

**THE EAST HERTS
CORINTHIAN SUNDAY
FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

Sanctioned by the Hertfordshire Football Association



NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

AND

CLUB DIRECTORY

SEASON

2021 – 2022

DEFINITIONS

RULE 1 - In these Rules

A) “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.

“Club” means a Club for the time being in membership of the Competition.

“Competition” means the [East Herts Corinthian Sunday Football League](#).

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

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

“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, as set out at Schedule A.

“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.

“Participant” shall have the same meaning as set out in the rules of The FA from time to time.

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

“Player Registration System” means the FA system to register players as determined by The FA from time to time.

“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 FA), (the Competition) and (the Hertfordshire County Football Association Limited).

“Scholarship” means a Scholarship as set out in Rule C3.1.1 of the Rules of the FA.

“Season” means a period of time between one AGM and the next AGM.

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

“SGM” means a special general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

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

“The FA” means The Football Association Limited.

“Virtual Meeting” means meetings held electronically.

“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 team in the singular applies to the plural and also the other way around.

GOVERNANCE RULES

RULE 2 – COMPETITION NAME, CONSTITUTION

- A) The Competition will be known as “**The East Herts Corinthian Sunday 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 automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.
- B) This competition shall consist of not more than **eighty Clubs and/or Teams** approved by the sanctioning Authority.
- C) **All Clubs must have their headquarters situated in Hertford, Ware or the surrounding area and their home ground in Hertfordshire within a 13 mile radius of Ware and Hertford.**
- D) The administration of the competition under these Rules will be carried out by 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 them, 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 the **Hertfordshire Football 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.

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 **15 Teams**.

- 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.
- J) All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children and Regulations for Safeguarding Adults at Risk 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.
- L) At the AGM or an SGM called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the compilation of the divisions at their discretion. When necessary this rule shall take precedence over Rule 22.
- M) Only one team from a Club shall be permitted to participate in a single division unless there is no viable alternative because of logistical issues and / or reasons linked to participation and geographical boundaries in which case the Competition will obtain the prior approval of the Sanctioning Authority. 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 by transfers of registration in accordance with these Rules.

CLUB NAME

RULE 3

Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority. In the event that permission is granted, the Club must advise the Competition Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

RULE 4

- A) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of an additional team(s) must be made in writing or by email to the Secretary and must be accompanied by a deposit of £100 for each team, which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

Applications, of which due notice has been given, will be received at the AGM or an SGM if confirmed by a majority of the accredited voting members.

When rule 22(B) is applied or a Team seeks a transfer or is compulsorily transferred to another division no Entry Fee shall apply.

- B) The Annual Subscription shall be £50 for each Team payable at a date agreed at the AGM or set by the Competition. An additional levy of a maximum of £15 will be imposed for late payment.
- C) Each Team shall on the day of election have paid their Deposit of £100, which shall be returnable to Clubs on leaving the Competition provided they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all orders of the Management Committee.
- D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the Annual Subscription and Deposit have been paid.
- E) Clubs must advise the Secretary annually in writing or by email by the 30th June in each year details of their Secretary 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

RULE 5

- A) The Management Committee shall comprise of the Officers of the Competition and a minimum of 3 ordinary members who shall all be elected at the AGM.
- B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to be candidates for re-election without nomination provided that the Officer notifies the Secretary in writing or by email not later than the 30th 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 or by email by the Secretaries of two Member Clubs, not later than the 30th 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 for any office by the date stated in the earlier part of the Rule, nominations may be received at the AGM.

- C) The Management committee shall meet a minimum of twice a season or as and when required.

On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the 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.

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

RULE 6

- A) The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and delegates 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 the 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 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 on each Club to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet the 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 at all such meetings but no Member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly relating to that 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 Chair shall have a second or casting vote.

- D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition 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 6I, 8H and 9, for all breaches of Rule the Management Committee shall issue a formal written charge to the Club concerned. The Club charged shall be given seven days from the date of notification of the charge to reply. In such a club may:

- i) Accept the charge and / or submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee; or

- ii) Accept the charge and notify the East Herts Corinthian Sunday Football League 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; or

- iv) Deny the charge and notify the East Herts Corinthian Sunday Football League that it wishes to have 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.

With the exception of Teams playing at Regional NLS Feeder League of the National League System the maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Competition rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Competition must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

No participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

All breaches of the Laws of the Game, Rules and Regulations of The Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance with F.A. Rules by the appropriate sanctioning 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) A minimum of fifty percent of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee or any of its sub-committees.
- G) The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have the power to fill any vacancies that may occur in their number.
- H) A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee and must attend to the business and/or correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine of a maximum of £25.
- 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 the notification of the decision.

Any Club failing to do, so will be fined a maximum of £50. 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 fines are paid.

- J) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or match may have any 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

RULE 7

- A) Protests, Claims, Complaints and Appeals
- 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 facilities will not be entertained by the Management committee unless the protest is lodged with the Referee prior to the commencement of the match.
- B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decides that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged in duplicate with the Secretary within **seven days** of the 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 a protest or complaint is being determined.
- C) No protest of whatever kind shall, is considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum of £25. 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 enquiry 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 be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least seven days before the protest or complaint being heard.
- i) All parties must have a minimum of seven 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 fourteen days of the posting of the written notification of the decision causing the appeal, accompanied by a fee 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, and 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 appropriate deadlines

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 which shall be forfeited in the event of the protest, appeal, claim or complaint not being upheld, and in these circumstances may, in addition, be ordered to pay costs at the discretion of the Management Committee.

All such protests, claims, complaints and appeals must be received in writing by the Secretary within 14 days of the event or decision causing any of these to be submitted.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

RULE 8

- A) The AGM shall be held not later than the 10th August in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least two thirds of the Members are present and entitled to vote: -
- i) Confirm the Minutes of the last AGM.
 - ii) Adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts from the previous season or accounting period.
 - iii) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
 - iv) Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing season.
 - v) Election of Competition Officers and Management Committee members.
 - vi) Appointment of Auditors / verifiers.
 - vii) Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14).
 - viii) Agree the date for the beginning of the Playing season and the kick off times applicable to the Competition.
 - ix) Agree the date for the end of the Playing Season.
 - x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted by The Chair 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 fourteen days prior to the meeting, together with any proposed change of Rules.
- C) A signed copy of the duly audited/verified Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to Sanctioning Authority within fourteen 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. Fourteen 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. This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 12.

- F) All voting shall be conducted by the show of hands, or count of email or virtual responses (for virtual meeting), unless a ballot be demanded by at least fifty percent of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chair 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, any club failing to do so without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £25.
- I) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

RULE 9

On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call an SGM.

The Management Committee may call an SGM at any time.

At least 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 2 delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.

Any Club failing to be represented at an SGM without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £25.

Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs.

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

RULE 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.

“We, A _____ of _____ (Chair) and
B _____ of _____ (Secretary) of the
_____ Football Club have been provided
with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the East Herts Corinthian Sunday
Football League Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the
said Club 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 the Club Chair and Secretary.

Any change of Chair, Secretary or Director of the Club as named on the above agreement must be notified to the Hertfordshire County Football Association to which the Club is sanctioned and to the Secretary of this Competition.

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP,

WITHDRAWEL OF A CLUB

RULE 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 of such intention by the 30th April 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 not exceeding £25.
- 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 not exceeding £50.
- C) Notwithstanding the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to rule 6(I), in the event of a Member Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £100, the Management Committee are empowered to refer the debt under the FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.

EXCLUSION OF CLUBS, TEAMS.

MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

RULE 12

- A) At the AGM or SGM called for the purpose in accordance with provisions of Rule 9, notice of motion having been duly circulated on the agenda by direction of the Management Committee, the accredited delegates present 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 of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A member of the Management Committee or Club which is subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.
- B) At the AGM or at an 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, provided this is supported by more than two thirds 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 Official, or member of a Club found 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 be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of 12A and / or 12B of this Rule.
- D) Any Club or Team failing to complete all of its fixtures in any season shall (unless the conditions are beyond their control, or the accredited delegates present at the AGM or an SGM decide otherwise by a majority of two thirds of the votes cast) be debarred from membership the following season and all debt owing to be split equally between Registered Players. Until each individual has paid their portion of the debt they are sine die from the league, an admin fee may be added of £10.

TROPHY

RULE 13

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

“We A _____ and B _____, the Chair and Secretary of _____ FC, members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of _____ Cup or Trophy, and the cup or trophy 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 the 1st March. 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 comply will result in a fine as determined by the Management Committee.

- B) At the close of each Competition awards shall be made to the winners and runners up if the funds of the Competition permit.

ALTERATION TO RULES

RULE 14

Alterations for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at an 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 the 1st April in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by the 15th April and any amendments to these proposals shall be submitted to the Secretary by the 1st May. The proposals and proposed amendments to these proposals shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present and 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 at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

FINANCE

RULE 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 24th July of each year.
- D) The accounting records of the Competition shall be prepared and shall be verified annually by a suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

INSURANCE

RULE 16

- A) All Clubs must have valid public liability insurance cover for a minimum of 10 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 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.

DISSOLUTION

RULE 17

- A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at an SGM by a majority of three quarters 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 Association.
 - 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.

Please note that the bond money that has been received by the league for every Club when joining is monies not belonging to the League and as such would be returned to all Clubs accordingly minus any monies owed to the league by that Club.

This money is accounted for in a spreadsheet and is currently held in the League deposit account.

MATCH RELATED RULES

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

RULE 18

A) A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:

Registered through the Player Registration System and received approval from the Competition. For any players registered on the day of the match a Club Officer must email or **Whatsapp** the Competition with details of the registration **30 minutes** prior to the scheduled kick off time in order for the player to be eligible to play in that match. The player shall not play again in any subsequent match in the Competition until the Club has registered the player through the FA Player Registration System and is in the possession of the approval from the Competition. A maximum of **2** players may be registered in this manner **prior to a game**.

Any registration that is not fully and correctly completed will be returned to the Club unprocessed and the player classed as unregistered. If a Club attempts to register a player via the Player Registration System but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via the Player Registration System the registration will not be processed.

For Clubs registering players by the Player Registration System, Clubs must access the Player Registration System in order to complete the registration process.

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

A maximum of 60 players per Team may be registered in accordance with sub paragraph (b).

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.

- ii) Each team must have at least 16 players registered 1 day before the start of each Playing season.

Clubs with reserve teams must register players with either the first or reserve team. No more than two players from a first team may play for a reserve team in any league match. Similarly, no more than two players from the reserve team may play for a first team in any league match.

No player signed for either the first or reserve team may play for the other team in any cup competition in the league.

- C) A Player that owes a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) shall be permitted to register for a Club but will / may be suspended from football activities if the Player does not comply with the terms of the Football Debt Recovery Regulations in respect of that Football Debt.
- D) A one off set fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/team for any players registered.
- E) The Management Committee shall decide on all registration disputes

In the event of a player signing for more than one Club priority of registration shall decide for which Club the player shall be registered. The Registrations 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 season without first being transferred.
 - ii) Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that season except for the purpose of a transfer.
 - iii) Submit a registration through the Player Registration System that a player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

- G) Player registration: -

- i) The Management Committee shall have power to accept the registration of any player subject to the provisions of clauses (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 FA or the relevant County Football Association. Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a participant from being involved in this Competition. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the player is registered or intending to be registered with.
- iv) A player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with the above clause (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 a player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition may consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

(Note: Action under clause (iii) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Sanctioning Authority, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any case be subject to an Appeal to the Football Association. 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 a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.)

- H) Subject to FA Rule C2(a) when a Club wishes to register a Player who is already registered with another Club it shall submit a transfer notification to the Competition via the Player Registration System.

Such a 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 of the transfer taking effect.

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

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 their 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).

- I) A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after the 31st March except by special permission of the Management Committee and then the maximum is 2 players per Club.
- J) Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.
- K) A player shall not be eligible to play for a team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding match (as specified in Rule 22A) unless the player has played in two games for that team in this Competition in the current season.

A player registering after the 28th February of the league season must have played two league games in the current season prior to participating in their Divisional Shield Cup Competition, except by special permission of the Management Committee.

- L) A player who has played for a team in a higher division may be eligible to transfer to a team who play in a lower division, subject to a maximum of two players per team, except by permission of the Management Committee.

Any player who has played in a Cup Competition will be ineligible to play for a different team in that Competition in the same season.

M)

- (i) Subject to rule 18(L), any Club found to have played an ineligible Player(s) in a Competition match or matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that Competition match or matches deducted from its record, up to a maximum of 12 points, and have levied upon it a fine as per the Fines Tariff.
- (ii) The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out in Rule 18(L) 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(L) above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion:

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

Levy penalty points against the Club in default; or

Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee)

Any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a cup match shall be expelled from the competition and replaced by the team that they have beaten.

N) The following Clause applies to Competitions involving players in full-time secondary education: -

Priority must be given at all times to activities of schools and school organisations.

- i) The availability of children and young people must be cleared with the Head Teachers or Principles (except for Sunday Leagues).
- ii) To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16.

CLUB COLOURS AND CLUB NAME

RULE 19

Every team must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 15th August and the Competition Secretary shall decide as to their suitability.

Any team changing its colours during the Playing Season must notify the Competition Secretary immediately.

Goalkeepers must wear colours, which distinguish them from other players and the referee.

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 of the colours in which they will play (including the colour of the goalkeeper's jersey) to its opponents at least **five days** before the match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, **the home team** shall make the change. Any team not having a change of colours or delaying kick-off by not having a change shall be fined £10.

Shirts must be numbered, any Club failing to do so will be liable for a fine not exceeding £10.

PLAYING SEASON AND CONDITIONS OF PLAY

TIMES OF KICK-OFF, POSTPONEMENTS

AND SUBSTITUTES

RULE 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 matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee. If through no fault of the home team a match has to be replayed, the Management committee shall have the power to order the venue to be changed.

The Management Committee shall have power to decide whether a pitch and facilities are suitable for matches in the Competition and to order the Club concerned to play its fixtures on another ground.

Football Turf Pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition providing they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA's Register of Football Turf pitches. For clubs playing at Step 7 or below a pitch 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).

All matches shall have duration of 90 minutes unless a shorter time (not less than 60 minutes) is mutually arranged by the two captains 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 agreed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing clubs and the competition.

Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition. **There is no obligation for the referee to commence a match later than 15 minutes after the allotted start to the game**

and he shall receive his fee in full as though the game has taken place. The Management Committee shall then duly determine the reason for the non-fulfilment of the fixture and will act accordingly.

Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time may be fined a sum not exceeding £15 or be dealt with as the Management Committee may determine.

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 not provided. Goal nets and corner flags must be used. Failure to provide any of these will result in a fine of £10 for each of the items not provided.

- B) Except by permission of the Management Committee all matches must be played on the dates originally agreed but priority shall be given to the Football Association 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 Competition.

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) All Clubs and Referees receive an email from the league confirming the game and the ground address and any amendments.

The secretary of the home Club needs to call the referee by 9pm on the Monday preceding the game and the opposition by 9pm on the Wednesday preceding the game. Failure to comply will result in a fine of £10.

- D) In accordance with the laws of the Game the minimum of seven players will constitute a team for a Competition match.

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 inflict a fine, deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the match or cup game in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except by the award of goals. Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent's ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.
- 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, Reserve Team, A Team. Clubs in breach of this requirement shall be

fined a minimum sum of £25 but not exceeding £100 or otherwise dealt with by the Management Committee.

- iii) Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a fixture has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the Competition, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

A Club wishing to have a free Sunday or wishing to postpone a fixture must first obtain the permission of the Fixtures Secretary, each Club is able to apply for two games off each season and must give at least fourteen days' notice or shall be liable for a fine of a minimum of £25 and a maximum of £100 per game.

If a Club postpones a match with less than fourteen days' notice or have utilised their 2 games off then it shall be dealt with as an unfulfilled fixture and they will incur a fine of as above.

All unfulfilled matches will be discussed at the next Committee meeting and the decision taken will be informed to the Clubs concerned in writing no later than seven days following the meeting.

- 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 later date arranged by the Fixtures Secretary. 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.
- v) The Management Committee shall review all matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand or award the points for the match to the opponent. 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 members they shall 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 members, the Management Committee shall rule all points for the match as void. No fines can be applied by The Management Committee for an abandoned Competition match.

Any Club found guilty to causing an abandonment in a cup match shall be expelled from the competition and the opposing team on the day of the fixture will go forward to next round.

- 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 Association 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.
- F) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use **5 substitute players** in any match in this Competition.

A player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may 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 referee shall be informed of the maximum 5 names of the substitutes prior to the commencement of the match and a Player not so named may not take part in that match.

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 the game within the meaning of Rule 18 of this Competition.

- G) The half time interval shall be of **ten minutes** duration, but it shall not exceed fifteen minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.
- H) The Clubs taking part in the fixture Competition Match shall identify a team captain **who may be** designated with a captain's armband who has a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his team mates.

Failure to comply will result in a fine of £5 will be imposed.

REPORTING RESULTS

RULE 21

- A) All results other than county cup games must be keyed on to the League website before the Saturday following the match by both teams in the prescribed manner. This must include the result and referees mark and all the players and goal scorers as required by Rule 23, and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £10. Continual breach of this Rule and the Team will be dealt with as the Management Committee decide.
- B) Both Clubs shall SMS the result of the match by 9pm the day of the game.
- C) A responsible member of the Team shall key the match result and team notification, correctly completed. Any Team, which submits an incomplete form or incorrect information including a referees report will be fined £10.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

RULE 22

- A) Team rankings within the Competition will be decided, by points with 3 points to be awarded for a win and 1 point for a drawn match. The teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective Divisions at the conclusion shall be adjudged the winners. Matches must not be played for double points.

In the event of two or more teams being equal on points team rankings will be decided in the following order: -

- i) Goal Difference.
 - ii) Goals Scored.
 - iii) Playing Record against each other.
 - iv) Deciding match played under conditions determined by the Management Committee.
- B) Automatic promotion and relegation shall be applied for the **first two and last team** in each Division except as provided for below, subject to the provisions of Rule 2(L).
- i) Should any one or more teams withdraw from any one Division after the fixtures have commenced an equal number of teams to those withdrawing in that Division shall not be automatically, relegated.
 - ii) Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the season may be filled on any of the following ways: -

Retention of otherwise relegated teams
Additional promotion of the next ranked team(s) from the Division below
Election
 - iii) When a senior team is relegated to a lower Division of which its reserve team is a member, or entitled to be a member, such reserve team must accept relegation to, or retain its position in, the next lower Division, and should the senior team be relegated to the lowest Division its reserve team must either leave the Competition or must assume a status as a separate Club.
 - iv) Should either or both of the leading teams in any Division have its senior team in the next higher Division, promotion shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next highest team or teams in the Division concerned.

- C) If the competition needs to promote more teams due to a shortage of teams in that any higher divisions due to clubs withdrawing from the Competition they have the right to do so to ensure divisions have a full complement of teams.

- D) In the event of a team withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of their fixtures for the 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 Matches which have been awarded by the Management Committee.

MATCH OFFICIALS

RULE 23

- A) Registered Referees and Assistant Referees for all 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 Clubs shall agree upon a Referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that game, 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 the event that the Clubs cannot mutually agree upon a Referee, both Clubs shall submit their written explanation to the League Secretary within three days, and the matter shall be dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

- C) The Management Committee may, if they consider it desirable, or upon application by the two competing Clubs, appoint Assistant Referees, if available, to any match. Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £5 being imposed on the defaulting team.
- D) The appointed Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and the decision shall be final subject to either in the case of a ground of a Local Authority or the owners of a ground, the Representative of that body is the sole arbiter and whose decision must be accepted.
- E) The away Club shall be responsible for the payment to the Referee of the £40 match fee for all games in all Competitions arranged through the league, this is increased to £60 for double headers.

Where Assistant Referees are provided the cost of the match fees will be shared, the cost for each being £25, this is increase to £30 for double headers.

Failure to pay the Referee or one of the Assistants within fifteen minutes of the finish of the game may result in a fine up to a maximum of £20.

- 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 a payment of £10 split equally between the 2 participating Clubs. Where a match is not played owing to one Club being in

default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Officials, if they attend the ground, their full fee.

- G) A Referee not keeping their engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Association with which he or she is registered.
- H) 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.
- I) The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided by the prescribed date of each season, shall submit a summary to the Sanctioning Authority.
- J) N/A
- K) Referees and Assistant Referees shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.

FEES TARIFF

RULE	DESCRIPTION	FEE
4B	Annual Subscription	£50
4C	Deposit	£100
7C	Protest / Appeal Fee	£25
8D	Player Registration	£60
23E	Referee Fee	£40
23E	Assistant Referee	£25

FINES TARIFF

REASON FOR FINE	FINE NO	FINE
Late payment of annual subscriptions	4b	£15 max
Failure to answer league correspondence	6h	£25 max
Failure to pay a fine within fourteen days	6i	£50 max
Failure to attend a full council meeting	8h	£25
Failure to attend a special meeting	9	£25
Withdrawal from league after 30 th April	11a	£25 max
Withdrawal from league after 1st fixture list	11b	£50 max
Playing unregistered or ineligible player	18m	£25 max
Incorrectly numbered shirts	19	£10 max
No change of shirts	19	£10
Late kick off	20a	£15 max
No nets	20a	£10
No corner flags	20a	£10
No match balls	20a	£10
Failure to call referee or opposition	20c	£10
Postponement of fixture	20e	£100 max
No captain's armband	20h	£5
Failure to send in SMS result	21a	£10
Failure to complete result and team sheet	21c	£10
Failure to send in an appropriate referee report	21c	£10
No linesman provided	23c	£5
Late payment of referee or linesman fee	23e	£20 max