**LANCASHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

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

**Telephone 01772 624000 Fax: 01772 624700**



**YOUTH CUP**

**COMPETITION RULES**

**SEASON 2022/2023**

**(Applies to the following Sunday Competitions)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **U12 Boys** | **9v9** |
| **U12 Girls** | **9v9** |
| **U13 Boys** | **11v11** |
| **U13 Girls** | **9v9** |
| **U14 Boys** | **11v11** |
| **U14 Girls** | **11v11** |
| **U15 Boys** | **11v11** |
| **U15 Girls** | **11v11** |
| **U16 Boys** | **11v11** |
| **U16 Girls** | **11v11** |
| **U18 Boys** | **11v11** |
| **U18 Girls** | **11v11** |

**1. CUP OWNERSHIP**

1. All the Youth Trophies are the property of the Lancashire Football Association.
2. When the winning Club shall have been ascertained, the Association shall present the Cup to the representatives of such Club, upon receipt of a document to the following effect and subscribed by three persons who names shall be previously submitted to and approved by the Committee:

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

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

**2. MEDALS**

1. In addition to the Cup, the Association shall present 20 souvenirs or medals to Playing Staff and Officials of both competing teams in the Final.
2. When a Player or Club Official taking part is dismissed or ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct, the medal to which they may be entitled may be withheld at the discretion of the Youth Competitions Committee (The Committee).

**3. CONTROL OF COMPETITION**

1. The ownership, organisation, control and management of the Competition and any rights associated with it of any nature shall be vested entirely and exclusively in The Association.
2. The Committee shall have the power to make, delete and amend regulations for the organisation, control, and management of the Competition as it, from time to time, deems expedient (The “Competition Rules”).
3. All Clubs participating in the Competition shall be bound by and comply with the Competition Rules.
4. The Committee shall have the power to exercise all powers in relation to the Competition and to make decisions on all matters arising out of or in relation to the organisation, control, and management of the Competition (including as to eligibility and qualification) which shall be final and binding on all participants in the Competition. In relation to these and any other matters not specifically mentioned in the Competition Rules, the Committee shall have the power to take such action and make such decisions, orders, rulings and impose such penalties as it deems necessary. Following such procedures as it considers appropriate, decisions shall be final and binding on all participants. In considering such matters, the Committee shall not be bound by any enactment or Rule of Law relating to the admissibility of evidence in proceeding before a Court of Law.
5. The Committee shall have the power to appoint a Sub-Committee, such as a Football Advisory Board (FAB) to exercise the powers of The Committee to expedite decisions to ensure the progress of the Competition.
6. A Club participating in the Competition shall have only such rights in relation to the Competition (and any match in the Competition) as are expressly granted to the Club under these Competition Rules or by The Association in writing.

**4. ELIGIBLE CLUBS**

1. Participation in the Competition shall be open to Clubs whose First Affiliation is to the Association, those from other Counties who have entered their own Cup in the first instance and who are eligible and approved by the Committee.
2. The Committee may reject the application of any Club to participate in the Competition at its entire discretion.
3. A Club which has been allowed to participate in the Competition may not assign or otherwise transfer the ability/right to participate without the prior written approval of the Committee. A request for transfer must be in writing, setting out the details of the intended transferee and the reason for the transfer. The decision whether to approve a transfer shall be made by the Committee in its absolute discretion. A transfer shall be granted only on condition that the transferee shall be treated for the purposes of these Competition Rules and the Rules of The Association, as being the same entity as the transferor.
4. If a Club is removed from the League in which it is playing, once it has been accepted into the Competition, The Committee has the power to remove the Club from the Competition.
5. Each Trophy shall be competed for annually by clubs who are Full Members, Associate Members or Youth Members of the Association, and who are members of a registered Full Member, Associate Member or Youth League only, approved by the Committee.

**5. ENTRY DATE AND FEES**

1. A Club wishing to participate in the Competition shall complete the application upon affiliation on or before 1st August prior to the season in which such Club proposes to compete.
2. Competing Clubs shall pay the required entrance fee prior to club being affiliated.
3. No entries will be accepted after the 1st of August.

**6. ORGANISATION OF THE COMPETITION**

1. The Competition shall be on a knock-out basis.
2. Participation in the Competition shall be open to Clubs whose First Affiliation is to the Association, those from other Counties who have entered their own Cup in the first instance and who are eligible and approved by the Committee.
3. All matches shall be played on a Sunday.

**7. DRAWS FOR ROUNDS**

* 1. The Teams shall be drawn in individual ties.
  2. The winner of each tie will proceed to the next stage, until two Clubs remain to play the Final Tie.
  3. The Association will circulate details of each tie to be played throughout the Competition.
  4. They will also indicate the closing date for each round, which must be observed.
  5. In each tie, the game shall be played on the ground of the Club first drawn, unless otherwise mutually arranged, and the consent of The Committee obtained, subject as hereafter provided.

**8. VENUE FOR MATCHES**

1. The Club first drawn shall be entitled to have the match played on its home ground, providing it meets the requirements of the Competition Rules. Such match shall be played on that ground unless the consent of the Committee has been obtained to any change of venue.
2. No monetary or other consideration shall be asked for, offered, or paid in connection with negotiations for change of venue.
3. A match shall not be played on a neutral ground without the consent of the Committee*.*
4. The Committee shall have power to order that any match be played on an alternative ground or date if it is considered appropriate and necessary.
5. No other activity must be played on the day of the match on the same pitch to be used for the match, unless otherwise authorised by the Competition officers.
6. All matches shall be played on either a natural grass pitch, or a 3G surface which is listed on the FA approved pitch register (<http://goo.gl/4XIDLD>).
7. If 3G facilities are to be used, they must be booked for a minimum of the match length plus 30 minutes. This will allow time for warmups/cool downs and penalties should the match result in a tie. For matches up to and including the Semi-Final stages, the grounds of all Clubs whose entry is received and accepted for the Competition shall be accepted as meeting the requirements, as to dimensions, notwithstanding Law 1 of the Laws of The Game.
8. The dimensions of the field of play for all matches shall be compliant with the Laws of the Game, or the Football Association’s recommendations on pitch sizes.

**Age Group** **Max Length Min Length Max Width Min Width**

U12 Boys 80yds / 73.15m 70yds / 64m 50yds / 45.75m 40yds / 36.6m

U12 Girls 80yds / 73.15m 70yds / 64m 50yds / 45.75m 40yds / 36.6m

U13 Boys 100yds / 91.44m 90yds / 82.3m 60yds / 54.9m 50yds / 45.75m

U13 Girls 80yds / 73.15m 70yds / 64m 50yds / 45.75m 40yds / 36.6m

U14 Boys 100yds / 91.44m 90yds / 82.3m 60yds / 54.9m 50yds / 45.75m

U14 Girls 80yds / 73.15m 70yds / 64m 50yds / 45.75m 40yds / 36.6m

U15 Boys 110yds / 100.58m 90yds / 82.3m 70yds / 64m 50yds / 45.75m

U15 Girls 110yds / 100.58m 90yds / 82.3m 70yds / 64m 50yds / 45.75m

U16 Boys 110yds / 100.58m 90yds / 82.3m 70yds / 64m 50yds / 45.75m

U16 Girls 110yds / 100.58m 90yds / 82.3m 70yds / 64m 50yds / 45.75m

U18 Boys 130yds / 118.87m 100yds / 91.44m 100yds / 91.44m 50yds / 45.75m

U18 Girls 130yds / 118.87m 100yds / 91.44m 100yds / 91.44m 50yds / 45.75m

1. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.
2. Goal nets must be used in all matches, and shall be provided by the Home Club

**Age Group Format Recommended Goal Size (H x L)**

U12 Boys & Girls, U13 Boys, U14 Girls 9v9 16ft x 7ft

U13, U14 Boys 11v11 21ft x 7ft

U15, U16, U18 Boys & U15, U16, U18 Girls 11v11 24ft x 8ft

1. It is mandatory that a spectator viewing area be designated, which is separated from the pitch using either ropes or barriers.
2. The home club shall supply suitable match balls.

**Age Group Ball Size**

U12 – U14 Boys & Girls 4

U15 – U18 Boys & Girls 5

1. A Club may protest to the Committee that the ground of the Home Club is unsuitable for the match. Such protest must be made in writing to the Committee within four days of thedate of the drawand must be accompanied by a fee of £25, which shall be forfeited if the protest is not sustained.
2. The Committee shall have the power to consider the protest in such manner and following such procedures as it considers appropriate. The Committee may amongst other things order the match to be played on the ground of the protesting Club, or on a neutral ground. The payment of the costs incurred by both Club and The Association incidental to the protest shall be at the discretion of the Committee.
3. Each Club must take every precaution to ensure that its ground is in a fit playing condition.
4. In the event of any doubt as to the condition of the pitch, the match Referee, or a local registered Referee should examine the ground and decide as to its fitness for play in sufficient time to save the expense of unnecessary journeys being made.
5. Subject to this rule, the Referees shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches. The referee shall have the power to abandon or postpone the match if they believe the weather conditions are detrimental to the welfare of the participants*.*
6. The Referee must report to the ground 45 minutes before the time of kick-off. If necessary, the Home Club or The Association may, by notice, require the Referee to visit the ground more than 60 minutes before the time of kick-off any time during the season.
7. Except in instances where Local Authorities, Schools, Colleges, or privately owned pitches declare a blanket postponement for pitches which they control, all grounds must be inspected by a registered Referee before a match is postponed. Failure to have the pitch inspected by a registered Referee before postponing a game shall result in the matter being referred to the Committee, who may adjudge the home side to have lost the tie and impose a fine of £50.
8. In the event of a match being postponed, the Home Club must notify the Match Official and their opponents immediately and update the postponement on FA Fulltime within 12 hours of the tie being postponed.
9. Failure to comply with this rule may result in a fine of £10 being imposed.

**9. CLUB COLOURS**

1. Where the colours of the two competing Clubs are similar, the away Club must change, unless alternative arrangements are mutually agreed by the competing Clubs.
2. Team colours must not clash with the Match Officials. In the event of Clubs not agreeing the colours to be worn by their respective teams The Committee shall decide who must change.
3. Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from other players and the Match Officials. In Semi-Final or Final ties, the first named Club shall be classed as Home.
4. Duplication of shirt numbers/numbering is not permitted.
5. Player’s shirts must be clearly numbered and be in accordance with the teamsheet handed to the Referee prior to any tie.
6. There must be no change of numbers during the match except on a change of Goalkeeper or where a Player has been required by the Referee to change his/her shirt because of a blood injury.
7. The captain shall wear a distinguishing armband to indicate his/her status.
8. Advertising may be worn on Player’s clothing in accordance with the Rules of The Football Association.

**10. DURATION OF MATCHES**

1. Kick off times can vary between 10.30am – 1.30pm, as determined by the Home Clubs normal League match time unless:
2. Both Clubs mutually agree on a different kick-off time which MUST be confirmed to the County FA no later than 7 days prior to your fixture. Any Club failing to fulfil this rule shall be dealt with by the Committee or
3. The Away Club face a round travelling distance more than 140 miles.
4. In this case, in the event both Clubs being unable to agree to a mutual kick-off time, this shall be determined by the Association.
5. The duration of each match shall be as listed below,except in special cases, provided for in these Competition Rules.
6. The Referee is the sole judge of allowance of time, whether lost through accident or other cause and his/her decision on this matter is not subject to appeal.

**Age Group Duration**

U12 Boys & Girls 60 minutes in two equal halves of 30 minutes

U13/U14 Boys & Girls 70 minutes in two equal halves of 35 minutes

U15/U16 Boys & Girls 80 minutes in two equal halves of 40 minutes

U18 Boys & Girls 90 minutes in two equal halves of 45 minutes

1. The half-time interval shall be up to 15 minutes in all games.
2. In the event of inclement weather and provided that the Referee is notified prior to the commencement of the tie, Clubs may prior to the kick-off mutually agree to play less than the time stated in rule 10 (b).
3. The minimum time of games for each age group is as follows:

**Age Group Duration**

U12 Boys 50 minutes in two equal halves of 25 minutes

U13/U14 Boys & Girls 50 minutes in two equal halves of 25 minutes

U15/U16 Boys & Girls 70 minutes in two equal halves of 35 minutes

U18 Boys & Girls 70 minutes in two equal halves of 35 minutes

1. Any Club being reported for a late kick off will be dealt with by the Committee.
2. If a Club is found guilty of such misconduct, they will be fined a minimum of £10 and up to a maximum of £25 as determined by the Committee.

**11. PROVISIONS FOR THE PLAYING OF MATCHES**

1. Clubs shall not mutually arrange to play a match in lieu of a Cup Tie.
2. Ties which kick off late must be reported by the Match Referee to the Association.
3. In the scores are level after full time, the tie will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedure adopted by the International Football Association Board.
4. In the event of a match being postponed due to the playing conditions, it must be reported to the Association as soon as possible and it will be replayed on the ground on which it should originally have been played, unless mutually agreed and approved by The Committee.
5. If a game is abandoned and the designated time has not been played, the game must be replayed on the ground of the Club originally drawn at home if neither of the competing teams were at fault.
6. If a game is abandoned due to misconduct, a decision on whether to replay the tie the ground for the replay shall be determined after consideration of the circumstances.
7. Where the fixture has not been completed within 14 days of the competition date, the Association shall find an alternate ground, unless mutually agreed and approved by The Committee.

**12. REPORTING RESULTS**

1. Teamsheets must be completed and handed to the referee prior to the game **for their reference only not for reporting results.**
2. Results must be reported via FA Fulltime to within 12 hours of the completion of the tie.
3. Failure to comply with this rule may result in £20 fine being imposed.
4. Team sheets listing players who played in the match and goal scorers must be submitted within 2 working days on FA full time
5. Failure to submit these details will incur a fine of £20.
6. Where the home team are requested to complete a safeguard risk assessment, the form provided must be returned to the Safeguard Officer at [Safeguarding@LancashireFA.Com](mailto:Safeguarding@LancashireFA.Com) within 4 working days of the fixture being completed. Failure to submit this risk assessment, where required, may result in a fine of up to £100.

**13. PROVISIONS FOR THE SEMI-FINALS**

1. The First drawn club shall have home advantage in the Semi-Finals.
2. When a Semi-Final has resulted in a draw at full time, the winners shall be determined by the taking of penalty kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedures adopted by The International Football Association Board.
3. When a match has been postponed or is abandoned before full time and neither Club being at fault, it shall be played on the chosen ground of the first drawn Club on the following Sunday.
4. If the match has been postponed again or is abandoned again before full time and neither Club being at fault, it shall be played as directed by the Committee.
5. If a first match is postponed on two occasions, the Committee shall have the power to order the match to be played on the ground of the Club second drawn.
6. Matches abandoned through the fault of the Clubs shall be dealt with by the Committee.
7. The Committee shall have the power to vary these arrangements if it is deemed necessary.
8. Clubs shall be required to provide 3 match balls each to the match referee.

**14. PROVISIONS FOR THE FINAL**

1. The Final Tie will be held at Lancashire FA.
2. When a match has resulted in a draw at full time the winner shall be determined by the taking of penalty kicks in accordance with the procedure adopted by the International Football Association Board.
3. If the Final is postponed or abandoned, it shall be replayed as directed by The Committee.
4. At least seven days prior the Final Tie, a club representative of both competing teams must forward to the Association Secretary, a list of players from which the Team will be selected, and the colours in which they intend to play.
5. Competing Clubs must settle all accounts with the staging Club or Organisation within 14 days of the match.

**15. PROVISIONS FOR WITHDRAWING FROM THE COMPETITION**

1. Any Club intending to withdraw from the Competition after the affiliation process will be charged a fine of £50 will be incurred.
2. Failure to comply with rule 15 (a) will be dealt with by The Committee who have the power to compel the offending Club to pay any expenses incurred and take any further action as deemed expedient.
3. Failure to provide a satisfactory reason for their withdrawal may mean the Club will not be allowed to play in the Competition in the following season.
4. The non-participation fee position will also be reviewed.
5. In the Semi-Final and Final Tie, any Club failing to play may be adjudged by the Association to have been guilty of serious misconduct and liable to be dealt with by The Committee

**16. PROVISIONS CONCERNING PLAYERS**

1. Only those players who have attained the ages below, as at midnight on 31st August of the current season will be eligible to participate in the competition.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Age on 31st August of the relevant  Playing Season | Eligible Age Groups | Maximum Permitted Format | Minimum Pitch Size | | Maximum Pitch Sizes | | Recommended Goal Sizes (ft) | Ball Size |
| Yards | Metres | Yards | Metres |
| 10 | Under 12 | 9v9 | 70 x 40 | 64 x 36.6 | 80 x 50 | 73.15 x 45.75 | 16 x 7 | 4 |
| 11 | Under 12 |
| Under 13 | 11v11 | 90 x 50 | 82.3 x 45.75 | 100 x 60 | 91.44 x 54.9 | 21 x 7 |
| 12 | Under 13 |
| Under 14 |
| 13 | Under 14 |
| Under 15 | 110 x 70 | 100.58 x 64 | 24 x 8 | 5 |
| 14 | Under 15 |
| Under 16 |
| 15 | Under 16 |
| Under 17 | 100 x 50 | 91.44 x 45.75 | 130 x 100 | 118.87 x 91.44 |
| Under 18 |
| 16 | Under 17 |
| Under 18 |
| Open Age |

1. No player under written contract, including Centre of Excellence or Academy players, shall be eligible to compete.
2. A club may name 7 substitutes, and these may roll on / roll off on an unlimited number of times.
3. A substitution can only be made when play is stopped, and when the Referee has given permission.
4. Substitutions must be carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.
5. All Players shall be qualified as Players according to the Rules of the Association
6. A Player shall not play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same season.
7. A Player who has been suspended according to the disciplinary procedures under the Rules of The Association may play in a postponed or replayed match after the term of his/her suspension has expired.
8. A Substitute who does not play in a match is entitled to play for another Club in the Competition in the same season, subject to being transferred as per the procedure.
9. All issues relating to the qualification of Players interpretation of the rules or other matters in dispute shall be referred to The Committee.
10. The Players shall be duly qualified according to the Rules of the Association.
11. A Player shall not in the same season play for more than one competing Club. Members of each respective Team may be changed during the series of matches.
12. If the Committee has any doubts regarding the qualification of a player taking part in the Competition, it shall have the power to call upon such player or his/her Club to prove his/her eligibility according to these rules.
13. The names of all Players taking part in any game, including Substitutes and Technical Area occupants must be detailed on the Teamsheet and submitted via FA Fulltime within 4 days of the fixture.
14. Any Club found to have played an ineligible Player shall be fined up to £100 and expelled from the Competition.
15. In all rounds of the Competition, a “registered Player” is one who is registered via the Club Portal with the League in which their Club’s first team competes in the current season. Any such registration must have been received and accepted by the League by 12 noon on the Friday before the date fixed for playing the round and the registration must be continuous through to the date of the match.
16. Clubs must produce / download a squad list from the Club Portal, prior to KO, and exchange with the opposition. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine of £30.
17. Unless dispensation has been given, to be eligible for the Semi-Final and Final, the Players must have been correctly registered and eligible for the Quarter Final round of the Competition. If not, all Quarter finals are played on the same date, the Friday before the last quarter final to be played will be the standard accepted date
18. A player who was not eligible for a tie that was postponed, but is then registered in time for the revised date, will be eligible providing that all other criteria is met

**17. VALIDITY OF PLAYERS’ QUALIFICATIONS**

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

**18. DISQUALIFICATION**

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

**19. PROVISIONS CONCERNING MATCH OFFICIALS**

1. In all matches the Referee and Assistant Referees shall be appointed by the Association.
2. A Fourth Official will be appointed for all Final Ties.
3. In the event of the official Referee failing to attend, both Clubs must agree to a registered Referee, who may be connected to one of the competing Clubs, officiating. If there is no registered Referee in attendance, then both Clubs must agree to another person officiating. If the Clubs cannot agree on a match Referee, then the Home Clubs nominee must take charge of the game. If the game fails to go ahead, the matter will be referred to the Committee for their consideration.
4. In all rounds prior to the Final, the Home Club must pay 100% of the Match Officials travel Expenses.
5. The Match Officials fee shall be split between both clubs.
6. Match Officials shall be entitled to the following fees:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Age Group*** | ***Referee*** | ***Assistant Referee*** | ***4th Official*** | ***Travel***  ***Expenses*** |
| U12 Boys & Girls 9v9, U13 & U14 Girls | £25 | £20 | £18 | £0.40ppm |
| U13-U18 Boys & U15-U18 Girls | £30 | £20 | £18 | £0.40ppm |

1. It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure the Match Official receives payment.
2. For the Final, the Association will be responsible for paying all the match officials fees & expenses.
3. Match Officials are entitled to their travelling expenses, if incurred and half their fees if the match to which they were appointed is not played.
4. Match Officials shall acknowledge acceptance of appointments for all matches in the Competition to The Association.
5. The Home Club must notify the appointed Match Officials of the precise details of the match, specifically the name and location of, and directions to the ground and the kick-off time, this information to be received by the Match Official not later than 7pm on the Wednesday prior to the date of match. Failure to comply will result in the Home Club being fined up to a maximum of £10. Referees must immediately, upon receipt of the draw, acknowledge receipt to the Association.
6. The duties of the Match Officials shall be as defined in the Laws of the Game. This also includes the use of Temporary Dismissals (Sin Bins)
7. If, by Thursday 5pm prior to the scheduled tie, the appointed Referee is not available, it is the responsibility of the Home Club to contact their League Referees Appointment Officer who will appoint a replacement Referee for that tie.
8. In all matches preceding the Quarter Final, Clubs must provide an Assistant Referee, whose duties will be determined by the match official on the day. Failure to do so will result in a £25 fine. In addition, the Match Official at their discretion may request both Club Assistant Referees give offside as one of their duties.
9. Match Officials may wear coloured shirts in this Competition in accordance with the following provisions:
10. Black shirts shall be worn wherever possible.
11. There will be no designated colour for the alternative shirt. However, it shall not clash with the Team’s colours.
12. With Teams unable to wear black or dark colours, when there are instances of a colour clash, the Referee must revert to their black shirt.
13. When Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials are appointed, all the Officials must wear the same-coloured shirt.
14. Officials must always wear black shorts and socks.

**20. PROVISIONS CONCERNING PROTESTS**

1. All issues relating to the interpretation of the Competition Rules shall be referred to the Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding. The Committee shall consider any such matter in such manner and following such procedures as it considers appropriate. The Committee shall not be bound by any enactment or Rule of Law relating to the admissibility of evidence in proceedings before a Court of Law.
2. Where a Club wishes to protest that there has been a breach of the Competition Rules by their opponents, such protest must be made in writing and must contain the particulars of the grounds upon which the protest is made. The protest must be received by The Association accompanied by a fee of £25, within 4 days after the playing of the match to which it relates (Sundays not included). The fee shall be forfeited to The Association in the event of the protest not being sustained. No appeal will be accepted against decisions made (pre, during or post-match) by the Referee.
3. The Committee may make such orders as it considers appropriate in relation to any issue or protest referred to it. The Committee may make such orders as it considers appropriate as to the costs incurred by the parties or The Association.
4. Any protest relating to the ground, goal posts or bars or other appurtenances of the game shall not be considered by the Committee unless an objection has been lodged with the Referee and the Home Club at least 15 minutes before the official time of the kick-off. The Referee shall require the Home Club to correct the cause of the objection if this is possible without unduly delaying the progress of the match.
5. Where an objection has been lodged with the Referee and Home Club as above, a protest must be made to The Association and neither objection nor protest may be withdrawn, except by leave of the Committee.
6. The Association shall send a copy of any protest to the Club protested against, which shall lodge a defence to the protest with particulars of the defence within seven days of receipt of the protest.
7. Members of the Committee directly connected with a Club concerned in a protest shall not have any involvement in the consideration of the matter.
8. A Club, or Player or any person directly connected with the management of the Club may be summoned to attend at a hearing of a protest. A Club may be represented by one or more persons. A Barrister or Solicitor may represent a Club only with the prior written consent of the Committee. Any person summoned to attend a hearing of a protest must attend personally and shall not be legally represented except with the prior written consent of the Committee.
9. All fines must be paid within 14 days of date of issue, or the club may be suspended from all football.

**21. APPEALS**

1. A Club may appeal against expulsion from the competition imposed on it by the Committee.
2. An Appeal Board shall comprise of three members of Council, selected by the Chairman of the Discipline Committee, or his/her nominee. Any such appeal shall only be permitted on one or more of the following grounds:

(i) The Committee or Sub-committee appointed to consider the charge misinterpreted/failed to comply with the procedures relevant to the hearing of the charge.

(ii) The Committee or Sub-committee appointed to consider the Charge came to a decision on the facts of the case which no reasonable body could have reached.

(iii) The Committee or Sub-committee appointed to consider the Charge imposed a sanction that is excessive.

1. Any appeal must be made in writing within four days (Sundays excluded) of the Club being notified of the decision of the Committee, and accompanied by a fee of £25, which shall be forfeited in the event of the appeal being dismissed.
2. Once in receipt of the appeal, the Association shall arrange a hearing to be held within five days (Sundays excepted) of its receipt. The decision of this hearing shall be final and binding on all parties, and shall have no bearing on any other matters, including those of any disciplinary hearing.

**22. FIRST AID**

It is the responsibility of the Home or Host Club to ensure that First Aid equipment and a suitably qualified person to administer First Aid are available.

**23. NOTICES**

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