

## **North Riding County Football Association Limited (the Association)**

### **Membership Regulations**

These Membership Regulations are made pursuant to the Articles of Association. Where there is any inconsistency between these Regulations and Articles of Association, the provisions of the latter shall apply.

1. In accordance with the Article 20 of the Articles of Association, all affiliated clubs and individuals as admitted by the Directors in their absolute discretion shall be Members of the Association. Honorary Members may be approved by the Board of Directors but shall have no voting rights.  
Leagues and combinations shall be classed Associate Members and, therefore, shall have no voting rights.

2. **Football Committees and their Representatives**

The Football Committees of the Association will be and their respective Representatives will be appointed in accordance with Article 8.

Each Football Standing Committee will operate under its respective Terms of Reference, details of which can be obtained on application to the Association Secretary.

3. **Membership of the Association**

Individuals who are a Member of the Association shall be furnished with a Membership Card (not transferable). All Clubs belonging to this Association shall admit the holder of such recognition to their grounds and stands without requiring any other authority

A suitable recognition shall be made to each individual member of the Association who has been a member for 15 years and subsequently 30 years.

4. **Changes of Rule**

No changes may be made to these Membership Regulations except in accordance with Article 31 of the Articles of Association.

5. **Joint Committees**

All matters affecting this and any other County Football Association shall be adjudicated upon by a joint Committee consisting of three members from each Association, unless the Associations agree that one or the other may deal with the matter and state so in writing.

6. **Match Receipts**

All monies received at matches shall be counted by the Secretary and Finance Director, or two responsible persons, and the Finance Director shall confirm in writing to the Secretary the sum received.

7. **Affiliation**

Each Club shall, on or before 30<sup>th</sup> June each year, or on joining the Association, complete an affiliation via The FA Whole Game System and submit with the relevant fee.

8. **Affiliation Fees**

Affiliation Fees shall be fixed annually by the Directors of the Association in accordance with Article 20.

9. **Leagues and Competitions**

Leagues and Competitions shall consist of properly constituted affiliated clubs. Each League and Competition shall cover a defined area and shall not extend or alter such an area without having first obtained the consent of the Association.

Any League or Competition failing to comply with this Regulation shall be dealt with under Regulation 14.

10. **Sanctioning of Leagues and Combinations**

Leagues or other Combinations shall not be formed without the consent of the Association.

All applications for renewal of sanction shall be made before 1<sup>st</sup> August via The FA Whole Game System.

When any League or Combination of Clubs already sanctioned alters its constitution or makes any general changes in its clubs notification must be given to this Association.

All Leagues or Combinations of Clubs shall observe the Articles of Association, Regulations and Laws of this Association. Clubs belonging to this Association shall not play against any club belonging to any league or combination of clubs to which consent has not been given.

11. **Responsibilities**

Leagues, Combinations of Clubs or any other Affiliated Competition or Clubs changing Secretaries, or Secretaries changing addresses, must notify the same immediately to the Secretary of the Association. All shall keep a minute book of their meetings, audited accounts and members' register showing the date of members' registration.

The Association may call upon any League, Combination of Clubs or a Club to produce any books, letters or documents etc. of any kind they may desire.

Failure to comply will be dealt with under Regulation 14.

12. **Misconduct**

Every League, Combination of Clubs or Club is responsible to the Association for the actions of its players, officials and spectators and is required to take all precautions necessary to prevent spectators threatening or assaulting officials and players during and at the conclusion of matches.

In the case of a breach of this Regulation, any player or spectator may be dismissed from the ground.

13. **Complaints**

Any complaint or claim made by a League, Combination of Clubs, Club or Player shall be in writing and shall be sent to the Secretary of the Association accompanied by a deposit of Twenty Five Pounds (£25) which shall be forfeited if the complaint is not sustained. In the event of a complaint or claim being found to be frivolous or

vexatious, the Association shall have the power to compel the complaining League, Club or Player to pay such expenses as the Association may think fit.

14. **Breach of Regulations/Rules/Misconduct**

In the event of any League, Combination of Clubs, Club, Official, Member or Player being proved to the satisfaction of the Association to have been guilty of any breach of regulations, rules, or of any misconduct, the Association shall have the power to order the name of the offending League, Combination of Clubs, Club, Official, Member or Player to be removed from the Association, or fined, suspended or dealt with as the Association thinks fit, and any League, Combination of Clubs, Club, Official, Member or Player playing with such offenders after such removal or suspension, shall also be dealt with in such a manner as the Association may think fit.

No suspended Official, Member or Player of any Club so suspended or removed from this Association shall be eligible for membership of any other Club belonging to this or any other Association without the special permission of the Association.

The Association may order offenders to pay all expenses incurred in hearing the case.

Any League, Combination of Clubs, Club, Official or Member dealt with under these Regulations shall have the right of appeal as stated in Regulation 16.

15. **Documentation**

The Association may call upon clubs or individuals charged with offending against the Regulations to prove to the satisfaction of the Association that the offence has not been committed and, failing such satisfactory proof, the clubs or individuals may be adjudged guilty of the offence.

The Association shall have the power to call upon any club or player to produce books, letters or documents and other evidence the Association may desire. Failure to comply will be liable to be dealt with under Regulation 14.

16. **Right of Appeal**

Any League, Combination of Clubs, Club or individual wishing to appeal against a decision of this Association shall forward to the Secretary of The Football Association, within 14 days of the date of the meeting at which Association gave its decision, a notice setting out the grounds of the appeal together with the appropriate fee as laid down by the Football Association. At the same time an exact copy must be sent to the Secretary of this Association. In the case of a League, Combination of Clubs or a Club, the appeal must be signed by the Chairperson or Secretary or their deputy and one other member of the respective council or committee.

17. **Cup Entries**

Clubs, Members of Leagues and other Combinations within the area of the Association will be required to compete in at least one of its Cup Competitions, unless exemption is requested, which will be granted by the Competitions Committee, provided application is made before 15<sup>th</sup> August each year.

18. **The Playing Season**

(a) The FA Council will determine:

The Council of the Football Association shall determine annually the date on which the playing season shall commence and the date the season shall terminate not later than 31<sup>st</sup> May. Each League or Competition shall, within

the limits laid down by the Association, determine the length of its own playing season.

(b) The Close Season

The close season shall be the period between 1<sup>st</sup> June and 30<sup>th</sup> June each year. No matches, other than those permitted by the Association can be played during this period.

(c) After 30<sup>th</sup> June each year and prior to the commencement of the playing season, matches may be played between teams of the same or different clubs.

(d) Eligibility of Players

Players who have not previously been registered or recognised playing members of clubs, or who have not been engaged for the following season may play in matches after 30<sup>th</sup> June and prior to the commencement of the season.

(e) Football and Religious Observance/Playing on a Sunday.

No club, player or official, referee (or assistant referee) shall be compelled to participate in football on Sundays, Good Friday or Christmas Day except that membership or participation in Sunday football shall be taken as consent to play on Sundays, except when Christmas Day falls on a Sunday.

A Participant cannot be compelled to play football on bona fide occasions where religious observance precludes such activity save where the Participant:

- (i) has consented to do so on such occasions or
- (ii) is registered as a player under written contract, which shall be taken as consent to play on such occasions unless otherwise provided for in the contract.

Annually, when planning programmes, Competitions shall define and notify agreed dates of such occasions.

**19. Representative Matches**

Any player selected to play in an Inter-Association, or other match arranged by this Association and (without good and sufficient cause) failing to play in such a match, may be adjudged by the Association to have been guilty of misconduct, and any club who may be deemed to encourage or instigate such player to commit such breach of Regulation, shall be deemed guilty of a similar offence and shall be dealt with under Regulation 14.

**20. Charity Competitions**

No benefit or charity matches shall be played without the permission of the Association or the Football Association. The Secretary of each benefit or charity match shall, at the close of each match, forward to the Secretary of the Association an audited balance sheet together with the names of the clubs that competed and secretaries' addresses.

**21. Match Proceeds**

Any club or player competing in any match or competition, the proceeds of which are not devoted to a recognised Football Club, Football Association or some institution approved by this Association, or Affiliated Association, shall be liable to suspension or penalty by the Association as it may think fit.

22. **Contract Players**

The Rules of the Football Association for the time being in force with regard to Contract Players shall, so far as the same are applicable to this Association, be deemed incorporated in these Regulations, and clubs, players and members under the jurisdiction of the Association, infringing the same shall be liable to be dealt with as if here incorporated.

23. **Non-Contract Players**

Subject to the provisions of this Regulation, a Non-Contract Player is not restricted as to the clubs for which he may play, provided he complies with the rules and regulations of any competitions in which his club or clubs may be engaged.

24. **Notice of Approach**

No club nor any person shall, during the playing season, attempt to induce any non-contract player of a club in membership of this or any other Association affiliated to the Football Association to play for another club without at least seven days notice in writing to the Secretary of the Club for which the player was last known to have played, and the negotiations with the player must cease at the expiration of 21 days from the date of such notice being given. The notice must be forwarded by Special Delivery or a written acknowledgement otherwise obtained. A second notice shall not be given by the same club in respect of the same player during the current season. The approaching club or person shall not give notice of intention to approach more than one player of the same club within 28 days of a prior notice. Except with the written consent of the club, the seven days' notice is necessary if the first approach is made by the player, but this consent shall not be unreasonably withheld where circumstances of a special character exist, e.g. change of residence or non-selection for any team of the club for three consecutive weeks. Any dispute as to whether a consent has been unreasonably withheld may be referred to this Association or the Affiliated Association as the case may be. Breach of this Regulation shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of Regulations 12, 13, 14 & 15 of this Association.

25. **Observance of Regulations/Rules**

In all matters which are not especially provided for in these Regulations, and in which the common rules and practices of Football are concerned, the Rules, Regulations and Laws of The Football Association shall apply, and all Leagues, Combinations of Clubs, Clubs, Members and Players who have membership of this Association, either directly or indirectly, are responsible for the observance of those Rules, Regulations and Laws.

26. **Outstanding Monies**

The North Riding County FA may be requested to recover outstanding monies/debts from clubs, players, club officials or club members. The process for recovering such monies/debts shall be strictly in accordance with the FA's Memorandum of Procedures for Football Debt Recovery

Leagues are responsible for the maintenance of an up to date register of each Club and its Players and Officials.

27. **Personal Accident Insurance**

All adult Member Clubs, except those involved in Disability Football and / or Small Sided Competitions, are required to participate in any Personal Accident Insurance

scheme arranged by the Association or a Personal Accident Scheme to a similar level and so directed by the Board of the Association.