**LANCASHIRE AMATEUR LEAGUE**

**END OF SEASON - CUP COMPETITION RULES**

1. To be competed for by teams in the League who chose to opt in.

2. “The knockout stage will be preceded by a “Mini-League” Stage on the following basis: The Fixtures Committee to decide the format of the League(s).

”Each team to play each other once. The winner of each group will play the winner of the 2nd/3rd place play off game from the other group in the semi final. The winner of those games will play each other in the Divisional Cup Final. E.g. Winner Group A v Winner of 2/3 play-off in Group B. Winner Group B v Winner of 2/3 play-off in Group A. Winners of these games to meet in Final.

3. All team members to be registered as per League rules.

4. The draw for all competitions to be determined and notified to clubs by the Fixtures Secretary.

5. All games to be played on scheduled date. If ground unavailable or unfit, game must be switched to opponent’s ground or neutral ground, if available. Failure to play game on scheduled date will result in forfeit of game, unless decided otherwise by the Fixtures Committee. The decision of the Fixtures Committee in such matters shall be final.

6. Colour clashes – home team to change, except for semi-finals and final wherein teams agree or both teams to change.

7. All matches of 90 minutes duration (result to stand if abandoned after 60 minutes). In the event of a draw in the knockout games the match will be decided by the taking of penalties (5 taken alternatively by different players from each side then, if still level, further players to take penalties until one side ahead after equal attempts).

8. Finals to be played on neutral grounds if available.

9. Kick-off times for all games – Saturday 2.30pm, (in the event of venue clashes ko time may be staggered to allow 2 games to be played at the same venue on the same date as to first game ko 1pm and 2nd game ko 3pm) Midweek 6.30pm

10. Referees for each game to be allocated (and assistants for semi-final and final) are communicated to clubs by Referee’s Secretary: if no referee appointed the usual League Rules apply. All cup fixtures to be confirmed with opponents and referee. Home club to ensure that the referee’s report form to be filled in and given to him. Match fees and expenses to be shared between both teams.

11. All match results to be telephoned to Rod Sharrock on 01704212888

12. No player may play in a cup competition for a side below the level of 1st eleven who has played in 3 or more of the club’s previous 6 games at any higher level than that of the competing team. Any club in breach of this rule will be disqualified from the current competition.

13. Referees’ and assistants’ fees to be shared by both teams.

14. Both teams for the semi-final and final shall provide a match ball, from which the referee will make a choice. In the final both teams to supply appropriate first aid equipment.

15. The League Management Committee shall have the right to exclude from the current or any future competition any side deemed to have acted against the rules or the spirit of the League’s cup competitions.

**Please note: Can I draw your attention to League Rule 18 (L) page 33 of handbook which covers the playing of ineligible players.**

**There has been no change to substitutes and remains as per Rule 20 (E).**

**Results: All results must be telephoned to Rod Sharrock on 01704212888 (both teams)**

**E & O E**