The Westmorland Senior Challenge Cup

1. **Name of Cup**

The Cup shall be called “The Westmorland Senior Challenge Cup”.

2. **Cup Ownership**

The Cup is the property of the Westmorland County Football Association Limited.

A Club may keep the cup for 7 (seven) days after winning the competition and it must then be returned to the Association, although a club may request it anytime for a further 7 (seven) days. The Association will be responsible for engraving the cup, the cost being recovered from the winning club.

Should the cup be lost, destroyed or damaged by any cause whilst under the care or custody of the club the latter shall refund to the Association the amount of it’s current value or the cost of thorough repair in addition to any other penalty which the Association may impose.

The winning club will be required to sign a document, upon receipt of the cup.

3. **Mementoes**

In addition to the cup, the Association shall present mementoes to the players and nominated substitutes in the Final Tie. When a player taking part is ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct, the memento to which he may be entitled will not be presented on the day and may be withheld at the discretion of the Council.

4. **Control of Competition**

The entire control and management of the Competition shall be vested in the Council.

The Council shall appoint a Cup Committee to control and manage the competition on their behalf and give decisions on matters arising out of the competition which, within the Rules, shall be deemed decisions of the Council. Clubs shall be bound to the competition and all requirements in this respect will be separately notified to clubs from time to time. In any matter not specifically mentioned in these Rules the Cup Committee shall have the power to take such action and impose penalties as it deems necessary.

5. **Eligible Clubs**

The Competition shall be open to all Saturday clubs in full membership of the Association.

6. **Dates for Entry**

Each club should indicate their intention to enter the competition on the Affiliation Form and return it to the Secretary, together with the entrance fee, so that the form is received on or before the 1st of August unless agreed otherwise by Council.

7. **The Draw and Kick Off Times**

a) The clubs shall be drawn in couples. These couples shall compete and the winners shall be drawn and shall compete in the same manner. This shall continue until the end of the competition, when the winning club shall hold the cup.

b) Immediately after each draw is made, notice shall be given to each club of the name of it's opponents, the date and time when the tie shall be played. The club shall acknowledge receipt of the appointment. All ties in each round shall be played on dates as the Council may determine.

c) The kick-off shall be 2pm for all matches on a Saturday or Sunday except in the months of December and January when it shall be 1.30pm. Midweek matches will be determined by Council. Only the Council shall have the power to order that a kick-off time is changed, as it deems appropriate.

8. **Free Dates**

Any club wishing to have a free date from all football activities must give at least 14 (fourteen) days' notice in writing to the Chief Executive, giving full reasons for the request. No game shall be postponed without the consent of the Council.

A club will be limited to 1 (one) vacant dates per team.

Any club wishing to have a free date from all football activities on the published Semi Final date must give at least 28 (twenty-eight) days' notice in writing to the Chief Executive, giving full reasons for the request. No game shall be postponed without the consent of the Council.

No free dates will be permitted for the published dates for Final ties.

9. **Venue for Ties**

In each Tie the game shall be played on the ground nominated at the time of entry to the competition by the club first drawn, unless otherwise mutually arranged, and the consent of the Council obtained.

Should a fixture be postponed on two occasions, then it shall be reversed on the third occasion.

If a 3G pitch is made available by either team on the home venue facility must be used.

A spectator barrier should be provided by the home club around the pitch for semi final ties.

10. **Club Colours**

Where the colours (shirts, shorts or stockings) of two competing clubs are similar the visiting club must change. In the Final both clubs must change, unless mutually agreed.

Team colours must not clash with the Black and White outfit which must be worn by the Match Officials.

Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from the other players and Match Officials.

Player's shirts shall be clearly numbered on the back in accordance with the match card, handed to the Referee before any tie and the Report Sheet.

Advertising upto a maximum of 32 square inches (200 square centimetres) may be worn on Player's clothing.

Prior to kick off a Safety Inspection of footwear and other equipment should be carried out on players from both teams by the Match Officials. The Home club must ensure that facilities are available to rectify faulty studs.

11. Duration of Matches

The duration of each match shall be one hour and a half, except where the scores are level, when an extra half-hour must be played, in all ties. If after extra time the scores are still level, then the result shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the Penalty Mark in accordance with the procedure adopted by The International Football Association Board. The half-time interval shall not exceed 15 (fifteen) minutes.

12. Provision for all Matches

a) Any late kick-off must be reported by the Referee to the Westmorland County Football Association and the Council shall have the power to impose a fine.

b) First Matches which are Postponed or Abandoned
When a first match has been postponed or abandoned before the completion of the game and neither club being at fault, it must be played on the same ground on a date arranged by Council.
Matches abandoned through the fault of the clubs shall be dealt with by the Council.

c) Whilst the Referee must be involved in any decision to postpone a fixture in accordance with the agreed procedure, the Home club must notify the Referee if the game is postponed for any other reason.

13. Floodlighting

At the discretion of Council or the Referee all or part of the game may be played under floodlights.

14. Reporting of Results

a) The Secretaries of each club shall send notice of the result on the Match Report form supplied with full names of the players competing to the Chief Executive of the Association, so that it is received within three (3) days of the match (Sundays not included).

b) Clubs failing to comply with this Rule or submitting an incorrect Match Report Form shall be subject to a fine as determined by council.

c) The Secretaries of Clubs drawn at Home must telephone, or e-mail the result to the Westmorland County Football Association within 2 (two) hours after the game.

15. Provision for Final Tie

The Council shall fix the ground for the Final Tie and shall have direct control of the arrangements.

No other League or Cup matches may be played on any member club's ground under the jurisdiction of the Association, without permission being given by Council to the League or individual clubs involved.

16. **Scratching from the Competition**

Clubs entering the competition will be allowed to withdraw on giving notice to the Chief Executive 7 (seven) days prior to the date of the first tie in the First Round and paying a withdrawal fee as detailed in the Membership Rules. This rule will apply to clubs having byes in the First round, as well as those drawn to play. A club withdrawing from the competition between the first tie and first Semi-Final, or refusing to or failing to keep any fixture, shall be fined any sum the Council may decide. No club shall withdraw in the Semi-Final or Final Ties. In addition to the fine the Council have power to remove any club from the competition for refusing to keep any fixture.

17. **Qualification of Players**

a) Unless a satisfactory reason is given, each Team shall represent the full available strength of each competing club.

b) A club may name and use at its discretion a maximum of 4 (four) substitute players at any time in a cup tie, except to replace a player who has been sent off by the Referee after play has commenced. A player who has been substituted may return to play as a substitute for another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of the Game. The substitute must be named on the Team Sheet handed to the Referee before the game.

c) In order to play in the competition a player must be a recognised member of the club who is without written contract and must have been registered with their respective league by 12 noon on the Friday previous to the date fixed for the match.

In order to be eligible for Semi-Final and Final, the players, must have been correctly registered and eligible for the Quarter Final Round of the Competition.

d) A player shall not in the same season play for more than one competing club, but the members of each respective team may be changed during the series of matches.

e) Clubs must hand a list of players taking part in the game on the Match Card (including the names of the substitutes) to the Referee 10 (ten) minutes prior to the kick-off. At the conclusion of the match, the card signed by the Referee shall be returned to the opposing club official, who will return it with the Result Sheet to the County FA Office. Failure to comply with result in a fine.

18. **Disqualification**

The Council shall have the power to disqualify and/or fine any competing club(s) or player(s) for any competing club(s) proved guilty of breaching the Rules of the Association or competition. The Council's decision will be final.

19. **Referees and Assistant Referees**

a) In all matches the Referee and Assistant Referees (for certain ties) shall be appointed from the list of those registered unless the Council agrees otherwise.

In the event of any Match Official failing to arrive or being incapacitated, the two clubs shall agree to a substitute who should be a registered referee if one is present at the ground if the two clubs cannot agree the captains must toss a coin to decide.

b) In all rounds preceding the Semi-Final each club must provide a Club Assistant Referee who shall be the same person and not a nominated substitute for the duration of the game. This person should introduce him/herself to the Referee 10 (ten) minutes before kick-off.

c) The fees and expenses of all officials appointed by the Association to officiate in any match prior to the final shall be paid, before the game in his/her dressing room by the club whose ground the match takes place unless otherwise instructed by the Council.

d) Fees to be paid to officials

i) All rounds prior to the Semi-Final
Referee..... £22.00

ii) Semi-Final Ties
Referee..... £24.00
Assistant Referees..... £12.00

Match Official fees and expenses shall be shared between two participating teams in all rounds. The home teams shall be responsible for payment of officials and will recover share from opponents.

iii) Final Tie
Referee..... Memento
Assistant Referees..... Memento
4th Official..... Memento

e) Expenses to be paid to Officials – An allowance of £0.30 per mile will be allowed to all officials.

f) Officials who travel to a game are entitled to their travelling expenses if incurred and half match fee, if the match is not played, following an inspection of the ground.

If an official travels to the game and either club fails to arrive the official is entitled to full Match Fee and travelling expenses, if incurred.

g) The Referee and Assistant Referee must report to the ground at least 30 (thirty) minutes before the time of kick-off, where they should be met by a representative of the home club.

h) Referees and Assistant Referees shall acknowledge acceptance of appointments for all matches in the competition to the County FA office within 7 (seven) days of receipt. In the week leading up to the game, the home club must communicate with the opposing Club and Match Officials regarding location of ground, kick-off time, colours and other necessary details.

i) The duties of the Referee and Assistant Referees shall be defined in Laws of the Game 5 and 6.

j) If a Referee is not contactable on a Match Day he/she must contact the Home club before travelling to the game.

20. **Protests**

a) All questions relating to the qualification of competitors or interpretation of the Rules, or any dispute or protest whatever shall be referred to the Cup Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties.

b) Every protest must be made in writing and must contain the particulars of the grounds upon which it is founded. Two copies of the protest must be lodged with the Association accompanied by a fee of £30.00 within 7 (seven) days of the match it relates (Sunday included). The fee shall be forfeited to the Association in the event of the protest not being sustained.

c) The Council may order any club engaged in a dispute or protest to pay such sum as may be considered necessary towards defraying the expenses incurred.

d) Any protest relating to the ground, goal post or bars or other appurtenances of the game shall not be entertained by the Council unless an objection has been lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match. The Referee shall require the responsible club to correct the cause of the objection, if this is possible without unduly delaying the progress of the match.

e) When an objection has been lodged with the Referee a protest must be made to the Association and neither objection or protest shall be withdrawn except by leave of the Council.

f) Each club may support its case by witnesses.

g) If a member of the Council is connected with a club concerned in a dispute or protest he/she shall not sit on the Council while the dispute or protest is being considered.

h) A club summoned to attend a Hearing of a dispute or protest may be represented by 1 (one) or more of it's members. Any person summoned to attend a Hearing of a dispute or protest must attend personally.

21. **Proceeds of Matches**

The proceeds of all matches upto the final tie shall be retained by the Home Club, who shall pay expenses to the Match Officials. The away club shall be responsible for their own travelling expenses.

The proceeds of the final tie shall be retained by the Association, who shall pay all expenses, excluding those of the competing teams.

22. **Admission Charges to Cup Ties**

The Admission Charge shall not exceed £3.00 unless otherwise decided by Council.

23. **Provisions Concerning Appeals**

a) A Club that is expelled from the Competition may appeal in writing within 7 (seven) days against that decision to an appeal board comprising of 3 (three) Members of Council selected by the Chairman of Council or his nominee. Any such appeal shall only be permitted on one or more of the following grounds:

   (i) The Cup Committee or appointed Sub Committee misinterpreted / failed to comply with the procedures relevant to dealing with the charge.

(ii) The Cup Committee or appointed Sub Committee came to a decision on the facts of the case which no reasonable body could have reached; or imposed a sanction that is excessive.

b) Any appeal must be made in accordance with such procedures and appeal fee as may be determined by The Association from time to time.

c) For the avoidance of doubt, a Club may not appeal against any penalty imposed on it other than expulsion from the Competition.