

LANCASHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

THE COUNTY GROUND, THURSTON ROAD, LEYLAND, LANCASHIRE, PR25 2LF

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Lancashire FA

PROFESSIONAL CLUBS YOUTH CUP COMPETITION RULES

SEASON 2018/19

1. NAME OF COMPETITION

The Trophy shall be called "The Lancashire Football Association Professional Youth Cup".

2. CUP OWNERSHIP

The Professional Youth Cup is the property of the Lancashire Football Association (The Association). The Cup shall be competed for annually unless otherwise specified by the Council. When the winning Club shall have been ascertained, the Association shall present the Cup to such Club, upon receipt of a document to the following effect and subscribed by three persons whose names shall be previously submitted to and approved by The Committee:-

"We AB, CD, and EF members of the () Club and representing the () Club, which has now been declared to have won the Lancashire Football Association (insert competition name) and the same having been delivered to us by the said Association, do hereby on behalf of the said Club, and individually and collectively engage to return the Cup to the Secretary of the Association, on or before 28th February of the next calendar year, in good order and condition and that should the said Cup be destroyed or damaged by fire or by other cause, or lost whilst under our care, we agree to refund the Association the amount of its original value or the cost of thorough repair."

It shall be clean and undamaged in condition and failure to return by the required date and in a good clean condition will result in a fine of £50.

3. MEDALS

In addition to the Cup, the Association shall present individual Trophies to 20 players of each team in the Final Tie. When a Player or Club Official taking part is dismissed or ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct, the medal to which they may be entitled may be withheld at the discretion of the Youth Competitions Committee (The Committee).

4. CONTROL OF THE COMPETITION

- (a) The ownership, organisation, control and management of the Competition and any rights associated with it of any nature shall be vested entirely and exclusively in The Association.
- (b) The Committee shall have the power to make, delete and amend regulations for the organisation, control and management of the Competition as it, from time to time, deems expedient (The "Competition Rules").
- (c) All Clubs participating in the Competition shall be bound by and comply with the Competition Rules.
- (d) The Committee shall have the power to exercise all powers in relation to the Competition and to make decisions on all matters arising out of or in relation to the organisation, control and management of the Competition (including as to eligibility and qualification) which shall be final and binding on all participants in the Competition. In relation to these and any other matters not specifically mentioned in the Competition Rules, The Committee shall have the power to take such action and make such decisions, orders, rulings and impose such penalties as it deems necessary. Following such procedures as it considers appropriate, decisions shall be final and binding on all participants, subject to Rule 21. In considering such matters, The Committee shall not be bound by any enactment or Rule of Law relating to the admissibility of evidence in proceedings before a Court of Law.

The Committee shall have the power to appoint a Sub-Committee to exercise the powers of The Committee in order to expedite decisions to ensure the progress of the Competition.

- (e) A Club participating in the Competition shall have only such rights in relation to the Competition (and any match in the Competition) as are expressly granted to the Club under these Competition Rules or by The Association in writing.

5. ELIGIBLE CLUBS

Participation in the Competition shall be open to Clubs whose First Affiliation is to the Association and who are eligible and approved by The Committee.

6. ENTRY DATE AND FEES

A Club wishing to participate in the Competition shall complete and return an entry form together with a £20 entrance fee to be received at The Association on or before 1st August prior to the season in which such Club proposes to compete in the Competition.

7. ORGANISATION OF THE COMPETITION

Competition and shall be played on a Knock-Out basis.

8. DRAW FOR ROUNDS

- (a) The Clubs competing in each round of the Competition shall be drawn in couples. The Couples shall play a match subject to the Laws of the Game and the winners compete in the next round and be drawn in the same manner. This shall be continued until the Final of the Competition.
- (b) After the draw for each round is made, notice shall be given to each Club of the name of its opponent Club, and the date and time when the match shall be played. All matches in each round shall be played on such date and at such time as The Committee determine.
- (c) Any Club refusing or failing to play the Club against which it has been drawn upon the date fixed for the tie to be played shall, unless otherwise decided by The Committee be adjudged to have lost the match, and fined £50.
- (d) Within seven days following the notification by The Association of the draw for each round, the Club first drawn must communicate with the opponent Club to notify the location of the ground and other match details and notify The Association of its receipt. Failure to comply with this requirement shall incur a fine of £10.

9. VENUE FOR MATCHES

(a) Venue

- (i) The Club first drawn shall be entitled to have the match played on its home ground, providing it meets the requirements of the Competition Rules. Such match shall be played on that ground unless the consent of The Committee has been obtained to any change of venue.
- (ii) A match shall not be played on a neutral ground without the consent of the Committee.
- (iii) The Committee shall have power to order that any match be played on an alternative ground or date, if it is considered appropriate and necessary.

(b) Field of Play and Ground Facilities

- (i) All matches shall be played on either a natural grass pitch, or a 3G surface which is listed on the FA approved pitch register (<http://goo.gl/4XIDLd>).
- (ii) The dimensions of the pitch shall be in accordance with FA regulations and the length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.
- (iii) Goal nets must be used in all matches.
- (iv) Changing, washing and toilet facilities must be available on site for each Team and Match Officials. Clubs failing to provide any of the said facilities will be expelled from the Competition and fined £50.
- (v) Each Club should provide, if possible, separate areas adjacent to the pitch for the sole use of Team Officials, Medical Staff and Substitutes. Such designated areas shall have direct access to the pitch, be located as near as possible equidistant from the halfway line and be under cover if possible. It is recommended that a spectator viewing area be designated, which is separated from the pitch using either ropes or barriers.
- (vi) The Home Club shall supply suitable match balls.

(c) Protests Regarding the Suitability of Ground

- (i) A Club may protest to The Committee that the ground of the Home Club is unsuitable for the match. Such protest must be made in writing to The Committee within four days of the date of the draw and must be accompanied by a fee of £25, which shall be forfeited if the protest is not sustained.
- (ii) The Committee shall have the power to consider the protest in such manner and following such procedures as it considers appropriate. The Committee may amongst other things order the match to be played on the ground of the protesting Club, or on a neutral ground. The payment of the costs incurred by both Club and The Association incidental to the protest shall be at the discretion of the Committee.

(d) Playing Condition of the Ground

- (i) Each Club must take every precaution to ensure that its ground is in a fit playing condition.
- (ii) In the event of any doubt as to the condition of the pitch, either Club may require a Referee to visit the ground two hours before the advertised time of kick-off to decide as to the fitness of the ground for play in sufficient time to save the expense of unnecessary journeys being incurred by Clubs.
- (iii) Subject to this rule, the Referees shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches. The referee shall have the power to abandon or postpone the match if they believe the weather conditions are detrimental to the welfare of the participants
- (iv) The Referee must report to the ground 45 minutes before the time of kick-off. If necessary, the Home Club or The Association may, by notice, require the Referee to visit the ground more than 60 minutes before the time of kick-off any time during the season.
- (v) Except in instances where Local Authorities, Schools, Colleges or privately owned pitches declare a blanket postponement for pitches which they control, all grounds must be inspected by a registered Referee before a match is postponed. Failure to have the pitch inspected by a registered Referee before postponing a

game shall result in the matter being referred to The Committee, who will may adjudge the home side to have lost the tie and impose a fine of £50.

- (vi) In the event of a match being postponed, the Home Club Secretary must notify the Match Official and their opponents immediately, and in addition, complete the online postponement notification form, found under the competitions tab of LancashireFA.com within 12 hours of the tie being postponed. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine of £10 being imposed.

10. CLUB COLOURS

- (a) Where the colours (shirts, shorts or socks) of the two competing Clubs are similar the Away Club must change unless alternative arrangements are mutually agreed by the competing Clubs.
- (b) Team colours must not clash with the outfit worn by the Match Officials. In the event of Clubs not agreeing the colours to be worn by their respective teams The Committee shall decide.
- (c) Goalkeepers must wear colours, which distinguish them from other players and Match Officials. In any Semi-Final or Final the first named Club is classed as Home.
- (d) Player's shirts must be clearly numbered on the back and be in accordance with the list handed to the Referee before any tie. There must be no change of numbers during the match except on a change of Goalkeeper or where a Player has been required by the Referee to change his shirt because of a blood injury. The Captain shall wear a distinguishing armband to indicate his status.
- (e) Advertising may be worn on Player's clothing in accordance with the Rules of The Football Association.

11. DURATION OF MATCHES

- (a) The duration of each match shall be 90 minutes with two equal halves of 45 minutes.
- (b) In the event of the score being level after 90 minutes then extra time will NOT be played. However, the winners of the tie will be decided by the takings of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the recommendations of the International Board, under the direction of The Committee. (See Rule 26).
- (c) The half- time interval shall not exceed 15 minutes.
- (d) Any Club being reported for a late kick off will be dealt with by The Committee. If a Club is found guilty of such misconduct they will be fined a minimum of £10 and up to a maximum of £25 as determined by The Committee.

12. PROVISIONS FOR THE PLAYING OF MATCHES

- (a) If a match is postponed or abandoned before the completion of 90 minutes and neither Club is at fault, it must be played on the same ground by mutual consent.
- (b) In an event of a match being postponed due to the unplayable condition of the ground, it will be replayed on the ground on which it should originally have been played, unless mutually agreed and approved by The Committee.
- (c) If a game is abandoned and the designated time has not been played, the game must be replayed on the ground of the Club originally drawn at home if neither of the competing teams were at fault.
- (d) Matches abandoned through the fault of the Clubs shall be dealt with by The Committee.

- (e) The Committee shall have the power to vary these arrangements if it is deemed necessary.

13. REPORTING RESULTS

- (a) Each Club shall send the result of the match, with the names of the Players competing and goal scorers, together with the marking of the Referee's performance on the official team sheet, including the Referees signature, to be received at The Association within three days after the playing of the match. Failure to comply with this rule will incur a fine of £15 being imposed and any Club in default of payment may be struck out of the Competition and be further dealt with. In the case of any dispute, proof of postage must be provided. Any Club marking the Referee 40 or lower, must forward a letter to the Association giving reasons for the low mark.
- (b) After each tie, the Home Club Secretary must report the result within 12 hours of the completion of the tie to the Competitions department. Results may be reported in one of 3 ways:
 - (i) Via the Full-Time SMS system
 - (ii) Via Email to Darren.Swarbrick@LancashireFa.com
 - (iii) Via telephone to 01772 624000, EXT 110

Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine of £20 being imposed.

14. PROVISION FOR STAGING THE FINAL

- (a) In the Final Tie the choice of ground, to be approved by The Committee in conjunction with both Clubs.
- (b) If the match has resulted in a draw after 90 minutes the winner shall be determined by the taking of penalty kicks in accordance with the procedure adopted by the International Football Association Board.
- (c) If the Final is postponed or abandoned it shall be played as directed by The Committee.
- (d) At least seven days prior the Final Tie, the Secretaries of both competing Clubs must forward to the Association Secretary a list of players from which the Team will be selected, and the colours in which they play. Failure to do so will result in a £15 fine being imposed.
- (e) The ball used in the Final will be provided by the Association and must be returned to the Secretary of the Association or his representative.
- (f) If two Clubs in the Final have similar colours, the teams must mutually agree, or both must change.

15. PROVISION FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COMPETITION

- (a) Any Club refusing or failing to play a tie on the date fixed shall be struck out of the Competition and may be further dealt with at the discretion of The Committee.
- (b) Clubs shall not 'withdraw' from the Competition without the consent of the Committee.
- (c) The Committee shall not allow a Club to 'withdraw' at the Semi-Final or Final stage.

16. PROVISION CONCERNING QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

- (a) All issues relating to the qualification of Players interpretation of the rules or other matters in dispute shall be referred to The Committee.

- (b) Players must be under 18 years of age on 31st August in the current season. They may be contract, non-contract or Y.T.S. players.
- (c) A Club may at its discretion, use three Substitute Players, from a nomination of five, at any time in a match except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the Referee. The substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission. The Substitute Players shall be nominated prior to the commencement of the game.
- (d) The Players shall be qualified as Players according to the Rules of the Association.
- (e) A player shall not play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same season.
- (f) A Player who has been suspended according to the disciplinary procedures under the Rules of The Association may play in a postponed match after the term of his suspension has expired.
- (g) A Substitute who does not play in a match is entitled to play for another Club in the Competition in the same season, subject to being transferred as per the procedure and provided he fulfils the registration and general qualifying match requirements.
- (h) Every Club playing in this Competition shall, not less than three days before the match, send to the opposing Club, a list of players from which the team will be selected. After the match, each Club shall send the 'official team sheet' with the result, referees mark and names of players who actually played, to the Association within three days (excluding Sunday). Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be fined £15.
- (i) A Player must have been registered with his Club prior to playing of any round.
- (j) In all rounds of the Competition, a "registered player" is one who is registered with a League in which his Club competes in the current season. Any such registration must have been received and accepted by The League prior to kick-off.
- (k) The last date for registration of players by a Club to The League in which it competes is 31st January.
 - (l) In order to be eligible for the Final, the players must have been correctly registered and eligible for the Semi-Final Round of the Competition. In the event that not all semi-finals are played on the same date, the last semi-final to be played will be the standard accepted date
- (m) A player who was not eligible for a tie that was postponed, but is then registered in time for the revised date, will be eligible providing that all other criteria is met
- (n) Any Club found to have played an ineligible Player shall be fined up to £100 and expelled from the Competition.

17. VALIDITY OF PLAYERS' QUALIFICATIONS

- (a) The Committee shall have power to call upon a Player, and/or the Club to which he is registered, or for which he played, to prove that the Player is qualified according to the Competition Rules.
- (b) Failing satisfactory proof, The Committee may disqualify such Player, and may remove the Club from the Competition, and impose such other penalty as it considers appropriate. The Committee shall also have the power to impose penalties against Clubs already knocked out of the Competition.

18. DISQUALIFICATION

Any Club or player infringing these Rules shall be liable to be dealt with under the Rules of this Competition, and the Rules of the Association. In addition to any other action or penalty, The Committee shall have the power to disqualify any competing Club, or Player for any competing Club(s), which it determines to have breached the Rules of The Association or the Competition Rules, and the decision of The Committee shall be final and binding.

19. PROVISIONS CONCERNING MATCH OFFICIALS

- (a) In all matches the Referee and Assistant Referees shall be appointed by the Association.
- (b) A Fourth Official will also be appointed.
- (c) In the event of any of the Match Officials failing to arrive or being incapacitated, the two Clubs must agree to a substitute providing one is available who is currently eligible to officiate in a League equivalent to the lowest level of football in which either of the two Teams participate. Such appointed Officials shall have the same power, status and authority as the registered Match Official.
- (d) The fees and expenses paid to all the Officials will be met by the Home Club and will be a match expense. Match Officials shall be entitled to the following fees:

<i>Referee</i>	<i>Assistant Referee</i>	<i>4th Official</i>	<i>Travel Expenses</i>
£60	£40	£25	£0.40p Per Mile

In the event of the match being played on a mid-week afternoon, the Officials are entitled to an additional £20.00 daytime allowance fee.

- (e) If Officials travel and the game is not played, they will receive half fee and expenses.
- (f) Match Officials shall acknowledge acceptance of appointments for all matches in the Competition to The Association.
- (g) The Home Club **must** confirm all match arrangements with the Match Officials 5 days prior to the date of the game.
- (h) The duties of the Match Officials shall be as defined in the Laws of the Game.
- (i) Match Officials are allowed to wear coloured shirts in this Competition in accordance with the following provisions:
 - (i) Black shirts shall be worn wherever possible.
 - (ii) There will be no designated colour for the alternative shirt, however it shall not clash with the Team's colours. With Teams unable to wear black or dark colours, when there are instances of a colour clash, the Referee must revert back to their black shirt.
 - (iii) When Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials are appointed, all the Officials must wear the same coloured shirt.
 - (iv) Officials must wear black shorts and socks at all times.

20. PROVISIONS CONCERNING PROTESTS

- (a) All questions relating to the qualifications of Competitors or issues relating to the interpretation of the Competition Rules shall be referred to The Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding. The Committee shall consider any such matter in such manner and following such procedures as it considers appropriate. The

Committee shall not be bound by any enactment or Rule of Law relating to the admissibility of evidence in proceedings before a Court of Law.

- (b) Where a Club wishes to protest that there has been a breach of the Competition Rules by their opponents, such protest must be made in writing and must contain the particulars of the grounds upon which it is made. The protest must be received by The Association, accompanied by a fee of £25, within 4 days of the match to which it relates. The fee shall be forfeited to The Association in the event of the protest not being sustained or The Committee considers trivial or groundless. No appeal will be accepted against decisions made (pre, during or post-match) by the Referee.
- (c) The Committee may make such orders as it considers appropriate in relation to any issue or protest referred to it. The Committee may make such orders as it considers appropriate as to the costs incurred by the parties or The Association.
- (d) Any protest relating to the ground, goal posts or bars or other appurtenances of the game shall not be considered by The Committee unless an objection has been lodged with the Referee and the Home Club at least 15 minutes before the official time of the kick-off. The Referee shall require the Home Club to correct the cause of the objection, if this is possible without unduly delaying the progress of the match.
- (e) Where an objection has been lodged with the Referee and Home Club as above, a protest must be made to The Association and neither objection nor protest may be withdrawn, except by leave of The Committee.
- (f) Two copies of the protest are to be sent to the Secretary of the Association where The Association shall send a copy of any protest to the Club protested against, which shall lodge a defence to the protest with particulars of the defence within seven days of receipt of the protest.
- (g) Members of The Committee directly connected with a Club concerned in a protest shall not have any involvement in the consideration of the matter.
- (h) A Club, or Player or any person directly connected with the management of the Club may be summoned to attend at a hearing of a protest. A Club may be represented by one or more persons. A Barrister or Solicitor may represent a Club only with the prior written consent of The Committee. Any person summoned to attend a hearing of a protest must attend personally and shall not be legally represented except with the prior written consent of the Committee.
- (i) If the Committee should subsequently discover that any Rule or spirit of a Rule has been, in their opinion violated by mutual arrangements between Clubs or otherwise, it shall be in the power of the Committee to disqualify any such Clubs from further competing in the Ties, or to offenders without any formal protest having been made.
- (j) The Committee shall have power to compel the protesting Club to pay such expenses of the Club protested against, and the cost of the Hearing, as may be deemed fit, and The Committee may order any Club engaged in a protest to pay such sum as may be considered necessary towards defraying the expenses incurred.
- (k) All fines must be paid within 14 days of date of issue or the Club may be suspended from all football.

21. APPEALS

- (a) A Club may appeal against any penalty imposed on it by The Committee.

- (b) An Appeal Board shall comprise of three members of Council, selected by the Chairman of the Discipline Committee, or his nominee. Any such appeal shall only be permitted on one or more of the following grounds:
 - (i) The Committee or Sub-Committee appointed to consider the charge misinterpreted/failed to comply with the procedures relevant to the hearing of the charge.
 - (ii) The Committee or Sub-Committee appointed to consider the charge came to a decision on the facts of the case which no reasonable body could have reached.
 - (iii) The Committee or Sub-Committee appointed to consider the charge imposed a sanction that is excessive.
- (a) Any appeal must be made in writing within four days (Sundays excluded) of the Club being notified of the decision of The Committee, and accompanied by a fee of £25 which shall be forfeited in the event of the appeal being dismissed.
- (b) Once in receipt of the appeal, the Association shall arrange a hearing to be held within five days (Sundays excepted) of its receipt. The decision of this hearing shall be final and binding on all parties, and shall have no bearing on any other matters, including those of any disciplinary hearing.

22. ADMISSION TO MATCHES

- (a) The Home Club shall provide for the sale of tickets and the visiting Club for checking the sale. The expenses of sellers and checkers shall be charged on the gate.
- (b) When turnstiles are used, the visiting Club does not provide checkers, the cost of working the turnstiles shall be a charge on the gate.
- (c) For all games up to the Semi-Final, the charge of admission shall not be less than £2.00 for adults, the charge for stand accommodation being extra. The price of admission for Semi-Final and Final Ties to be agreed by and with The Committee.
- (d) All members, shareholders and ticket holders of the Clubs shall pay admission charges to the ground and stands.

23. PROCEEDS OF MATCHES

- (a) The proceeds of the matches (except matches played through breach of Rule) shall after paying the necessary match expenses, be divided as follows:-
 - (i) In matches prior to Semi-Finals and Final Ties be divided equally between the contesting Club.
 - ii) In the Semi-Final and Final Ties, one third of the net gate receipts to the Association Youth Account, and one third to each of the contesting Clubs.
- (b) The gate receipts shall be divided immediately after the match, and a full statement must be made to the Association Secretary within **SEVEN** days of the match.
- (c) If a Cup Tie is abandoned by the Referee's decision, and the gate is not sufficient to pay the expenses, the gate and expenses shall be pooled with those of the replayed match.
- (d) In any match ordered to be replayed in consequence of breach of rules, the Club in default shall not receive any share of the proceeds of such replayed matches, without the consent of The Committee, and such consent shall only be given under special circumstances. If consent is not given, the share will be taken by the Association.

24. PAYMENT OF EXPENSES

- (a) It was agreed that charge for floodlights would be £25.
- (b) Traveling expenses, not exceeding £30 should be allowed to Clubs.

25. FIRST AID

It is the responsibility of the Home or Host Club to ensure that First Aid facilities and equipment are available whenever possible.

26. PENALTY RULE TO DECIDE TIES

(The F.A. Rule shall apply as below):

The International Board at its Meeting on the 27th June, 1970 accepted a proposal by the Federation Internationale de Football Association that the practice of drawing lots to determine which of two teams in a drawn match should proceed to a later stage of a knock-out Competition or receive the trophy (if any) be discontinued and replaced by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark which shall not be considered part of the match, subject to the following conditions:

1. The referee shall toss a coin and the team captain who wins the toss shall choose the goal at which all of the kicks shall be taken.
2. He shall toss a coin, and the team whose captain wins the toss decides whether to take the first or the second kick.
3. (a) Subject to the terms of the following paragraphs (c) and (d), both teams shall take five kicks.
 - (b) The kicks shall be taken alternately.
 - (c) If, before both teams have taken five kicks, one has scored more goals than the other could, even if it were to complete its five kicks, the taking of kicks shall cease.
 - (d) If, after both teams have taken five kicks, both have scored the same number of goals, or have not scored any goals, the taking of kicks shall continue in the same order, until such times as both have taken an equal number of kicks (not necessarily five or more kicks) and one has scored a goal more than the other.
4. The team which scores the greater number of goals, whether the number of kicks taken is in accordance with the terms of the foregoing paragraph (3a) and (3d) shall qualify for the next round of the Competition, or shall be declared winner of the Competition, as the case may be.
5. (a) With the exception referred to in the following paragraph (b) only the players who are on the field of play at the end of the match, which shall mean at the end of extra time in so far as a match in which extra time is authorized, is concerned, and any who, having left the field temporarily, with or without the referee's permission, are not on the field of play at that time, shall take part in the taking of the kicks.
 - (b) Provided that his team has not already made use of the maximum number of substitutes permitted by the rules of the Competition under which the match was played, a goalkeeper who sustains an injury during the taking of the kicks, and who, because of the injury, is unable to continue as goal-keeper, may be replaced by a substitute.
6. Each kick shall be taken by a different player, and not until all eligible players of any team including the goalkeeper or the named substitute by whom he was replaced in terms of

paragraph (5) as the case may be, have each taken a kick, may the player of the same team take a second kick.

7. Subject to the terms of paragraph (5) any player who is eligible may change places with his goalkeeper at any time during the taking of the kicks.
8. (a) Other than the player taking the kick from the penalty mark, and the two goalkeepers, all players shall remain within the center circle whilst the taking of kicks is in progress.
(b) The goalkeeper who is a colleague of the kicker shall take up position within the field of play, outside the penalty area at which the kicks are being taken, behind the line which runs parallel with the goal line and at least 10 yards from the penalty mark.
9. Unless stated to the contrary in the foregoing paragraphs 1 to 8, the Laws of the Game, and the International Board Decisions relating thereto, shall, in so far as they can, apply at the taking of the kicks.

N.B. In the event of the light failing before the end of the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, the result shall be decided by a drawing of lots.

27. NOTICES

All notices required to be given to The Association by any of these Competition Rules shall be addressed to The Chief Executive, Lancashire F.A., The County Ground, Thurston Road, Leyland PR25 2LF.