**STANDARD CODE OF RULES**

(For all Divisions with the exception of Premier Division and Division 1)

**DEFINITIONS**

1. (A) In these Rules:

“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 and “Team” means a side from a Club especially where a Club provides more than one Team in a division in accordance with the Rules.

“Competition” means the Midland 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 Board for any matters for which fees are payable under the Rules, as set out at schedule A.

“Fines Tariff” means a list of fines approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Board 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 Board 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.

“Playing Season” means the period between the dates 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 Birmingham County Football Association Limited.

“Scholarship” means a Scholarship as set out in Rule C 3 (a) (i) of the Rules of The FA.

“Season” means the period of time between an AGM and the subsequent AGM.

“Secretary” means such 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” means a team affiliated to a Club, including where a Club provides more than one team in the Competition in accordance with the Rules

“The FA” means The Football Association Limited.

“WGS” means the Whole Game System and the procedures for the operation thereof as determined by The FA from time to time.

“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 term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

**GOVERNANCE RULES**

**COMPETITION NAME, CONSTITUTION**

2. (A) The Competition shall be known as the Midland 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 exists or which ceases to be entitled to play in the competition for any reason whatsoever shall thereupon automatically cease to be a member of the competition.

 (B) This Competition shall consist of not more than 110 Teams approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

 (C) The geographical area covered by the Competition shall be whatever area the Board decide.

 (D)The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Competition acting (save where otherwise specifically mentioned herein) through the Board in accordance with the rules, regulations and the 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 Board in relation thereto, 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 an Affiliated 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. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

 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* 18 *in number.*

 (H) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

(i) This Competition and each Member 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 Association 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*.* Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines tariff.

 (J) All participants shall abide by the Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children 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 Board. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

 (L) At the AGM or a 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 shall be permitted from any Club to participate in the same division as another team from the Same Club unless there is no viable alternative because of logistical issues and/or reasons linked to participation and geographical boundaries. The Competition will obtain the prior approval of the Sanctioning Authority in the event of a division comprising of more than one team from the same Club. 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 via transfers of registration in accordance with Competition Rules.

**CLUB NAME**

3 Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority and from the Board. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT**

4. (A) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition *or the entry of an additional team(s)* from the same Club must be made in writing to the Secretary and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee as set out in the Fees Tariff, which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

At the discretion of a majority of the accredited voting members present applications, of which due notice has been given, may be received at the AGM or a SGM.

When Rule 22(B) is applied or a team seeks a transfer or, is compulsorily transferred to another division, no Entry Fee shall be payable.

(B)The Annual Subscription shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Team payable on or before the 31st July in each year.

(C) In the event of any issue concerning the membership of any Club with the Competition the Board may require a Deposit to be paid (in accordance with the Fees Tariff) by or on behalf of the Club on such terms and for such period as it may in its entire discretion think fit. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(D)A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the Entry Fee, Annual Subscription and Deposit (if required) have been paid.

(E) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 30th June of its Sanctioning Authority affiliation number for the forthcoming Season. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its Headquarters, its Officers and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION**

5. (A) The Management of the Competition shall comprise of the Officers of the Competition and Directors who shall be elected at the AGM.

 (B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination provided that the Officer notifies the Secretary in writing not later than 30th April each year.

 All other candidates for election as Officers of the Competition or members of the Board shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the secretaries of two Clubs, not later than 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 in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the AGM.

 (C) The Board shall meet as and when required, save that no more than three calendar months shall pass between each meeting. 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 nominated Officers and sent to the Secretary.

 Failure to comply with this Rule will result in accordance with the Fines.

**POWERS OF MANAGEMENT**

6. (A) The Board may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all sub- committees shall be reported to the Board for ratification. The Board shall have 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 the permission of the Sanctioning Association having been obtained the Board 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 upon each Club (including any Club which may have withdrawn during the season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the season.

(C) Each Member of the Board shall have the right to attend and vote at all Board Meetings and have one vote thereat, but no Member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such 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 Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

(D) The Board shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules 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 6(I), 8(H), and 9, for all breaches of a Rule the Board shall issue a formal written charge to the Club concerned. The Club charged shall be given 7 days from the date of notification to reply. In such reply a Club may:

 (i) Accept the charge and submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Board on the papers; or

 (ii) Accept the charge and notify that it wishes to put forward its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Board; or

 (iii) Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Board on the papers; or

 (iv) Deny the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Board.

Where the Club charged fails to respond within 7 days, the Board 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.

Having considered the reply of the Club (whether in writing, or at a hearing) the Board shall make its decision and, in the event that the charge is accepted or proven, decide on the appropriate penalty (with reference to the Fines Tariff where applicable).

With the exception of Teams playing at Step 7 of the National League System, the maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Board must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

The maximum fine permitted for a breach of a Rule by a Team playing at Step 7 of the National League System is £500.

No participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

All breaches of the Laws of the Game, or the Rules and Regulations of The FA shall be dealt with in accordance with FA Rules by the appropriate Association.

(E) All decisions of the Board shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7.

 Decisions of the Board must be notified in writing to those concerned within 7 days.

(F) More than 50% of its Members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Board or any sub-committee thereof.

(G) The Board, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill in an acting capacity, any vacancies that may occur amongst their number.

(H) A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Board and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Board. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(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 in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.

(J) A member of the Board appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or Competition Match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.

(K) The Board 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 Board may be transacted by electronic mail, post or facsimile.

**PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS**

7. (A) (i) All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Board or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Board.

(ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Board unless a protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the Competition Match.

(B) Except in cases where the Board decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within ten days (excluding Sundays) of the match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Board. A Member of the Board who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

(C) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Board unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum in accordance with the Fees Tariff. 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 inquiry 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 must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.

 (i) All parties must have received 7 days’ notice of the Hearing should they be instructed to attend.

 (ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person it should indicate such when forwarding the written response.

(E) The Board shall also have the power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the board shall direct.

(F) Any appeal against a decision of the Board must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of the posting of the written notification of the decision causing the appeal, accompanied by a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff) 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, in such respect 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 deadlines as are appropriate

 Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Board.

(G) No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless this is on the grounds 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 Board, or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Board. The Clubs or Players protesting, appealing, claiming or complaining must send a copy of such protest, appeal, claim or complaint and deposit a fee (as set out in the Fines Tariff) which shall be forfeited in the event of the protest, appeal, claim or complaint not being upheld, and the party not succeeding may, in addition, be ordered to pay the costs at the direction of the Board.

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

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

8. (A) The AGM shall be held not later than 30th June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least 50% of Members are present and entitled to vote:-

(i) To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding AGM.

(ii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.

(iii) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies

(iv) Constitution of the Competition for ensuing season.

(v) Election of Directors and Officers of the Competition.

(vi) Appointment of Auditors.

(vii) Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14).

(viii) Fix the date for the commencement of the Playing Season and kick off times application to the Competition.

(ix) Fix the date of the end of the Playing Season (save for Step 7 which shall be determined by the FA).

(x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted 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 14 days prior to the meeting, together with any proposed Rule changes.

(C) A signed copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet and statement of accounts shall be sent to the Sanctioning Authority within 14 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. 14 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 a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.

(G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Club.

(H) Any continuing Member Club must be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(I) Officers of the Competition and Board members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM.

(J) When a Competition is an incorporated entity, the Officers of the Competition shall ensure that the Articles of Association of the Competition are consistent with the requirements of these Rules.

**SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

9. Upon receiving a requisition signed by two thirds of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call a SGM.

The Board may call a 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 Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.

Any Club failing to be represented at a SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Officers of the Competition and Board shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs.

**AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED**

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, or upon indicating that the Club intends to compete.

 “We, (A) (name) [ ] of (address) [ ] (Chairman)/(Director)and (B) (name) [ ] of (address) [ ] (Secretary)/(Director)of [ ] Football Club (Limited) have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the [ ] Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, if elected or accepted into membership, 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:

1. Where a Club is an unincorporated association, the Club chairman and secretary; or
2. Where a Club is an incorporated entity, two directors of the Club.

Any alteration of the chairman and /or secretary of the Club on the above agreement must be notified to the County Football Association(s) to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary.

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

**CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB**

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 by 31st Marcheach Season. This does not apply to a Club moving in accordance with Rule 22(B). Failure to comply with the Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) The Board 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 in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(C) Notwithstanding the powers of the Board pursuant to Rule 6(I), in the event of a Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50, the Board shall be empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.

**EXCLUSION OF CLUBS OR TEAMS, MISCONDUCT, CLUBS, OFFICIALS, PLAYERS**

12. (A) At the AGM or SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, notice of motion having been duly circulated on the Agenda by the direction of the Board, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to (i) remove a member of the Board, or Officer of the Competition from office; (ii) exclude any Club or Team from membership which must be supported by at least 50% of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A member of the Board or Club which is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

(B) At the AGM, or at a 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, which must be supported by (more than) 51% 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 officer or member of a Club proved 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 the Board may decide and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion or such penalty as a General Meeting or the Board may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Clauses (A) and.0r (B) of this Rule.

**TROPHY: - LEGAL OWNERS, CONDITIONS OF TAKING OVER, AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED, AWARDS.**

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

“We A and B , the Chairman and Secretary of FC, members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of Cup or Trophy, and it 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 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 in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(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**

14. Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Association, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at a SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. Any alteration made during the playing season 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 31st January in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Board, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 30th April and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 14th May. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if 51% (a majority) of those present, 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 or The FA (as applicable) at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

**FINANCE**

15. (A) The Board shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.

 (B)All expenditure in excess of £50.00 shall be approved by the Board. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Board.

 (C)The financial year of the Competition will end on 31st March.

 (D)The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be *audited* annually by a suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

**INSURANCE**

16. (A) All Clubs must have public liability insurance cover of at least 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 Association. 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.

 Failure to comply with the Rule 16(A) or 16(B) will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**DISSOLUTION**

17 (A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a SGM by a majority of three quarters (3/4) 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 Board are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.

 (C) The Board 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 Authority.

(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.

**MATCH RELATED RULES**

**QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS**

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

 Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by an Officer of the Club and duly registered through WGS 4 hours prior to the Player playing and whose registration has been confirmed by the Competition prior to the Player playing in a Competition Match.

If a Club attempts to register a player via WGS but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via WGS, the registration will not be processed.

For Clubs registering players via WGS (under Rule 18 (A)) Clubs must access WGS in order to complete the registration process.

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

 (iii) (Under 21 Division ONLY)

Is under the age of 21 as at midnight of August 31st of the playing season, however 3 ‘over-age’ players will be permitted to be included on any Competition fixture team-sheet.

 (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 Club must have 11 players registered 14 days before the start of each Playing season. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

 (C) A Player that owes a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) to any Club(s) shall be permitted to register and play for a Club in the Competition, save that the Player may be liable to be suspended from playing for that Club should the Player fail to comply with the terms of the Football Debt Recovery Regulations in respect of that Football Debt.

 (D) A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered.

 (E) The Management Board shall decide all registration disputes.

In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted 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) (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 Playing Season except for the purpose of a transfer.

(iii)Submit a signed registration form or submit a registration through WGS for registration that the player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

(iv) Except when specific approval has been given by the Board a Club cannot sign or transfer more than one Player, contract or non-contract, from another Club at any one time unless a period of 14 days has elapsed between each signing.

(v) If a non-contract Player also registers for a club not in membership of the Competition, his registration for the Competition may be retained by the Club.

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

(G) (i) The Board shall have the power to accept the registration of any player subject to the provisions of Rule 18 (G) (ii) and (iii) below.

(ii) The Board 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 Board 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 Sanctioning Authority. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the player is registered or intending to be registered with. Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a participant from being involved in this Competition.

 (iv)For a player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18(G)(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 the player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition would be empowered to consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

(*Note:* Action under Rule 18(G)(iii) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any event be subject to an Appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. 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 any Competition (and is not restricted to the Competition) in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.

(H) Subject to compliance with FA Rule C2(a) when a Club wishes to register a Player who is already registered with another Club it shall submit a transfer form (in a format as determined by the Competition) to the Competition accompanied by a fee as set out in the Fees Tariff . Such 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 three days, the Secretary may, on behalf of the Board, transfer the Player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or 3 days after receipt of such transfer.

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

(I) A player may not be transferred to another Club in the Competition after 5.00 pm on the fourth Thursday in March each season except by special permission of the Board.

(J) A Club shall keep a list of the players it registers and a record of the games in which they have played, and shall produce such records upon demand by the Board.

(K) A register containing the names of all players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the *Registrations* Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of an Officer of the Club at all Board meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one Season only.

 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 his 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).

(L) A player shall not be eligible to play for a team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding match (as specified in Rule 22(A)) unless the player has played 6 Competition Matches for that team in the current season.

(M) Players’ registrations will normally be accepted until the end of the League season. The exception to this rule is that in any season a player who has registered for any team at Step 5 or above in the National League System shall not be allowed to register as a player for any club in the League after 31st March, apart from clubs in the Reserve Division or Under 21 Division where a player is already a player for that club*.*

(N) (i) Subject to Rule 18(N)(ii) any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a Competition match or matches where points were awarded shall have any points gained from that Competition match deducted from its record, up to a maximum of 12 points, and have levied upon it a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

 (ii) The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18(N)(i) 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(N)(i) above, the Board may also, at its discretion:

 a) 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

 b) Levy penalty points against the Club in default; or

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

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

 Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff

 (ii) The availability of children must be cleared with the Head Teachers.

 (iii)To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16.

**CLUB COLOURS.**

19. Every Club must register the colour of its shirts, shorts and socks with the Secretary by a date specified by the competition who shall decide as to their suitability. Any Club wishing to change its colours during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the Board.

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

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 the colours in which they will play (including the colours of the goalkeepers jersey) at least 5 days before the Competition Match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the *away* team shall make the change. Should a Team delay the scheduled time of kick off for a Competition Match by not having a change of colours they will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

The Secretary of the Competition may request shirts to be submitted if complaints are received as to lack of distinguishing colours, and the Management Committee may refuse to permit any shirts or shorts as they think fit.

Shirts must be numbered 1-11 and substitute shirts 12 to 16 (or 17 where 13 is excluded) such that the numbers can be clearly identified by officials and spectators. Striped, hooped or otherwise patterned shirts shall have numbers affixed to contrasting patches or numbers in a contrasting colour with bold outline, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Both sleeves of the shirts of all players in matches played under the jurisdiction of the Company shall carry a Competition logo as supplied by the Competition on an annual basis if so decided by the Board.

Shirt advertising must comply with FA Regulations.

**PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY, TIMES OF KICK-OFF. POSTPONEMENTS. SUBSTITUTES**

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 Competition Matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Board. If through any fault of the home team a match has to be replayed, the Board shall have power to order the venue to be changed.

The Board shall have power to decide whether a pitch and/or facilities are suitable for Competition Matches and to order the Club concerned to play its Competition Match(es) on another ground.

Football Turf pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition provided they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA’s Register of Football Turf pitches. All Football Turf Pitches used 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 Competition Matches shall have a duration of 90 minutes.

The times of kick-off shall be fixed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs prior to the scheduled date of the Competition Match with written notification given to the Competition at least 7 days prior.

Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition

The home team must provide goal nets, corner flags and at least three footballs fit for play and the referee shall report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) Except by permission of the Board all Competition Matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of the Fixture Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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) An Officer of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the match officials and an Officer of the opposing Club at least five clear days prior to the playing of the match. If not so provided, the away Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the competition.

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

(D) In accordance with the Laws of the Game, the minimum number of Players that will constitute a Team for a Competitive Match is 11. Failure to comply with the Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(E) (i) Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Board shall have power to inflict a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff), deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the match in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals. Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Board 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, Under 21 Team.

(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 Fixture Secretary, the Competition Referees Appointments Secretary, 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.

 (iv)In the event of a Competition Match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Board. Failing such agreement and notification to the *Fixture* Secretary within seven days the Board shall have power to order the Competition Match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and the Clubs involved agree, the Board shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand.

 (v) The Board shall review all Competition Matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Board shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In cases where the Board are satisfied that a Competition Match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Team or its Club Member(s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the Competition Match to the opponent. In cases where the Competition Match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams or their Club Member(s) the Board shall rule that neither Team will be awarded any points for that Competition Match and it shall not be replayed.

 No fine(s) can be applied by the Board for an abandoned Competition Match.

 (vi)The Board shall review any Competition Match that has taken place where either or both teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by The FA 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 and shall not be replayed.

(vii) All claims for compensation by either Club in the case of an abandoned match or a postponed match must be received by the League Secretary within 14 days of the date of the match to which the claim relates.

(F) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use substitute players in any Competition Match. A Club may name up to 5 substitute Players of whom not more than 3 may be used.

*(RESERVE AND UNDER 21 DIVISION ONLY) A player who has been substituted himself becomes a substitute and may replace a player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football. In these Divisions a Club may name up to 5 substitute Players of which all 5 may be used.*

The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitute Players not later than 15 minutes before the start of the match and a Player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match.

A player who has been named as a substitute before the start of the Competition Match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a Player in that Competition Match within the meaning of Rule 18 of this Competition.

(G) The half time interval shall not exceed fifteen minutes duration. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the Referee

(H) The Teams taking part in a Competition Match shall identify a Team Captain who shall wear a distinguishing armband to indicate his status and shall have the responsibility of the on-field discipline of his/her teammates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(I) Prior to each match the participating teams and officials shall conduct the ‘Respect’ handshake.

(J) All Clubs must have a facsimile machine, a mobile telephone and an email address, operational at all times. These will be listed in the Competition Handbook unless a Club requests otherwise.

(K) The standard kick-off times shall be as follows:

Saturday matches – 3.00 pm (unless implemented otherwise by the board)

Midweek matches – 7.45 pm (Unless otherwise implemented by the board) unless a Club notifies the Fixture Secretary in writing before the commencement of each Playing Season to state that it wishes all its home midweek matches to kick off at 7.30pm. Official bank holidays and Sundays – 3.00pm unless agreed otherwise by the two Clubs and the Board; application shall be made to the Competition Secretary by both Clubs at least 21 days before the relevant date.

To re-schedule a midweek fixture for an evening other than a Club’s usual midweek night will require written agreement of both Clubs and the Fixture Secretary.

The Fixture Secretary reserves the right to amend scheduled fixtures and kick-off times to meet television requirements as necessary. Notification will be provided by the Competition Secretary, in writing to both Clubs for fixtures so rescheduled.

(L) The Board shall determine the policy of the Competition for the issuing of match day passes.

(M) In all Competition Matches, the number of Clubs players and officials seated on the team benches, in the designated technical area, must not exceed 8 people.

(N) Only one person at a time has the authority to convey tactical instructions to the Players during the match from within the technical area.

(O) All team officials and substitutes seated on the bench shall be listed on the official team sheet when it is submitted to the Match Officials. Only those persons listed on the official team sheet shall be permitted in the technical area.

(P) The occupants of the technical area must behave in a responsible manner at all times. The Referee to The FA, who shall have the power to impose sanctions as deemed fit, will report misconduct by occupants of this area.

(Q) With the exception of the team manager, the team coach and any substitutes who are warming up or warming down, all other personnel are to remain seated on the trainer’s bench. The team manager or team coach is allowed to move to the edge of the technical area to issue instructions to his team.

(R) All substitutes must wear bibs as provided by the Competition when present in the technical area or whilst warming up during a Competition Match.

 Players who have been replaced in a Competition Match must wear a bib if they remain in the technical area after being replaced.

 Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable for a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(S) Each Club must hand the Team Sheet containing list of name(s) of players taking part in a match (including the name(s) and number(s) of the nominated substitute(s) to the Referee and a representative of their opponents in the presence of the Referee at least fifteen minutes before the scheduled time of kick-off. The players’ numbers (in accordance with Rule 17) and the colours of the playing strip must be clearly stated. Any Clubs in breach of this rule shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Any Club altering its team selection or numbering after team sheets have been exchanged may be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. A player who is named on the team sheet exchanged as above may be replaced without fine if he is injured warming up after exchange of the team sheet. Any subsequent changes must be notified to the referee and to a representative of the opponents before the actual kick-off.

**REPORTING RESULTS**

21. (A) The Registrations Secretary must receive within three days of the date played, the result of each Competition match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the team players and also the Referee markings required by Rule 23, or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to do so will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) Both Clubs shall SMS the result of each Competition Match to the Results Service by 5.30 pm on a Saturday or 10.15 pm for midweek matches. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP**

22. (A) Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn Competition Match. The teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective Divisions at the end of the Playing Season shall be adjudged the winners. Competition Matches must not be played for double points.

 In the event of two or more teams being equal on points at the end of the Playing Season, rankings shall be determined by goal difference (where the goals scored against each team shall be deducted from the goals scored by that team and the team with the most favourable goal difference shall be placed highest). In the event of two or more teams still being equal, the team which has scored the most goals during the Playing Season shall be placed highest. In the event of two or more teams still being equal, the Team that has won the most matches during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.

 In the event of two or more Teams still being equal, the Team which has the better playing record against the other Team in their head to head Competition Matches during the Playing Season will be placed highest.

 If the records of two or more Teams are still equal and it is necessary for any reason to determine the position of each then the Teams affected shall play a deciding match or matches under conditions as determined by the Board.

 (B) Automatic promotion and relegation shall be applied for the first two and last two teams in each Division except as provided for hereunder, subject to the provisions of Rule 2(L).

(i) Should one or more teams withdraw from any one Division after the Playing Season has 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:

(a) Retention of otherwise relegated team(s)

(b) Additional promotion of the next ranked team(s) from the Division below

(c) Election

(iii) The last placed team in the lowest Division shall retire, but be eligible for re-election except as below, and be subject to the conditions of Rule 22 (B) (i) above.

(C) Not Adopted

(D) In the event of a team withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the Playing 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 Match (es) which has been awarded by the Board.

(E) Not Adopted

(F) If any Clubs ceases to operate between the annual general meeting of the Company and the commencement of the following Playing Season, no adjustments to the number of the Clubs participating in the Competition will be made. The remaining Clubs will participate in the Competition for that season.

(G) (*Under 21 Division only)*

*Where more than one division is in operation, the teams adjudged winners of their respective divisions will enter into a series of play off matches as determined by the Board to decide the overall champions of the competition.*

**MATCH OFFICIALS**

23. (A) Registered Referees (and Assistant Referees where approved by the FA or County FA) for all matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Board and by the sanctioning Association(s).

 (B) In the event of the non-appearance of the *appointed Referee the appointed senior Assistant Referee shall take charge and a substitute Assistant Referee appointed by the competing Teams.* In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that Competition Match, 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 any Competition Match.

(C) Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(D) The appointed Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all Competition Matches and that decision shall be final.

 (E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Authority, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee. The home Club will be responsible for paying the Match Officials the fees and match expenses set by the Appointing Authority on the day of the match in their dressing room, within a reasonable time after the conclusion of the match. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(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 *half fee plus expenses.* 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 and expenses. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(G) A Referee not keeping his or her engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Affiliated Association with which he or she is registered.

 (H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by the FA, award marks to the Referee for each Competition 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 (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) or dealt with as the Board shall determine. When a Club considers that the Referee has discharged his duties incompetently and awards a mark of 60 or less, a detailed report must be send to the Appointing Authority within 3 days of the date of the match. Clubs failing to comply with this rule will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

 (I) The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the Form provided by the prescribed date each season, shall submit a summary to The FA.

(J) The Referee shall submit a report Form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the Competition match, the number of players in each team and the time of kick-off to the Referee Liaison Officer within three days of the match.

(K) Match Officials shall be supplied, each Season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.

(L) Not Adopted

(M) Match Officials should be present at the appointment at least 1 hour prior to the scheduled time of kick-off. The appointed Referee may be required to visit the ground earlier if requested to do so by the home Club.

(N) In cases where it is found necessary to stop play owing to the weather or other cause, the Referee must wait a reasonable length of time before deciding on abandonment.

(O) Referees must report on the relevant form all cases where teams commence a match late or without eleven players on the field of play. Referees must also report their own or any assistant referees’ late arrival in any matches, and notify those concerned at the time of their intention. Assistant referees must also send an explanation of their late arrival to the Appointing Authority in writing within 3 days of the match.

(P) The home Club shall be responsible for providing Assistant Referees with distinctive flags of a suitable size in an acceptable condition.

(Q) The visiting Club will be responsible for providing their own practice balls.

24 For Competition league matches only, the travelling expenses of match officials shall be pooled, each Club rendering on the match report details of all payments made. The Company shall, at the conclusion of the season, divide the total cost of officials in each division by the total number of Clubs in that division and where the total payment made by the Club is less than the equal share of the pool, the Club shall pay the difference within 14 days of the date of posting of the written notification to the Club. Where the sum paid by the Club is more than the equal share of the pool, the Club will be reimbursed from the pool of monies received from all the other Clubs.

25 The minimum charge for admission to all matches shall be determined from time to time by the Board.

Admission charges, excluding home Club concessions as appropriate, must be the same for home and visiting supporters at Competition matches.

Clubs may, with the written permission of the Board, have a maximum of three promotional days each Playing Season during which they can vary admission charges for adults including allowing free admission.

26 The Board shall be empowered to grant a long service award for 30 years’ service with a member Club, providing such an award has not already been made by any other competition

27 The Board shall present a club celebrating its centenary, whilst in membership of the Competition, with a commemorative award.

28 All Clubs shall have a therapist present throughout each Competition Match who has passed as a minimum “The FA Intermediate Treatment of Injury" course (or its equivalent) and who holds a valid first aid certificate.

29 Clubs who are in debt to the League will not receive any monies due from sponsorship or awards until their debt to the League is paid.

30 Each Club shall take, and pay for, a minimum of 4 tickets for the Annual Dinner at the price stated by the Board. If a Club is unable to attend there will be no refund or credit.

# 31 All clubs are to ensure that they partake fully with any scheme negotiated by the Board on behalf of member clubs.

# 32 Any player selected to represent the Competition in an inter league, F.A. specified match or special match shall not be allowed to play for his club on such a date or in a match up to 72 hours preceding, unless special permission is obtained from the Management Committee in writing. A player who is called into a League Representative squad, who is subsequent released is then available to play for his club on the date\* of the Representative fixture subject to the following: If the player is released from the squad for failing to arrive at any pre match meeting/training session then he can only play for his club on the date\* of the Representative match with prior permission from the Board. Such permission must be sought, in writing, by the club concerned.

## \* Date of fixture means 3 days either side of the date of the Representative fixture.

33 Clubs with 2 or more regular players in a League or County F.A. representative team may seek permission, in writing to have a League fixture postponed. In the case of dispute, the Management Committee’s decision shall be final.

# 34 Home clubs to provide after match hospitality in the form of food. Away clubs not staying for after match hospitality and not informing the home club upon receipt of confirmation of fixture details, may be liable to the costs of provision of such food as the Board may decide.

35 Each Club shall at all times comply with all reasonable requests by the Competition to ensure due compliance by the Competition with its commercial agreements and shall not enter into any new agreements with any direct competitor to the Competition’s title sponsor.

36 Each Club shall be obliged to utilise any match boards provided by the Competition’s sponsor and further shall be obliged to procure that any bench kit provided by a sponsor shall be worn during competitive and first team matches. In the event of any Club having an existing agreement with a competitor to the Competition’s sponsor in respect of match boards and bench kit, they should be entitled to honour that agreement but shall not renew the same.

37 Any distribution of any income received by the Company from any source whatsoever shall be entirely at the discretion of the Board.

38 The Company shall be entitled either directly or through its duly appointed agents to inspect the books, accounts and financial records of any Club and that Club shall make available to the Company all information as may be required from time to time in that respect.

39 A past President of the League shall be afforded the same privileges as those of a Life Member.

**Fees Tariff**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Subject Matter | Amount (£) |
| Grading | £85 |
| Application for membership | £135 |
| Annual Subscription per team | £185 |
| Registration Forms | £2 per Registration |
| Transfer forms | £6 per Transfer |
| Sporting sanctions appeal | £50 |
| Appeal to Board | £50 |
| Appeal to The FA | £50 |
| Appeal by player | £40 |
| Appeal by Club | £50 |
| Arbitration | £50 |

**Fines Tariff**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Offence | Rule | Minimum | Maximum |
| Failure to Affiliate | 2 (G) | £20.00 | £20.00 |
| Failure to comply with FA Initiatives | 2 (I) | £25.00 | £25.00 |
| Unauthorised entry of teams into competitions | 2 (K) | £25.00 | £50.00 |
| Failure to obtain consent for a change of name | 3 | £25.00 | £25.00 |
| Failure to provide affiliation number/details form | 4 (E) | £50.00 | £50.00 |
| Failure to comply with League instruction | 6 (H) | £15.00 | £250.00 |
| Failing to pay fines / charges on time | 6 (I) | £25.00 | £50.00 |
| Failure to be represented at A.G.M. | 8 (H) | £50.00 | £50.00 |
| Failure to be represented at SGM | 9 | £50.00 | £100.00 |
| Failure to return Rules & Regulations Form | 10 (ii) | £25.00 | £25.00 |
| Failure to provide notice of withdrawal before deadline | 11 (A) | £250.00 | £250.00 |
| Failure to commence/complete Fixtures | 11 (B) | £250.00 | £250.00 |
| Failure to submit the required written agreement regarding the trophy | 13 (A) | £15.00 | £25.00 |
| Failure to have the required insurance | 16 (A) | £150.00 | £150.00 |
| Failure to have the required insurance | 16 (B) | £150.00 | £150.00 |
| Failure to correctly register a player | 18 (A) | £25.00 | £25.00 |
| Failure to have the required number of players registered prior to the season commencing | 18 (B) (ii) | £25.00 | £50.00 |
| Bringing the Competition into disrepute | 18 (G) (iv) | £15.00 | £250.00 |
| Playing an ineligible player | 18 (N) | £50.00 | £250.00 |
| Delaying kick off due to no change colours | 19 | £15.00 | £25.00 |
| Failure to number shirts correctly | 19 | £25.00 | £75.00 |
| Late Kick-off (+ £2 per minute) | 20 (A) | £15.00 | £15.00 |
| Failure to Provide 3 suitable match balls prior to kick off | 20 (A) | £25.00 | £50.00 |
| Failure to provide details of a fixture | 20 (C)  | £15.00 | £15.00 |
| Playing a match with less than eleven players (per missing player) | 20 (D) | £15.00 | £15.00 |
| Failure to play fixture | 20 (E) (i) & (v) | £125.00 | £250.00 |
| Failing to notify all/any parties of postponed game | 20 (E) (iii) | £15.00 | £25.00 |
| No captains armband | 20 (H) | £15.00 | £15.00 |
| Technical Area Offences | 20 (M – Q) | £25.00 | £50.00 |
| Failure of Substitutes to wear bibs in technical area | 20 (R) | £20.00 | £40.00 |
| Altering team selection or numbering after team sheet exchange | 20 (S) | £15.00 | £15.00 |
| Late/No submission Incorrect/Missing details for Match Report Form | 21 (A) | £15.00 | £15.00 |
| Failure to provide result | 21 (B) | £15.00 | £15.00 |
| Failure to provide club assistant referee | 23 (C) | £25.00 | £25.00 |
| Failure to pay match officials’ fees and expenses | 23 (E) & (F) | £25.00 | £25.00 |
| Failure to provide Referee’s marks | 23 (H) | £15.00 | £15.00 |
| Failing to submit a detailed report within 3 days for mark 60 or under | 23 (H) | £15.00 | £15.00 |
| Not staying for after match hospitality (£10+Costs) | 34 | £10.00 | £10.00 |