

1) CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION CONSTITUTION

- a) The Competition shall be called “The South and West Counties Championship Competition”.
- b) The Competition shall be open to the member County Associations teams as approved by The Annual General Meeting.
- c) The Competition must receive the sanction of The Football Association. The Constituent teams shall be grouped in divisions as approved by The Annual General Meeting.
- d) The Financial year of the Competition shall be 1st April to 31st March.

2) AFFILIATION

- a) Applications from Association’s for Affiliation or renewal of Affiliation to the Competition shall be made in writing on the prescribed form to the Competition Secretary by 1st May in each year together with the appropriate Affiliation Fee. In addition, new applicants shall be required to pay an Entrance Fee equivalent to the Annual affiliation Fee. If the Application is not successful the Affiliation Fee and the Entrance Fee shall be returned.
- b) The Affiliation Fee for the subsequent season shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting.
- c) An Association shall not participate in the Competition until the Affiliation Fee has been paid.
- d) A county Association having entered any section of the Competition and withdrawing after the subsequent AGM may be fined a sum up to the maximum of £500, and ordered to pay any approved expenses incurred by any other competing County Association or the Competition in regard to such withdrawal.
- e) At the Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any County team who has failed to complete the previous season, 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.

3) OFFICERS

- a) The Officers of the Competition shall be the President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- b) The Competition shall be governed in accordance with the Rules, Regulations, Bye-Laws and Practice of The Football Association by a Management Committee comprised of the Officers, five representatives from the competing Associations who shall be elected at The Annual General Meeting.
- c) Retiring Officers and Retiring Members of the Management Committee shall be eligible for re-election without nomination. All other candidates for election as Officers or Members of the Management Committee shall be nominated and seconded by two Member County Associations, in writing, and such nominations must be received by the Competition Secretary not later than 1st May in each season. The names of those so nominated shall be circulated with the Notice of the Annual General Meeting. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Rule, should an Office or position on the Management Committee become vacant during the year the Management Committee shall have the power to fill such vacancy without recourse to a special meeting of the Competition. Such an appointment shall be confirmed at the Annual General Meeting.
- d) The Management Committee may appoint such Sub-Committees as may be deemed necessary and may delegate all, or any, of their powers to such Committees. The Management Committee shall be empowered to act on behalf of the Competition in regard to any emergency that may arise between General Meetings and shall have power to act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and deal with any contingency not provided for in the Rules.
- e) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the Right of Appeal to The Football Association.

4(POWER OF MANAGEMENT

a) The Management Committee shall have the power to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall have jurisdiction overall matters affecting the Competition, including any not provided for in the Rules.

With the exception of Rules **4c, 6d, and 18**, for all breaches of Rule a formal written charge must be issued. The respondent shall be given seven days from the date of notice to reply to the charge and given the opportunity to:

- (i) Accept or deny the charge
- (ii) Submit in writing a case of mitigation, or
- (iii) Put their case before the Management Committee.

All breaches of the Laws of the Game, Rules and Regulations of the Football Association shall be dealt with by the Football association.

b) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 25

c) All fines and charges are payable forthwith and must be paid within 21 days of the date of notification of the decision. Any county failing to do so will be fined £20 and further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.

5) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND GENERAL MEETINGS

a) The Annual General Meeting shall be held in June each year. Fourteen days notice shall be given to the Officers, Life Vice-Presidents, Members of the Management Committee and all Member Associations.

b) The Annual General Meeting shall have the power to elect Life Vice-Presidents who shall be entitled to attend General Meetings and vote.

c) Only the Officers, Life Vice-Presidents, Members of the Management, two representatives from each Association entered in the Competition shall be entitled to attend and vote at General Meetings: in the event of the vote being equal on any matter the Chairman shall have a second and casting vote.

d) At the Annual General Meeting the following business shall be transacted:

- i) The Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting read and confirmed.
- ii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts
- iii) Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing season.
- iii) Election of Officers, Management Committee and Accounts Verifier.
- iv) Election of Life Vice-Presidents
- v) Alteration to Rules (Only if notice has been given)
- vii) Any other business.

e) A copy of the Verified Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Football Association within twenty eight days of its adoption at the Annual General Meeting.

6) HALF YEARLY MEETING

a) The Half Yearly Meeting may be held at the discretion of the Management Committee in November or December each year. Fourteen days' notice shall be given to the Officers, Life Vice-Presidents, Members of the Management Committee and all Member Associations.

b) At the Half Yearly Meeting the following business shall be transacted:

- i) To confirm the Minutes of the previous Half Yearly Meeting

- ii) To receive a Report from the Secretary
- iii) To receive a Report from the Treasurer
- iv) To confirm the Affiliation Fee for the subsequent season
- vi) To consider such Business as may be submitted by the Secretary or Management Committee
- vii) To consider, at the discretion of the Chairman, such business as may be submitted by Member Associations.

c) All voting at General Meetings shall be by show of hands, or by Ballot, if so desired, by a simple majority.

d) All Member Associations must be represented at General Meetings. A Member Association failing to send a representative will be fined £100, unless an acceptable explanation for none attendance to the Management Committee is provided.

7) CORRESPONDENCE

All communications shall be addressed to the Secretary of the Competition who shall conduct the correspondence of The Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.

8) QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

a) A player shall play for one Association only in any season of the Competition. No Player under written contract with the Football Association shall be eligible to compete in the Competition.

b) A team may use five substitutes at any time during a match, except to replace a player who has been dismissed from the game by the Referee after play has been commenced. A player who has been substituted during the match himself becomes a substitute and may, in turn, replace another player at any time, subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football. The names of the players selected as substitutes, shall be included in the official Team sheet which is handed to the Referee prior to the commencement of the game

c) A player shall be entitled to play for (a) the County of his/her birth or (b) only the County to which his/her club has parent affiliation and for whom he/she has been a recognised playing member at least 14 days prior to the date arranged for the playing of any match in the Competition. To conform with the Football Association Programme for Excellence players registered as members of a Premier League or Football League club operating a Football Academy under a licence issued by these Leagues and approved by the Football Association shall not be permitted to play in this Competition. Players registered as members of a Premier League or Football League club operating a Centre of Excellence under a licence issued by these Leagues and approved by the Football Association shall be released to play in this Competition with the approval of their club as provided for in the Football Association Programme of Excellence.

Female players registered with any club or organisation operating under a licence issued by the Football Association Programme of Excellence (FEMALE) shall be permitted to play in this Competition.

d) Provided he/she is qualified as above a player shall have the choice of the County Association for which he/she wishes to play.

e) In the Youth Under 18 and Women Under 18 sections only those players who have reached the age of 15 and have not reached the age of 18 years at midnight on 31st August in the playing season shall be eligible to compete.

f) In the Youth Under 16 section only those players who have not reached the age of 16 at midnight on 31st August in the playing season shall be eligible to compete.

g) In the Senior and Women's section only those players who have reached the age of 16 at midnight on 31st August in the playing season shall be eligible to compete.

h) If it is proved to the satisfaction of the Management Committee either by way of Protest or otherwise that a Member Association has played an ineligible player in a Group Match, any points gained in that match by the offending Association will be deducted and a Fine of £50 imposed. If the offence is committed in the Final Tie the match shall be awarded to the opponents and the offending Association shall be fined £100.

9) PLAYING COLOURS

- a) Every Association must state its colours and also a change of colours to the Competition Secretary. All shirts shall be appropriately numbered.
- b) No player, including the Goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts or jerseys.
- c) Any team not playing in its normal registered colours shall notify its opponents at least ten days before the date of the match of the Colours in which they will play. In the event of two Associations having the same colour in any one match the AWAY Association shall change. The player nominated as captain shall wear a captain's armband.
- d) Players shirts shall be clearly numbered on the back in accordance with the Official Team Sheet. No changes of numbers during the match shall be allowed 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.

10) PLAYING SEASON

- a) The dates for group matches which involve a final tie shall initially be arranged for no later than 31st March, although the conclusion of the season can be extended to the second weekend in April in the event of inclement weather subject to the approval of the Management Committee. All other matches shall be completed by 30th April in each season.
- b) All member Counties shall arrange at least one fixture per section entered to be played prior to 31st December of each season.
- c) The dates for all Finals shall be set annually by the Management Committee and shall be notified as appropriate to competing Associations by 28th February in each season.

11) CONDITIONS OF GROUND

- a) The playing area must be enclosed by rope or other fence.
- b) Covered accommodation for spectators must be provided at the ground unless mutually agreed otherwise by both competing Counties
- c) Goal nets must be used.
- d) The appointed referee shall be the sole judge as to the fitness of the ground, but when adverse ground conditions prevail on the day before the match, or on the morning of the match, the home Association shall have the ground inspected as to its fitness by a local level 5 referee in sufficient time to notify by telephone the visiting Association to save expenses of unnecessary travelling. The home Association must send a written report of the action taken to the Competition Secretary within three days (Sundays not included).
- e) Third generation (3G) artificial grass pitches may be used in this Competition provided the pitch is listed on the Football Association's register of artificial grass pitches and with the prior consent of this Competition. This should be requested at the time of entry to the Competition in each season, provided that the artificial turf meets the following conditions:
 - i) The pitch shall be surfaced with an artificial grass surface that has laboratory type approval accorded to the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf (2009 edition) - FIFA Recommended One star quality or the International Artificial Turf Standard (2009 edition) and have satisfied the performance and construction requirements at the time of its last annual inspection. The pitch must be retested every close season and certificates must be provided to this Competition by 1st September each season.
 - ii) The artificial grass pitch, including 'run-offs', shall be one continuous playing surface and shall be green in colour. All line markings shall be white and in accordance with the Laws of Association Football. Any other lines must be removed prior to any Competition match taking place. The manufacturer of the carpet should be contacted to advise on the painting of temporary lines and the correct method of removing lines. The playing area shall not be immediately enclosed by a boundary fence and the requirements of Rules 10a) 10b) and 10c) shall apply.

iii) The home County shall allow their opposition the opportunity to use the pitch and train on the surface two hours prior to the kick off and there must not be another game or event on the pitch following the training period. If it is intended to water the pitch before the match, the pitch shall be watered prior to the training period

iv) The County using the artificial grass pitch shall advise their opposition at least 10 days before the match of limitations or recommendations on the types of boot or stud that may be used on the surface and if any additional player insurance cover is required.

V) Counties using artificial grass pitches shall provide all necessary assistance and data relating to player assessments, injury records, maintenance etc as requested by this Competition

12) NOTIFICATION OF FIXTURES

a) Counties shall mutually arrange the date for playing of matches following the AGM each year and notify the Competitions Secretary in writing no later than 1st August annually. Once notified to the Secretary dates for matches may be changed only by mutual consent of the competing Associations. Venues for matches must be notified to the Secretary at least 14 days before the match is due to be played. Unless mutually agreed otherwise by the two competing County Associations, matches in the Youth Under 18 Competition shall be played on a Saturday and matches in the Under 16 Competition shall be played on a Sunday with the kick off being 2pm. In the event that a date and day cannot be agreed upon, the Management Committee shall determine the date and day on which the match must be played. The Home County shall notify the Away County, in writing, of full particulars of the match and directions to the ground at least 14 days prior to the playing of the match. The Away County shall acknowledge such correspondence by return and provide details of Colours and Players to enable the Match Programme to be prepared in good time. The Away County must notify the Home County of numbers in the party for catering arrangements. Counties failing to comply with any requirement of this Rule shall be fined £50.

b) If a match is not played on the notified date, without mutual consent, the match shall be awarded to the non-defaulting Association and the defaulting Association shall be fined up to a maximum of £500.

13) MATCHES PLAYED IN TWO SECTIONS

Should the Competition be run in two sections the winners of each section shall play a final match to decide the winners of the Competition. In the finals, a result is to be achieved at the first attempt by having extra time of fifteen minutes each way in all sections apart from the Under 16's Competition when the period shall be ten minutes each way and, if necessary, the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the International Board Decision.

14) MEMENTOES

a) If there is only one Section, in addition to the Cup or Trophy and Pennant, the Competition may present sixteen mementoes to the players and substitutes of the winning team.

b) In the case of two sections and a Final match is played, sixteen mementoes may be presented to the Winners and sixteen to the runners-up.

c) The Cup or Trophy to remain the property of the Competition.

d) When the winning Association has been ascertained, the Competition shall deliver the Cup or Trophy to such Association, which shall be responsible for its return to the Competition Secretary suitably engraved, on or before 31st March in the ensuing year in good order and condition. Any Association failing to comply will be fined £50.

e) An agreement must be signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the winning Association stating that they will be responsible to see that the Association will replace or repair the Cup or Trophy should it be lost or damaged whilst under the care of their Association.

15) CONDITIONS OF PLAY

a) All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as settled by the International Football Association Board. The 'Home' Association shall provide at least two footballs fit for play to the match Referee 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the match.

b) The maximum time to be played in Group matches except in the U16 section shall be 90 minutes (45 minutes each way), minimum time shall be 80 minutes (40 minutes each way). In the U16 Competition the maximum time to be played shall be 80 minutes (40 minutes each way), minimum time shall be 70 minutes (35 minutes each way). The half time interval shall be fifteen minutes. The duration of the half-time interval may be altered only with the consent of the referee.

c) The Competition shall be decided by points, the team gaining the highest number in their section shall, at the conclusion, be adjudged the winners.

d) Three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a draw.

e) In the event of two or more teams being equal on points at the end of the Competition, the Goal Difference shall decide the final positions. If the teams are still level, then goals scored shall decide the final positions. If the teams are still level after this, then a deciding match shall take place to decide the winners.

f) Each Association shall be responsible for ensuring that the Competition Team sheet listing the players taking part in the game (including nominated substitutes) is given to the Referee and to a representative of the opposing Association in the presence of the Referee at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled kick off time. Each player must be numbered on the list (as per Competition Rule 8d) and the Team's colours clearly stated.

g) In the event of an Association failing to keep its engagement without giving satisfactory written explanation, it shall be fined £150.00 ordered to pay any approved expenses incurred by the opposing County and may be further dealt with by the Management Committee.

h) Each Association must complete its season's fixtures. Defaulting Associations may be liable to a fine not exceeding £500.00.

i) In adverse weather conditions the home Association shall make arrangements for their pitch to be inspected by a suitably qualified referee in time to prevent the opposition and Match Officials travelling in the event that the nominated pitch is declared unfit for play or if an alternative venue cannot be found.

16) ABANDONED MATCHES

a) The Management Committee shall review all matches abandoned due to causes over which neither Association has control and provided that 75 minutes (60 minutes in the U16 section) has been completed. Where in cases, it is to the advantage of the Competition and does not cause injustice to any of the Associations, the Management Committee will be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to be recorded as the Result. If 75 minutes (60 minutes in the U16 section) has not been played then it shall be replayed in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Associations which must be notified to the Competition Secretary in writing within 21 days of the abandoned match. If a date can not be agreed upon the Management Committee shall determine the date on which the match will be played. Counties failing to comply with this rule will be fined £50.

b) The Management Committee shall review all 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 County 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 match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one team or its Association member(s) they shall be empowered to award the points or tie to the opponent. In cases where the match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Counties or their Association Member(s), the Management Committee shall rule all points or the tie as void. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match.

17) POSTPONED MATCHES

a) When two competing Associations agree to the postponement of a match, the Competition Secretary must be informed by the Home Association of the postponement of the match, and the two Associations concerned must mutually agree a date for the re-arranged match which must be notified to the Competition Secretary in writing within twenty one days of the date of the postponed match. If a date can not be agreed upon the Management Committee shall determine the date on which the match will be played. Counties failing to comply with this Rule will be fined £50 and may be subject to such further action as the Management Committee shall decide.

b) If, after travelling and the match is not started, the Referee and Assistant Referees shall be paid travelling expenses at 30p per mile. Assistant Referees should only be paid travelling expenses if they use their own

transport. Should the match have been started and abandoned the officials shall be paid their travelling expenses and fee.

18) RESULTS

Each Association must telephone the result of the match to the Competition Secretary within 30 minutes of completion of the match. The competition Secretary must receive within 5 days of the match being played the Result of the match on the prescribed report form supplied electronically by the Competition Secretary (these prescribed forms in Book format can be obtained from the Competition Treasurer at a cost determined by the Management Committee, plus £2 for postage and packaging where applicable. The prescribed form must have the forenames & surnames of the Counties players, the dates of birth of the players if applicable, the Referee's mark and any other information required by the competition. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £25

19) MATCH OFFICIALS

a) In all Competition matches up to and including semi-final ties all three match officials shall be appointed by the home County. The referee and at least one of the Assistant Referees being appointed shall be at level 5 or above. The home County shall have the option of appointing a fourth official. In the final tie the Competition shall arrange the appointing from a neutral County of the Referee and Assistant Referee's whilst the home County shall appoint the fourth official.

b) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed officials the Home Association shall appoint substitutes. Should the appointed Match Referee, for any reason, be unable to commence or complete a match, one of the Referee Assistants, or the Fourth Official, whoever shall be Senior shall take over.

c) Match Officials appointed under this Rule, up to and including any semi-final tie shall be entitled to a fee of £25 (Referee), £17 (Assistant Referee) and £17 (fourth official, where appointed) plus travelling expenses of 30p per mile. The home Association shall pay the fee and expenses to the match officials on the day of the match in their dressing room. In the final tie the Officials shall receive mementos in lieu of a fee but shall be entitled to travelling expenses.

d) Further to Rule 18c each Association shall record on the Match Result Sheet required under Rule 17 the travelling expenses incurred by the match referee only. The Competition Secretary shall pass this information onto the Competition Treasurer who will at the conclusion of each season conduct an equalisation exercise. This shall be achieved by dividing the total costs incurred for officials travelling expenses by the number of games played in all Competitions. Refunds will be made to the Associations whose total payment exceeds the equal share of the pooled average and in cases of the total amount being less than the equal share of the pooled average such Associations shall pay the difference. The Competitions Treasurer reserves the right to take no adjusting action when differences between the pooled average and the actual amounts paid are considered insignificant.

20) PROCEEDS OF MATCHES

a) The proceeds of matches (except replayed matches in consequence of a breach of rules) after paying the expenses of the match officials, advertising, printing and ground expenses will be retained by the Home Association.

b) The matches must be played on a ground where gate money can be taken or a collection made.

c) All travelling Associations shall cover their own travelling expenses.

d) The Home Association shall allow for an adequate meal for the visiting Association after the match for thirty persons (persons over this number must pay).

21) COMPETITION TROPHIES

When the winners of a competition has been determined, the Trophy will be presented to the winning County by a member of the Competition. The County shall return the Trophy to the competition in good order and clean condition having had the County name engraved on the Trophy prior to the 1st March of each year. Winners of the Women's Competition shall return the trophy on or before the date of the following SWCC AGM. Failure to return a trophy by the specified date will incur a fine of £50. The County shall be responsible for the safekeeping of the trophy and should it be lost, stolen, destroyed or damaged whilst in the possession of the County, they must return to the Competition the cost of replacement or repair of the Trophy and sign a form to that effect on receipt of the Trophy.

22) PROTESTS AND DEPOSITS

- a) All questions of eligibility, qualification of players or interpretations of the rules shall be referred to the Management Committee, but no objection relating to the dimensions of the ground, goal post, cross bars, or other appurtenances shall be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the match.
- b) Any Association lodging an official protest with the referee and not proceeding with it shall be deemed guilty of serious misconduct and shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.
- c) Protests and complaints must contain full particulars upon which they are founded and must be lodged in duplicate with the Competition Secretary within THREE days of the match or occurrence to which they refer (Sundays not included).
- d) No objection or protest shall be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee.
- e) No member of the Management Committee if interested in the protesting Association shall be present (except as a witness) when such a protest or objection is being considered or decided.
- f) No protests whatsoever shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Association shall have deposited with the Competition Secretary a sum of £10.00 which may be forfeited, in whole or in part, to the funds of the Competition in the event of the protest not being upheld.
- g) The Management Committee shall have the power to order the defaulting Association to pay the expenses of the enquiry.
- h) Parties to a protest or complaint shall be offered the opportunity of having a personal hearing when the protest is being heard and, where possible shall receive six days notice of the meeting together with a copy of the protest.

23) ALTERATION TO RULES

- a) Alterations to these Rules shall only be made at the Annual General Meeting, or at an Extraordinary General Meeting, called by the Officers for this purpose.
- b) Notice of any alterations to be submitted to the Competition Secretary not later than the 1st March each year and will be circulated to all member Associations by 16th March. Any amendment to be submitted by 1st April and will be circulated to all member Associations with the notice of the Annual General Meeting.
- c) Notice of proposed alteration to rules will be accepted only from the person shown in the Competition directory as Secretary of the Member Association.

24) BANKING ACCOUNT

- a) A Banking account shall be maintained in the name of "The South and West Counties Championship Competition".
- b) All cheques to be signed by two people. Signatories to be the Chairman, the Secretary and the Treasurer.

25) RULES BINDING

- a) Each Association shall be deemed to have given its assent to the foregoing Rules and to abide by the decision of the Management Committee, subject, of course to Rule 21.

WOMENS OPEN AGED SECTION RULES

The Competition Rules will continue to apply except as stated below:

1) ELIGIBLE COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS AND AFFILIATION

a) The Competition shall be competed between all Member Counties of the Competition. Applications to join the Competition in subsequent years will be considered from all member Counties Associations of the South and South West Counties Championship Competition.

b) Application to enter the Competition shall be received by 1st May each year

c) The affiliation fee for the competition shall be £75.00

2) QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

a) Only those players who have attained the age of 16 years shall be eligible to play.

b) A County shall not include in a Competition match any player who has taken part in more than five senior competition matches aggregated over the current season and the previous season. For the purpose of this Rule a senior competition shall be defined as any competition classified at step 4 or above in the Women's Pyramid system.

3) THE PLAYING SEASON

The playing season shall run from the 1st July to 30th November each year. In the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances a request to the Management Committee may be made to give consideration to extending the season.

4) ARRANGEMENT OF MATCHES

a) The home County Association must give its opponents the choice of two dates of when the match is to be played. If the County Associations fail to agree on the dates offered then the County Association due to play at home has the choice of date and must give its opponents at least 28 day's notice in writing of the date selected. Any dispute in the choice of date is to be referred to the Management Committee whose decision is final.

b) Depending on the number of entries each year the competing Counties shall determine whether the Competition will be played in one or two groups and or on a home and away basis. However fixtures shall be arranged in such a way that there is not an imbalance of home and away matches.

5) NOTIFICATION OF FIXTURES

The home County shall inform the Championship's Secretary as soon as a date has been agreed for the match. All initial fixtures must be arranged before the start of the season on 1st July each year.

6) CONDITIONS OF PLAY

a) Team Sheets shall be exchanged as set out in Rule 15(f) and the result notified to the Competition Secretary as required under Rule 18

b) The Competition shall be decided by points, the County gaining the highest at the conclusion of the season shall be adjudged the winners. Three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a draw.

c) When the Competition is competed in one group and Counties are equal on points goal difference shall decide the final position. If Counties are still level after this goals scored shall decide the final position. If Counties still remain level they will then be declared joint winners. In such an event two sets of winners awards will be provided and the Counties concerned will share equally the additional cost.

d) Where ever possible matches shall be played on grounds which conform to the requirements of Rules 11a) and b) but it is recognised that difficulties may be experienced in obtaining suitable pitches during the summer and 3G pitches may be the answer. In such events and if mutually agreed by the two competing Counties matches may be played on 3G pitches which do not have the required spectator cover accommodation.

MICK PARRY MEMORIAL TROPHY RULES

All Rules for the **SOUTH AND WEST COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION** apply except where stated.

1) ELIGIBLE COUNTIES

The Competition shall be open to all Member Association of the South and West Counties Championship Competition.

2) ENTRY FEE

The Entry Fee shall be £30.00 per County payable to the Secretary of the Competition by 15th May each year.

3) PLAYING SEASON

a) Unless mutually agreed otherwise by the two competing Associations, all matches in the competition shall be played on a Saturday with the kick off being 2pm, and

b) Except for the Final Tie, matches shall be played on the ground of the first drawn County and the competing Counties must mutually agree a date and venue which must be notified to the Honorary Secretary:

c) Round 1 details by 1st October each year
Round 2 Quarter Final details by 1st December each year
Semi-Final details by 1st February each year

d) All First Round Ties must be completed by 15th November, all Second Round Ties by 15th January and the Semi-Final Ties by 28th February.

e) The Home County for the Final Tie shall be decided at The Annual General Meeting. The two competing Counties must mutually agree a venue for the Final Tie, which must be notified by the Home drawn County to the Competition Hon. Secretary by 15th March. In all matches if the two Associations concerned can not agree, the Management Committee shall decide the date and/or venue. The allowable expenses incurred by the competing Counties in the Final Tie of the Competition shall be shared equally. The Home County shall be entitled to claim for the hire of the ground, the facilities, the match officials travelling expenses and the after match meals for up to 64 people. The total of these expenses shall be offset by any income received from admission charges to the match and any other fund raising activities. The visiting County shall be entitled to claim for its travelling costs, including a mid journey break and if applicable overnight accommodation and meals in line with the parameters for the Football Association's County Youth Cup Competition. Any hospitality drinks for players and County Officials shall not be included.

f) All claims shall be submitted through the Competitions Treasurer who will assess the claims and determine if an adjusting payment is due.

g) The expenses incurred should a Channel Islands team reach the Final Tie of the Competition will be treated in the same manner as if the match was being played under the terms upon which their entry into the Competition was agreed.

h) In all matches if the scores are level at the end of 90 minutes play, extra time of 15 minutes each way shall be played. If the scores are still level the result of the match shall be decided by the taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark in accordance with the International Board Decision.

4) BYES

Any necessary Byes shall be given in the First Round of the Competition.

5) MATCH OFFICIALS

Match Officials will be appointed only from County Associations who compete in either the South and West Counties Championship Youth Competition or the Mick Parry Memorial Trophy.

6) ABANDONED MATCHES

If a match is abandoned through no fault of either County and the Management Committee does not rule that the score at the time of the abandonment be recorded as a result, the replay shall be staged as follows: if abandoned up to the end of 90 minutes – on the ground of the first drawn County; if abandoned during extra time – on the ground of the visiting County.

7) QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

If it is proved to the satisfaction of the Management Committee, either by way of protest or otherwise, that a Member Association has played an ineligible player, the match in question shall be awarded to the opponents and the offending Association shall be fined £100.

UNDER 16 CUP COMPETITION RULES

All Rules for the SOUTH AND WEST COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION apply except where stated.

1) ELIGIBLE COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS

The Competition shall be open to all Member County Association's of the South and West Counties Championship Competition.

2) ENTRY FEE

The Entry Fee shall be £30-00 per County Association payable to the Honorary Secretary of the Competition by May 15th each year.

3) PLAYING SEASON

a) Except for the Final Tie, matches in the Competition shall be played on the ground of the First Drawn County Association and the competing County Association's must mutually agree a date and venue which must be notified to the Honorary Secretary of the Competition.

ROUND ONE: Details by October 1st each year

ROUND TWO QUARTER FINAL: Details by December 1st each year

SEMI – FINAL: Details by February 1st each year

All First Round Ties must be completed by November 15th, all Second Round Ties by January 15th and the Semi Final Ties by February 28th.

b) The Home County Association for the Final Tie shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting of the Competition. The Two competing County Association's must mutually agree a venue for the Final Tie, which must be notified by the Home drawn County Association to the Competition Honorary Secretary by March 15th. In all matches if the two County Associations concerned cannot agree, the Management Committee of the Competition shall decide the date and / or venue. The allowable expenses incurred by the competing Counties in the Final Tie of the Competition shall be shared equally. The Home County shall be entitled to claim for the hire of the ground, the facilities, the match officials travelling expenses and the after match meals for up to 64 people. The total of these expenses shall be offset by any income received from admission charges to the match and any other fund raising activities. The visiting County shall be entitled to claim for its travelling costs, including a mid journey break and if applicable overnight accommodation and meals in line with the parameters for the Football Association's County Youth Cup Competition. Any hospitality drinks for players and County Officials shall not be included.

c) All claims shall be submitted through the Competitions Treasurer who will assess the claims and determine if an adjusting payment is due.

d) The expenses incurred should a Channel Islands team reach the Final Tie of the Competition will be treated in the same manner as if the match was being played under the terms upon which their entry into the Competition was agreed.

e) In all Matches if the scores are level at the end of eighty {80} minutes play, extra time of ten {10} minutes each way shall be played. If the scores are still level the result of the match shall be decided by the taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark in accordance with the International Board Decisions.

4) BYES

Any necessary Byes shall be given in the First Round of the Competition.

5) MATCH OFFICIALS

Match Officials will be appointed only from those County Association's who compete in the South and West Counties Championship Under 16 Competition or the Bluefin Under 16 Cup Competition.

6) ABANDONED MATCHES

If a match is abandoned through no fault of either County Association and the Management Committee does not rule that the score at the time of the abandonment be recorded as a result, the replay shall be staged as follows – if abandoned up to the end of eighty {80} minutes – on the ground of the first drawn Association, if abandoned during extra time - on the ground of the visiting Association.

7) QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

If it is proved to the satisfaction of the Management Committee, either by the way of protest or otherwise, that a Member County Association has played an ineligible player, the match in question shall be awarded to the opponents and the offending Association shall be fined £100-00.

APPENDIX REGULATIONS FOR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION APPEALS

An appeal to an Appeals Board of The Football Association shall be made and be conducted only in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association that relate to appeals to an Appeals Board as are in force at any time.

Commencement of Appeal

1.1 An appeal shall be commenced by lodging a notice of appeal (“the Notice of Appeal”) with The Association.

1.2 The Notice of Appeal shall be lodged within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision appealed against. In the case of an appeal from a decision of a Disciplinary Commission, the date of notification of the decision shall be the date of the written decision or, if applicable, the date of the written reasons for the decision. In relation to any other decision, the relevant date shall be the date on which it was first announced.

1.3 The Notice of Appeal must:

- (1) Identify the specific decision(s) being appealed;
- (2) Set out the ground(s) of appeal and the reasons why it would be substantially unfair not to alter the original decision;
- (3) Set out a statement of the facts upon which the appeal is based;
- (4) Be accompanied by any deposit prescribed by the relevant Rules or Regulations. Where an appeal is lodged by fax, the deposit must be received not later than the third day following the day of despatch of the fax (including both the day of dispatch and receipt);
- (5) Where appropriate, apply for leave to present new evidence under 2.6 below.

1.4 The grounds of appeal, available to Participants and The Association, shall be that the body whose decision is appealed against:

- (1) Misinterpreted or failed to comply with the rules or regulations relevant to its decision; and/or
- (2) Came to a decision to which no reasonable such body could have come

1.5 In addition

- (1) Participants only, may appeal on the grounds that the penalty, award, order or sanction imposed is excessive
- (2) The Association only, may appeal on the grounds that the penalty, award, order or sanction imposed was unduly lenient as to be unreasonable.

1.6 Once an appeal has been commenced, it shall not be withdrawn except by leave of the Appeal Board, with such order for costs as the Appeal Board may consider appropriate.

Appeal Proceedings

- 2.1 An Appeal Board shall proceed as set out below.
- 2.2 Reference to a party or parties means:
- (1) The appellant (the “Appellant”); and
 - (2) The Association in the case of an appeal against a decision of the Disciplinary Commission or the Affiliated Association or Competition whose decision is appealed against (the “Respondent”).
- 2.3 The Respondent shall nominate an individual or individuals to represent it before the Appeal Board.
- 2.4 The Respondent shall serve a written reply to the Notice of Appeal (the “Reply”) on an Appellant and the Appeal Board within 21 days of the lodging of the Notice of Appeal. Where appropriate, the Reply must include any application for leave to present new evidence under 2.6 below.
- 2.5 The parties shall be entitled to make oral submissions to the Appeal Board but an appeal shall be by way of a review on documents only, without oral evidence, except where the Appeal Board gives leave to present new evidence under 2.6 below.
- 2.6 The Appeal Board shall hear new evidence only where it has given leave that it may be presented. An application for leave to present new evidence must be made in the Notice of Appeal or the Reply, setting out the nature and the relevance of the new evidence, and why it was not presented at the original hearing. Save in exceptional circumstances, the Appeal Board shall not grant leave to present new evidence unless satisfied with the reason given as to why it was not, or could not have been, presented at the original hearing and that such evidence is relevant. The appeal Board’s decision shall be final.
A deposit of £100 is required for appeals against decisions of FA Disciplinary Commissions and £50.00 for appeals against decisions of Commissions of Affiliated Associations
- 2.7 The Chairman of an Appeal Board may upon the application of a party or otherwise, give any instructions considered necessary for the proper conduct of the proceedings, including but not limited to
- (1) Extending or abridging any time limit;
 - (2) Amending or dispensing with any procedural steps set out in these Regulations;
 - (3) Instructing that a transcript be made of the proceedings;
 - (4) Ordering parties to attend a preliminary hearing;
 - (5) Ordering a party to provide written submissions.
- The decision of the Chairman of the Appeal Board shall be final.
- 2.8 The Appeal Board may adjourn a hearing for such period and upon such terms (including an order as to costs) as it considers appropriate.
- 2.9 The Appellant shall prepare a set of documents which shall be provided to the Appeal Board and Respondent at least seven days before the hearing and which shall comprise the following (or their equivalent):
- (1) The Charge;
 - (2) The Answer;
 - (3) Any documents or other evidence referred to at the original hearing relevant to the appeal;
 - (4) Any transcript of the original hearing;
 - (5) The notification of decision appealed against and where they have been given the reasons for the decision;
 - (6) Any new evidence;
 - (7) The Notice of Appeal;
 - (8) The Reply.

Where the Disciplinary Commission or other body appealed against has not stated the reasons for its decision, either

- (i) The Appellant shall request written reasons from that body which shall be provided to the Appeal Board or,
- (ii) The Appeal Board shall require that a member of the body that made the decision shall attend (in which case, questions may be put by the Appeal Board at a hearing to satisfy itself as to the reasons for the decision. Cross-examination by the Appellant or Respondent shall not be permitted. Representations may be made by the parties to the Appeal Board who may then put questions to the member of the body that made the decision)

2.10 Appeal hearings shall be conducted how, when and where the Appeal Board considers appropriate. Reasonable notice shall be given by the Appeal Board of the date, time and venue of the appeal.

When an application to present new evidence has been made, the party making the application shall address the Appeal Board in support of the application and the other party may respond; the Appeal Board shall then determine whether or not it will receive the new evidence. The following procedures shall be followed at an appeal hearing unless the Appeal Board thinks it appropriate to amend them:

- (1) The Appellant to address the Appeal Board, summarising its case;
- (2) Any new evidence to be presented by the Appellant;
- (3) The Respondent to address the Appeal Board, summarising its case;
- (4) Any new evidence to be presented by the Respondent;
- (5) Each party to be able to put questions to any witness giving new evidence;
- (6) The Appeal Board may put questions to the parties and any witness giving new evidence at any stage;
- (7) The Respondent to make closing submissions;
- (8) The Appellant to make closing submissions.

2.11 The Appeal Board shall proceed in the absence of any party, unless it is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for the failure of the party to attend, and shall do so in such manner as it considers appropriate.

2.12 The Appeal Board may, in the event of a party failing to comply with an order, requirement or instruction of the Appeal Board, take any action it considers appropriate, including an award of costs against the offending party.

Appeal Board Decisions

3.1 A decision, order, requirement or instruction of the Appeal Board shall (save where to be made under the Rules by the Chairman of the Appeal Board alone) be determined by a majority. Each member of the Appeal Board shall have one vote, save that the Chairman shall have a second and casting vote in the event of deadlock.

3.2 A decision of the Appeal Board shall be final and binding and there shall be no right of further challenge.

3.3 The Appeal Board shall have power to:

- (1) Allow or dismiss the appeal;
- (2) Exercise any power which the body against whose decision the appeal was made could have exercised, whether the effect is to increase or decrease any penalty, award, order or sanction originally imposed;
- (3) Remit the matter for re-hearing;
- (4) Order that any deposit be forfeited or returned as it considers appropriate;
- (5) Make such further or other order as it considers appropriate, generally or for the purpose of giving effect to its decision.

Costs

- 3.4 Any costs incurred in bringing, or responding to, an appeal shall be borne by the party incurring the costs. Any costs incurred in relation to the Appeal Board, including travel, accommodation and room hire, may be ordered by the Appeal Board to be paid by either party.

Announcement of Decision

- 3.5 The Appeal Board shall announce its decision to the parties as soon as practicable in such a manner as it considers appropriate; and unless it directs otherwise, its decision shall come into effect immediately.

Written Decision

- 3.6 As soon as practicable after the hearing, the Appeal Board shall publish a written statement of its decision, which shall state:

- (1) The names of the parties, the decision(s) appealed against and the grounds of appeal;
- (2) Whether or not the appeal is allowed; and
- (3) The order(s) of the Appeal Board.

The written statement shall be signed and dated by the Chairman of the Appeal Board and be the conclusive record of the decision.

- 3.7 The Appeal Board shall, upon the request of the Appellant or the Respondent (such request to be received at The Association within 5 days of the date of the announcement of the decision), give written reasons for the decision.

The date for the Annual General Meeting was fixed for Wednesday June 21st 2017, commencing at 11-00 am – Venue - Gloucestershire F.A. Headquarters, Almondsbury, Bristol.