

(Note: Action under Rule 18(G) (iii) shall not be taken against a Player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and then only in cases of the Player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any event be subject to an appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. All decisions must include the period of restriction.

For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the Competition into disrepute can only be considered where the Player has received in excess of 112 days' suspension, or 10 matches in match based discipline, in any competition (and is not restricted to the Competition) in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.)

- (H) Subject to compliance with FA Rule C2(a) when a Club wishes to register a player who is already registered with another club it shall submit a transfer form (in a format as determined by the Competition) to the Competition accompanied by a fee as set out in the Fees Tariff. Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to the club for which the player is registered. Should this club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the player concerned within 3 days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within 3 days, the Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or 3 days after receipt of such transfer.

In the event of an objection to a transfer the matter shall be referred to the Management Committee for a decision.

- (I) A Player may not be registered for a Club after 30<sup>th</sup> April nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 28<sup>th</sup> February except by special permission of the Management Committee.
- (J) A Club shall keep a list of the Players it registers and a record of all matches in which those Players have played for the Club, and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee.
- (K) A register containing the names of all Players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the (Registrations) Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of an Officer of the Club at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.

In the event of a Non Contract Player without a written contract changing his status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition or with a club in another competition his registration as a Non Contract Player will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 18(B)(i).

- (L) A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding Competition Match (as specified in Rule 22(A)) unless the Player has played 2 Competition Matches for that Team in the current Playing Season.
- (M) A Team shall not include more than 6 Players who have taken part in 10 or more senior Competition Matches during the current Playing Season unless a period of 21 days has elapsed since they last played.

For the purpose of this Rule a senior competition are Competition Matches played in higher divisions by other teams within the same club.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (N)
  - (i) Subject to Rule 18(N)(ii), any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a Competition Match or Matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that Competition Match deducted from its record, up to a maximum of 12 points, and have levied upon it a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

- (ii) The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18(N)(i) only in circumstances where the ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate or where the ineligibility is related to the Player's status.
  - (iii) Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 18(N)(i) above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion:
    - a) Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed; or
    - b) Levy penalty points against the Club in default; or
    - c) Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).
- (O) The following clause applies to Competitions involving Players in full-time secondary education:-
- Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (i) The availability of children must be cleared with the Head Teachers (except for Sunday leagues competitions).
  - (ii) To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16.

#### **CLUB COLOURS**

- 19 Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> July who shall decide as to their suitability.

Any Club wishing to change its colours during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the Management Committee.

Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all other Players and the Match Officials.

No Player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.

Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents the colours in which they will play (including the colours of the goalkeepers jersey) at least 5 days before the Competition Match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the home Team shall make the change. Should a Team delay the scheduled time of kick off for a Competition Match by not having a change of colours they will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Shirts must be numbered, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

#### **PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY, TIMES OF KICK-OFF. POSTPONEMENTS. SUBSTITUTES**

- 20 (A) All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board.

Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their Grounds in a playable condition. All Competition Matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee. If through any fault of the home Team a match has to be replayed, the



Management Committee shall have power to order the venue to be changed.

The Management Committee shall have power to decide whether a pitch and/or facilities are suitable for Competition Matches and to order the Club concerned to play its Competition Match(es) on another ground.

Football Turf Pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition provided they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA's Register of Football Turf Pitches. All Football Turf Pitches used must be tested (by a FIFA accredited test institute) every three years and the results passed to The FA. The FA will give a decision on the suitability for use and add the pitch to the Register.

The home Club is also responsible for advising Participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements in accordance with Rule 20(C).

Within the National League System ("NLS") all Competition Matches shall have a duration of 90 minutes. All Competition Matches outside of the NLS shall have duration of 90 minutes unless a shorter time (not less than sixty (60) minutes) is mutually arranged by the two Clubs in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves. Two matches involving the same two Teams can be played on the same day providing the total playing time is not more than 120 minutes.

The times of kick-off shall be fixed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs prior to the scheduled date of the Competition Match with written notification given to the Competition at least 7 days prior.

Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition.

The home Team must provide goal nets, corner flags and at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (B) Except by permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a Competition match with the consent of the (Fixtures) Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

In the case of a revised fixture date, the Clubs must be given by the Competition 5 clear days' notice of the match (unless otherwise mutually agreed).

- (C) An Officer of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the Ground and time of kick-off to the Match Officials and an Officer of the opposing Club at least 5 clear days prior to the playing of the match. If not so provided, the away Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (D) In accordance with the Laws of the Game, the minimum number of Players that will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is 7. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (E) (i) Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement

the Management Committee shall have power to impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff), deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the Competition Match in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals.

Any fixture in the opinion of the Hon. Fixtures Secretary and subject to Management Committee approval classed as an unfulfilled fixture will require correspondence from both clubs and attract a fine in accordance with amount set out in the Fines Tariff table for the offending club.

The Team that causes the unfulfilled fixture shall be penalised with a 3 point deduction and a fine as set out in the Fines Tariff.

If the game is cancelled on the day of the match then the maximum fine will be levied and the offending Team will be responsible for payment of the match official(s).

A second offence in the same season by the same Team shall result in a fine as set out in the Fines Tariff.

A third offence in the same season by the same Team shall result in a fine as set out in the Fines Tariff.

For night games the period of time will be calculated from the agreed date of the fixture, as opposed to a Saturday. Half of the scale of fines held in the Fines Tariff shall be applied and any points deductions will be at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(ii) Any Club with more than one team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence:- First Team, Second Team, Third Team, Fourth Team, Fifth Team. Clubs in breach of this requirement shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff or otherwise dealt with by the Management Committee. If this results in the Club postponing its lowest team fixture, the offence will be treated as an unfulfilled fixture as per League Rule 20 (E)(i), however the offending team will not be deducted any league points

Where a club postpones a higher team fixture they will be fined for that offence (see Fines Tariff) or otherwise dealt with by the League Management Committee and be liable for a deduction of three points as per League Rule 20 (E) (i).

(iii) Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a Competition Match has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the Secretary, Fixtures Secretary, the Competition Referees Appointments Secretary, the secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials.

(iv) In the event of a Competition Match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Fixtures Secretary within 7 days the Management Committee shall have the power to order the Competition Match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and the Clubs involved agree, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(v) The Management Committee shall review all Competition Matches abandoned in cases

where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a Competition Match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Team or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the Competition Match to the opponent. In cases where a Competition Match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule that neither Team will be awarded any points for that Competition Match and it shall not be replayed. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned Competition Match.

(vi) The Management Committee shall review any Competition Match that has taken place where either or both Teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by The FA or Affiliated Association. In each case the Team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible players in accordance with Rule 18(N) above. Where both Teams were under suspension the game must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.

- (F) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use substitute Players in any Competition Match. A Club may name up to 5 substitute Players of whom not more than 5 may be used.

The Home team shall provide a match sheet, which will be completed by both teams including the forename(s) and surname of all players and substitutes (in block letters). The match sheet shall be handed to the referee not later than ten minutes before kick-off of the Competition Match.

The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitute Players not later than 10 minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a Player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match.

A Player who has been named as a substitute before the start of the Competition Match but does not actually play in that game shall not be considered to have been a Player in that Competition Match within the meaning of Rule 18 of this Competition.

- (G) The half time interval shall be of 5 minutes' duration, but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.
- (H) The Teams taking part in a Competition Match shall identify a Team captain who may wear an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his teammates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

## **REPORTING RESULTS**

- 21 (A) The Registration Secretary must receive within 4 days of the date played, the result of each Competition Match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the Team Players (in block letters). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (B) The Home Club shall telephone/SMS/email/notify the result of each Competition Match to the Secretary by 6:00pm on the day, of the matches played on a Saturday and within 24 hours of

Competition Matches played midweek. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by an Officer of the Club, or as prescribed by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

## **DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP**

- 22 (A) Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn Competition Match. The Teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the end of the Playing Season shall be adjudged the winners. Competition Matches must not be played for double points.

In the event of two or more Teams being equal on points at the end of the Playing Season, rankings shall be determined by goal difference (where the goals scored against each Team shall be deducted from the goals scored by that Team and the Team with the most favourable goal difference shall be placed highest).

In the event of two or more Teams still being equal, the Team which has scored the most goals during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.

In the event of two or more Teams still being equal, the Team that has won the most matches during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.

In the event of two or more Teams still being equal, the Team which has the better playing record against the other Team in their head to head Competition Matches during the Playing Season will be placed highest.

If the records of two or more Teams are still equal and it is necessary for any reason to determine the position of each then the Teams affected shall play a deciding match or matches under conditions as determined by the Management Committee.

- (B) Automatic promotion shall be applied for the first 2 teams in each Division except in the case of Division 1, and the 2 bottom teams may be relegated to the immediate Division below, except as provided for hereunder, subject to the provisions of Rule 2(L).
- (C) Not adopted.
- (D) In the event of a Team withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the Playing Season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting Team shall be expunged from the Competition table. For the purposes of this Rule 22(D) a completed fixture shall include any Competition Match(es) which has been awarded by the Management Committee.

## **MATCH OFFICIALS**

- 23 (A) Registered referees (and assistant referees where approved by The FA or County FA) for all Competition Matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Authority.
- (B) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed referee the appointed senior assistant referee shall take charge and a substitute assistant referee appointed by the competing Teams. In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the Clubs shall

agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that Competition Match, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any Competition Match.

- (C) Where assistant referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club assistant referee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (D) The appointed referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground in all Competition Matches and that decision shall be final, subject to the determination of the Local Authority or the owners of a Ground, which must be accepted.
- (E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Authority, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff and inclusive of travel expenses.

Match Officials will be paid their fees by the home Club immediately after the Competition Match. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (F) In the event of a Competition Match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to half fee only. Where a Competition Match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Ground, their full fee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (G) A referee not keeping his or her engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Affiliated Association with which he or she is registered.
- (H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The FA, award marks to the referee for each Competition Match and the name of the referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.

Complete an official referees marking form to cover all games played by each team of the Club, in the preceding month and email/ post to the Hon. Referees Secretary (if posted the envelope post marked not later than the Wednesday following the last Saturday of that month). Incorrectly completed or incomplete forms may incur a further fine.

- (I) The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided by the prescribed date each Season, shall submit a summary to The FA/County FA.
- (J) Not adopted.
- (K) Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.
- (L) Match Officials shall have undertaken a RESPECT briefing offered by The FA/County FA or the Competition.

#### **PREMIER DIVISION AND DIVISION ONE QUALIFICATION**

- 24 (A) The Premier Division shall comprise of no more than 14 clubs for first teams of adequate playing strength. Both the Premier Division and Division One will ensure adequate ground facilities, these being an acceptable and regularly maintained playing surface (grass and/ or 3g) with clear pitch markings, maximum size 120 yards by 80 yards, (110 by 75 metres), minimum size 110 yards by 65 yards (100 by 60 metres) with washing facilities and separate dressing rooms for each team and match officials.
- (B) Application to enter the Premier Division will be considered teams of Full Member Clubs already having these qualifications. The facilities of Premier Division clubs shall be reviewed annually by the Management Committee.
- (C) The Official Form stating details of their pitch or pitches and dressing room facilities etc. for the following season must be forwarded by the Club making the application to the Hon. Secretary to be received by 30<sup>th</sup> April.
- (D) A Club may not play a Premier Division match on a pitch otherwise than those entered on the Official Form without first obtaining permission to do so from the Management Committee.
- (E) The first-choice kit of any team competing in the Premier Division and Division One must be numbered.

#### **REPRESENTATIVE GAMES**

- 25 (A) League games may be postponed as a result of representative matches, if a team has more than one player in the Birmingham & District Football League representative side. Permission should be sought through the Hon. Fixtures Secretary.

**ADDITIONAL RULES GOVERNING  
THE CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITIONS**

26. The entire control of the above Competitions shall be vested in the Management Committee of the Birmingham and District Football League.

27. The Cups shall be called the "Birmingham and District Football League, Senior, Intermediate, Junior, Bill Hill, Norman Worskett (previously known as the Minor), Holder, Jeffs, Veterans and Youth Cups" respectively and shall not become the property of any one Club.

28. The Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer of the League shall be legal holders of the Cups in trust for the League.

29. The Competitions shall be annual and be open to Clubs who are members of the League, subject to the approval of the Management Committee.

Cup entrance fees shall be decided annually at the Annual General Meeting. No Club is eligible to play until it has paid its League subscription and Cup entry fees for the current season. The dates, with kick off times, on which the Cup ties for the following season shall be played, shall be fixed by the Management Committee and presented at the Annual General Meeting.

(a) It is mandatory that all teams will be entered into all Cups for which they qualify, with the exception of the Youth and Veterans Cup Competitions.

30. The names of the Clubs entered for the Competition shall be drawn for the first round for each cup at the August League Management meeting in couples at a time. The winners of the first round shall be drawn as in the first ties, and so compete until the final is played, when the winning Club shall hold the Cup for the current year. When byes are necessary in the first round of the competition, these byes shall first of all be allotted to the following Clubs, if eligible:

- (a) The winner of the previous season
- (b) The runner-up of the previous season
- (c) The other two semi-finalists
- (d) The four other quarter-finalists

The byes will be allocated section by section, as far as they permit. After the above have been duly allotted the draw shall proceed, and any other necessary byes being according to lot. The lots shall be drawn, and the Competition matches played as the Management Committee may determine, and immediately after each draw the President or designate shall intimate to the Club drawn the name of the Clubs it is drawn against, the date and time of kick-off. The first round of the Senior Cup shall be played between the entrants received from the lowest divisions of the League until all ties for this round have been exhausted.

31. The Home Team Secretary shall give the referee, assistant referees (if appointed) and visiting team notice as to situation of ground 5 clear days before the date of the match. Failure to do so will lead to a fine (see Fines Tariff). A Club or Clubs responsible for late kick-off shall be fined, failing a reasonable explanation in writing to be posted to the Hon. Secretary within three days of the date on which the tie was played (Sundays excluded). In the event of a tie being left unfinished, from any cause whatever, Management Committee shall have the power to deal with the matter.

32. Unless otherwise mutually arranged, the Clubs first drawn in the ballot shall have first choice of ground, except in the Final tie, which must be played on a neutral ground, unless

otherwise mutually arranged between the Management Committee and the contending Clubs, but providing that no such arrangement is come to, the Management Committee shall appoint the ground.

In the case of drawn matches, where the extra half-hour or the taking of penalties is not possible, or is begun and not completed the matter will be referred to the Management Committee. Correspondence from both clubs may be requested. If the reason for the non-fulfilment of the tie is due to the late arrival of one of the teams only the tie may be awarded to the other team.

In the event of a tie being attempted to be played on two separate occasions and being postponed for any given reason it will be played on the ground of the second drawn team, who will bear the match costs as per League Rule 33. If the tie is postponed on a further two occasions it will revert back to the original first drawn team, who will bear the match costs as per League Rule 32. If the tie is postponed further the League Management Committee will decide where the tie is to be played and all match expenses will be shared.

All Cup Finals will be played to a result, extra time (shall be 15 minutes each way) if required and then penalty kicks (as laid down in the Laws of the Game) shall decide the tie. All Cup Finals shall be organised by a Cup Committee, being a Sub-Committee of the Management Committee.

33. The Hon. Referees Secretary shall appoint all referees up to and including the semi-finals and their fee shall be borne by the home Club. The competing teams will appoint assistant referees up to and including the quarter-finals. The Hon. Referees Secretary may however, at his discretion, appoint assistant referees where he believes this would be appropriate. In the semi-finals the Hon. Referee Secretary will appoint assistant referees. In all cases where the Hon. Referees Secretary appoints assistant referees their fee shall be paid by the home Club and the expense shared equally between the two Clubs. In the event that only one assistant referee is available the home Club will pay his fee and the expense shared between the two Clubs and the other assistant referee shall be provided by the home Club unless mutually agreed by the two captains. In the final tie, the Management Committee shall appoint referee and assistant referees from the names submitted by the Hon. Referees Secretary and they will receive a suitable award.

34. Any objection to the ground, goal-posts, crossbars, or any other appurtenances of the game, must be made to those responsible for the match before the time fixed for the kick-off. Any defect shall be remedied if possible without unduly delaying the game. Failing this the objections shall be made to the referee prior to the start and cannot be withdrawn without the consent of the Management Committee. All other protests or appeals must be intimated to the referee at the time the violation takes place and full particulars must be posted to the Hon. Secretary within three days thereafter (Sundays excepted), accompanied by a deposit, which may be forfeited should the protest not be sustained. If the Management Committee should subsequently discover that any rule or spirit of the rules has, in their opinion, been violated by mutual arrangement or otherwise by two Clubs or otherwise, it shall be in the power of the Management Committee to disqualify one or both from further competing in the ties or order the match to be replayed without any protest being entertained from either or any Club.

35. The Home Club shall have the field of play marked out; provide a minimum of two match balls and dressing accommodation. Goal nets, properly secured and corner posts must be used at all times. The matches shall be played according to the laws of the game. The size of the field of play for Semi-Final and Final ties shall be as follows: -Maximum 120 by 80 yards (110 by 75 metres) - minimum 100 yards by 65 yards (90 by 60 metres). All lines must be clearly



defined according to Law 1 of the game.

36. A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use substitute Players in any Competition Match. A Club may name up to 5 substitute Players of whom not more than 5 may be used, except to replace a player who has been dismissed by the referee for misconduct after play has commenced. The substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the referee has given permission.

In the Veterans Cup only, a Club may nominate and use five substitute players at any time in the match in the Competition. A player who has been substituted during the match himself becomes a substitute and may, in turn, replace another player, except to replace a player who has been dismissed by the referee for misconduct after play has commenced. The substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the referee has given permission.

Substitute players shall be nominated to the match official prior to the commencement of the game.

The Home team shall provide a match sheet, which will be completed by both teams including the forename(s) and surname of all players and substitutes (in block letters). The match sheet shall be handed to the referee not later than ten minutes before kick-off.

A Player not named on the match sheet may not take part in that match. Any player who plays in the game and is not entered on the match sheet may be considered to be an ineligible Player and may be dealt with under League Rule 8(O).

A player who has been selected, appointed or named as a substitute before the start of the match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a player in that game within the meaning of League Rule 8 of this Competition.

37. The duration of the game shall be of two equal periods of 45 minutes. The interval at half time shall not exceed five minutes, except by special permission of the referee. In the event of a draw, after 90 minutes in any tie, two equal periods of 15 minutes should be played, but in the event of this not being possible due to circumstance beyond control, then the referee be empowered to reduce this to two equal periods of 10 minutes, and shall count as part of the game. If the scores are still level at the end of this period the tie shall be concluded by the taking of penalties as laid down in the Laws of the Game.

In the case of drawn matches, where the extra half-hour or the taking of penalties is not possible, or is begun and not completed the matter will be referred to the Management Committee. Correspondence from both clubs may be requested. If the reason for the non-fulfilment of the tie is due to the late arrival of one of the teams only, the tie may be awarded to the other team.

38. In the case of having two clubs having similar playing colours, the home club shall change to a distinguishing colour, the referee's judgment and decision will be final. All shirt advertising carried by Clubs must confirm to Rules & Regulations laid down by the Football Association from time to time.

39. Any Clubs refusing to carry out fixtures and complaint being made to Hon. Secretary the case will be brought before the next meeting of the Management Committee. Any Club refusing or failing to play a Club against which it has been drawn on the date fixed for the round, (the exigencies of weather alone excepted), shall be adjudged to have lost the match unless otherwise sanctioned by the Management Committee. Failing a satisfactory reason for

the non-fulfilment of fixture being given, the Club may be fined, the amount to be settled by the Management Committee. Offending Clubs may be ordered to pay referees fees, pitch fees and receipted expenses.

Notice of abandonment's and postponements must be notified to the Secretary, Fixtures Secretary, the Competition Referees Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the appointed match officials by the Secretary of the home side by telephone no later than the date on which the game should have been played. It is the responsibility of all home teams (i.e. the first named on the fixture sheet) to ensure that visiting teams and referees do not travel unnecessarily. If there is any doubt about the fixture not being played due to the contingencies of the weather etc. each club must warn the opponents not later than 10:30 am on the match day and arrange for a telephone call no later than mid-day to confirm or postpone a game, where possible arranging for a local referee to assist in the decision.

40. Each Club shall;

(a) Telephone the results of each home match to the Hon. Secretary or deputy, not later than 6:00pm on that day of the match in respect of matches played on Saturday, and within 24 hours of matches played midweek. Clubs failing to comply with this rule shall be fined.

(b) Post/ Scan/ Email to the Hon. Registration Secretary or deputy, notice on the approved form of the result of each match, its covering envelopes to bear a postmark dated not later than the Monday following the match, in respect of matches other than Saturdays. Clubs failing to comply with this rule shall be fined.

(c) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The Football Association, award marks to the Referee for each match and the name of the Referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed Form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.

Complete an official referees marking form to cover all games played by each team of the Club, in the preceding month and email/ post to the Hon. Referees Secretary (if posted the envelope post marked not later than the Wednesday following the last Saturday of that month). Incorrectly completed or incomplete forms may incur a further fine.

(d) Any Club marking a referee 50 or below must submit a written explanation with the marking form.

(e) All fines and charges shall be paid within 14 days of the date of posting of the written notification. Clubs, Officials or individuals committing a breach of this Rule will incur such penalties as the Management Committee may impose. All fines and charges shall be paid within 14 days of the date of posting of the written notification. Any Club failing to do so will be fined a maximum of £50.00. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional sum within 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding payments are settled.

41. All questions eligibility, qualifications of competitors, interpretations of the rules or laws, and any other matters in dispute, shall be referred to the Management Committee. Any Club or team found to be playing an ineligible player, for whatever reason, shall forfeit the tie unless otherwise ordered by the Management Committee. All other matters relating to interpretations of Laws and Rules and any dispute shall be referred to the Management Committee.

42. The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the Cup or Trophy:-

“We (A) (name) and (B) (name), the Chairman and Secretary of FC (Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of Cup or Trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the Cup or Trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before December League Meeting. If the Cup or Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair.”

Failure to return the trophy and its case (where appropriate) by this date in like order and condition shall result in a fine

The Management Committee shall have the power to withhold trophies at its discretion.

43. On the recommendation of the Officers and with the approval of the Management Committee other Cup Competitions may be arranged as necessary, subject to general rules plus additional qualifying rules where required being submitted to all clubs prior to the commencement of the competition.

44. The Management Committee shall have the power to deal with any matter not covered by these rules.

45. The 16 players named on the match sheet on the day of each Cup Final, for both finalists will receive either Cup winners/runners up medals/trophies as appropriate. Any player sent off during a Cup Final shall forfeit his right to receive his medal/trophy, subject to a successful County appeal.

#### **46. QUALIFICATION RULES for CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION**

For all Challenge Cup competitions all players must be registered in the same season for the competing club prior to each match. With the exception of the Veterans Cup for the semi-final and final, the registration must be completed a clear twenty eight days or four games, whichever is less, prior to the playing of the tie. For the Veterans Cup players who play in the final tie must have played for the Veterans team in at least one previous game. No player shall play for more than one club in any one of the following competitions.

A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use three substitute players in any match in these Competitions, with the exception of the Veterans Cup in which five substitutes are permitted, who may be selected from five players.

#### **C.H. PATTEN (SENIOR CUP)**

A Full Member Clubs most senior team within the League.

#### **INTERMEDIATE CUP**

A Member Clubs most senior team within the League, who are not members of the Premier Division of the League.

#### **JUNIOR CUP**

For second teams only. To be eligible for the semi-final or final players must have played for that team or a lower team at least twice. Players who have played twice in the Senior Cup and/or Intermediate Cup shall be ineligible to compete in the Junior Cup in the same season.

#### **NORMAN WORSKETT CUP (previously MINOR CUP)**

For third, fourth, fifth and sixth teams only. Players who have played twice in any of the following Competitions – Senior, Intermediate and Junior or any combination thereof, are ineligible to compete in the Minor Cup in the same season. Players are allowed to play for one team only in the Competition in any one season and to be eligible for the semi-final or final must have played for that team or a lower team at least twice.

#### **HOLDER CUP**

Full Member teams competing in divisions 1 (one) & 2 (two) of the League as drafted in the Constitution. Players are allowed to play for one team only in the Competition in any one season and to be eligible for the semi-final or final must have played for that team or a lower team at least twice.

#### **BILL HILL**

Full Member teams competing in divisions 3 (three) & 4 (four) of the League as drafted in the Constitution. Players are allowed to play for one team only in the Competition in any one season and to be eligible for the semi-final or final must have played for that team or a lower team at least twice.

#### **JEFFS CUP**

Full Member teams competing in divisions 5 (five), 6 (six) & 7 (seven) of the League as drafted in the Constitution. Players are allowed to play for one team only in the Competition in any one season and to be eligible for the semi-final or final must have played for that team or a lower team at least twice.

#### **YOUTH CUP**

For teams where only players who are under 21 years of age on the 1st day of August in the competing season, shall be eligible to take part in this Competition.

**V.B. HALE (VETERANS CUP)**

For teams where only players who are over 35 on the day of the match, shall be eligible.

**FEES TARIFF**

<b>RULE NUMBER</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>MAXIMUM FEE</b>
4 (A)	CLUB ENTRY FEE	£25
4 (B)	CLUB/TEAM ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	Tariff agreed at the March League Meeting
4 (C)	DEPOSIT	£100
7 (C), 7 (E), 7(G)	PROTEST/APPEAL FEES	£5
7 (I)	ADMINISTRATION FEE	£15
18 (D)	PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE	£NIL
18 (H)	TRANSFER FEE	£5
23 (E)	REFEREE FEES	£30
23 (E)	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES	£20

**FINES TARIFF**

<b>RULE NUMBER</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>MAXIMUM FINE</b>
2 (G)	FAILURE TO AFFILIATE	£15
2 (I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£15
2 (K)	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	£15
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	£15
4 (C)	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£15
4 (E)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE AFFILIATION NUMBER/DETAILS FORM	£15
5 (E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£15
6 (H)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£15
6 (I)	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£50
8 (H)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£25
9	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM	£25

10	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES	£15
11(A)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE	£50
11 (B)	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£50
13 (A)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£15
16(A)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£15
16(B)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£15
18 (A)	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£15
18 (B) (ii)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE SEASON COMMENCING	£15
18 (F)	REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS, OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM	£15
18 (G)(ii)	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£15
18 (M)	FIELDING MORE THAN THE PERMITTED NUMBER OF PLAYERS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SENIOR COMPETITIONS MATCHES	£15
18 (N)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£15
18 (O)	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£15
19	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS	£15
19	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS	£15
20 (A)	DELAYING KICK OFF	£15
20 (B)	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	£15
20 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£15
20 (D)	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS	£15
20 (E) (i) & (iv)	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE (first offence)	£50
	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE (second offence)	£75
	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE (third offence)	£100

20 (F)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE MATCH SHEET TO OPPOSITION AND/ OR MATCH OFFICIAL	£15
20 (H)	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£15
21 (A)	LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION FORM	£15
21 (B)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT	£15
21(C)	RESULT NOTIFICATION NOT SIGNED BY APPROPRIATE SIGNATORIES	£15
23 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£15
23 (E)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES	£15
23 (F)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£15
23 (H)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£15