**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.

“Deposit” means a sum of money deposited with the Competition as part of the requirements of membership 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 Lancashire Amateur League.

“Competition Match” means any match played or to be played under the jurisdiction of the Competition.

“Secretary” means such person or persons appointed or elected to carry out the administration 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.

“Fees Tariff” means a list of fees approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any matters for which fees are payable under the Rules.

“Fines Tariff” means a list of fines approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any breach of the Rules.

“Full time” means the FA Full time portal

“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 management committee 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. “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 date 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 Lancashire County Football Association Limited. “Scholarship” means a Scholarship as set out in Rule C 3 (a) (i) of the Rules of The FA.

“Team Sheet” means a form provided by the Competition on which the names of the Players taking part in a Competition match are listed. “The FA” means The Football Association Limited.

“WGS” means the whole game system and the procedures and 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.

1. Unless stated otherwise, terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to plural and vice-versa.

**GOVERNANCE RULES**

**COMPETITION NAME, CONSTITUTION**

2.(A)The competition will be known as the Lancashire Amateur League (or such other name as the Competition may adopt) The clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A club that ceases to exist or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.

 (B) The Competition shall consist of no more than 56 clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

 © The geographical area covered by the Competition shall be Lancashire and Cheshire.

(D)The administration of the Competition under these rules shall be carried out by the Competition acting (save where otherwise specifically mentioned herin) through the Management Committee in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of the FA.

(E)All clubs shall be affiliated to the rules. Every club shall be deemed, as member of the Competition to have accepted the rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee 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 FS from time to time. In the event of any omission 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 been approved by the Sanctioning Authority. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine in accordance with the fine tariff. This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to Sanctioning Authority and the constituent teams of Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding 14 in number.

(H) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

 (i) The Competition and each 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 e ach 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, reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise.

 (I)clubs must comply with the provision 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 with this rule will result in a fine in accordance with the fine 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 competition (with the exception of FA or County FA competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine in accordance with the fine tariff.

 (L) At the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the constitution 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 logical 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 these Rules.

**CLUB NAME**

3. Any club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the sanctioning authority and from the management committee. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT**

4. (A) Applications by Clubs for admission to the 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 the Entry Fee per team as set out in the Fees Tariff per team 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 Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting.

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 Club/team payable on or before the Annual General Meeting of the Competition in each year. Clubs with 4 or more teams shall pay a maximum of £200.00 in Annual Subscription.

©In the event of any issue concerning the membership of any Club with the Competition the Management Committee 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 1st August 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, Officers and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION**

5 (A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and at least 7 ordinary members who shall all be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

(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 1st June in each year.

All other candidates for election as Officers or Members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two Member Clubs, not later than 20th May in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting.

©The Management Committee shall meet as and when required save with no more than three calendar months 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 a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**POWERS OF MANAGEMENT**

6 (A) The Management Committee 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 Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee 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 Authority having been obtained, the Management Committee 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.

©Each Member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee 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 Management Committee 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 alleged breaches of Rule a formal written charge must be issued to the Club concerned The Club charged shall be given seven days from the date of notification of the charge to reply. In such reply a club may:

1. Accept the charge and submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
2. Accept the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee
3. Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
4. Deny the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee.

Where the club charged has failed to respond within 7 days, the Management Committee 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 (weather in writing or at a hearing), the Management Committee 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 the rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Management Committee must ensure 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 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 Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7.

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

(F)40%) of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any sub-committee thereof.

(G)The Management Committee, 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 Management Committee and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. 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 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 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.

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

(K)The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the Annual General or Special General Meeting called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the playing season.

(L)The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail 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 Management Committee.

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

(B) Except in cases where the Management Committee 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 5 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 Management Committee. A Member of the Management Committee 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.

©No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee 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 enquiry 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.

* 1. All parties must have received 7 days’ notice of the Hearing should they be instructed to attend.
	2. Should a Club elect to state its case in person then the Club should indicate such when forwarding the written response.

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

(F) Any appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority within fourteen (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 submission by the parties involved.

 (ii) convene a hearing to hear the appeal.

* 1. Permit new evidence, or
	2. Impose deadlines as are appropriate.

(G) No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an Annual General meeting 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 Management Committee, or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee. 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 Fees 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 Management Committee.

All such protests claims complaints and appeals must be received 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 30 Members are present and entitled to vote:-

1. To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding AGM.
2. To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
3. Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
4. Constitution of the Competition for ensuing season.
5. Election of Officers and Management Committee.
6. Appointment of Auditors.
7. Alteration of Rules, if any. (see Rule 14)
8. Fix the date for the commencement of the season (save for Step 7 which shall be set by the FA).
9. 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 fourteen days prior to the meeting, together with any proposed change of Rules.

©A signed copy of the duly audited/verified Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to Sanctioning Authority within fourteen 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. Fourteen days’ notice shall be given of any Meeting.

(E)Clubs who have withdrawn their Membership of the Competition during the 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 Club must be represented at the AGM

Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the fine tariff.

(I) Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM.

(J) Where a competition is an incorporated entity, the officers of the competition should ensure that the articles of association of the competition are consistent with the requirements of these rules.

**SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

9 Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call a SGM.

The Management Committee may call a SGM at any time.

At least seven days’ notice shall be given of either 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 SGM. 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 and Management Committee members 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 the coming season, or upon indicating that the club intends to compete. The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the Cup or Trophy:-

“We (A) (name) of (address), the Chairman/director and (B) name ( ) of (address) Secretary/director of Football club (Limited), have been presented with a copy of the rules and regulations of the LAL competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said club, if elected or accepted into membership to conform to these 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 incorporated 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 on the above agreement must be notified to the county football association 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, 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 March each Season. This does not apply to a club moving in accordance with rule 22(B). Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine I n accordance with the fine tariff.

(B)The Management Committee 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 fine tariff.

©Notwithstanding the powers of the management committee pursuant to rule 6(I), in the event a Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50, the Management Committee are empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.

**EXCLUSION OF CLUBS, TEAMS. MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.**

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 direction of the Management Committee, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to: (i) remove a member of the management committee from office; (ii) exclude any Club or Team from membership which must be supported by more than two thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A 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) two-thirds (2/3) 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.

©Any official 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 Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Clause (A) and/or (B) of this Rule.

**TROPHY**

13(A) Your club was presented with the……………………….trophy/ trophies at the Presentation Dinner and the League now requires the Chairman and Secretary of your club to acknowledge the acceptance of the following undertakings by signing and returning the attached duplicate of this letter.

In signing this letter you jointly and severally undertake to:

**• Ensure the safekeeping of these on behalf of the League and to recompense the League for any loss or damage • Attend to any engraving requirements prior to return • Ensure the cleanliness of returned trophies**

**• Arrange for the return of the trophies to the League at any of the January meetings of clubs or to a member of the League Council before the end of next January.**

Failure to return trophies by the due date will result in your club’s being fined £30. Yours sincerely,

League Secretary Signed by:

Chairman…………………………… Name……………………….. Secretary …………………………... Name………………………...

On behalf of ……………………………(club) Date…………………..

Failure to return trophy(s) by 31st January or Regional meetings will result in a fine £30.

(B) Not applicable

**ALTERATION TO RULES**

14. Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, 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 to these Rules shall not take effect until the following season.

Notices of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the secretary by 1st May each year. The proposals, together with any from the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the clubs by 25th May and any amendments shall be submitted to the secretary by 30th May. The proposals and amendments thereto shall be circulated to the clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present and entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the sanctioning authority at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

**FINANCE**

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

(B)All expenditure in excess of £ 200 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.

©The financial year of the Competition will end on 30th May.

(D)The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be audited annually by some suitable 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 association, the minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which the club affiliated.

Failure to comply with rule 16(A) and 16(B) will result in a fine in accordance with the fine 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 Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.

©The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:

* 1. 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 Association.
	2. 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;

* 1. signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by an Officer of the Club which is submitted to the Competition 48hrs prior to the player playing and whose registration has been confirmed by the Competition prior to that player playing in a competitive match.
	2. signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink on a match day prior to playing, countersigned by an Officer of the Club and witnessed by an Officer of the opposing Club, and submitted to the Competition within two days of the match. The Player shall not play again until the Club is in possession of the approval of the Competition. A maximum of 2 player may be registered in accordance with this paragraph (18(A)(ii)
	3. Players previously registered on LAL3 may be registered en bloc on LAL3a at the start of the season. Any player not returned on LAL3A to the Registration Secretary will not be registered to play and will need to be reregistered
	4. registered through the whole game system.

Any registration form which is sent by either of the means set out at Rules 18 (A) (i) or (ii), (iii) above that is not fully and correctly completed will be returned to the club unprocessed. If a club attempts to register a player via the WGS but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via the WGS, the registration will not be processed. Players registered through the whole game system, details of the player’s name, DOB, address and postcode must be sent to the Registration Secretary 48hrs prior to playing.

For clubs registering players under Rules 8(B) (i), (ii) or (iii) registration forms will be provided in a format to be determined by the Competition. For clubs registering players via the WGS (under rule 18(A) (iv)) 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 fine tariff.

(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.

1. Each Club must have at least 14 Players registered 7 days before the start of each Playing Season.

Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine in accordance with the fine tariff.

©A player that owes a Football Debt (as defined under 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 Committee 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 Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

(F)It shall be a breach of Rule for a player to:-

(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, registers for another

Club in the Competition in that season except for the purpose of a transfer.

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

Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine in accordance with the fine tariff.

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

(ii)The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player or may fine any player, at their discretion who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 7).

(iii)The Management Committee 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 case be subject to an Appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or 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 three 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 Management Committee, transfer the Player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date after receipt of such transfer.

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

(I)A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 31st March except by special permission of the Management Committee.

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

(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 any duly appointed Member Club representative at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one Playing 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 3 games for that team in this Competition in the current season.

(M) Not applicable.

(N)

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

(ii) The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to deduction in points set out in rule 18(N)(i) above 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.

1. Where a club has been found to have played an ineligible player in accordance with rule 18(N)(i) above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion:
2. Award the points available in the competition match in question to the opponents, subject to the competition match not being ordered to be replayed.
3. Levy penalty points against the club in default; or
4. Order that such competition match be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).

(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 will result in a fine in accordance with the fine tariff.

* 1. The availability of children must be cleared with the Head Teachers (except for Sunday Leagues).
	2. To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16.

(P)Not applicable.

**CLUB COLOURS**

19 Every club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the secretary by 1st August who shall decide as to their suitability.

Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Management Committee.

Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all 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 colour of the goalkeeper’s jersey) at least 1 day before the match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the home 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 shall be fined in accordance with the fine schedule.

Shirts must be numbered, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the fine tariff.

**PLAYING SEASON, CONDITIONS OF PLAY, TIMES OF KICK-OFFS, 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.

Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their grounds in a playable condition. All matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee. If through any fault of the home team a match has to be replayed, the Management Committee shall have power to order the venue to be changed.

The Management Committee shall have power to decide whether a pitch and/or facilities are suitable for matches in the Competition and to order the Club concerned to play its fixtures on another ground.

Football Turf pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition providing they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA’s Register of Football Turf pitches. All Football Turf Pitches 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).

Within the National League Structure (NLS) all matches shall have duration of 90 minutes All matches outside the NLS shall have a duration of 90 minutes unless a shorter time (not less than sixty (60) minutes) is mutually arranged by the two Clubs in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves. Two matches involving the same two teams can be played on the same day providing the total playing time is not more than 120 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 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 and at least two Nike footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable.

1. Except by permission of the Management Committee all matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The Football Association 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 (Fixtures) Secretary. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine in accordance with the fine 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).

1. 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 2 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 will result in a fine in accordance with e fine tariff. In cases where the condition of the ground has deteriorated prior to the game being played, and an alternative ground (acceptable to the management committee) is provided, the opposition, so informed, must fulfil the fixture.
2. In accordance with the rules of the Game, the minimum number of players that shall constitute a team for a competition match is 7. Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the fine tariff.
3. (i) Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have power to inflict a fine (in accordance with the fine 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 Management Committee 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. Match not played – (BOTH CLUBS INVOLVED IN A MATCH NOT PLAYED FOR ANY REASON OTHER THAN AN UNFIT PITCH MUST e-mail/text THE DISCIPLNE SECRETARY WITHIN 24H, excluding Sunday, OF THE POSTPONEMENT). Specific penalties and fines to be imposed on defaulting clubs; 1st team – Premier Division £50 other Division £30, 2nd team £25, other teams £20. In the event of the defaulting club not advising their opponents of their inability to keep the engagement then the fine will be increased by 50%. All postponed games will be reviewed, and where games are awarded the defaulting club shall be deducted 1 point.
	1. 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, A Team.
	2. Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a fixture has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the (Fixtures) Secretary, the Competition Referees Appointments Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the match officials.
	3. In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Fixtures Secretary within 2 days the Management Committee shall have power to order the 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 Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance to fine tariff.
	4. The Management Committee 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 Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a 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 match to the opponent. In cases where a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule all points for the match as void. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match.
	5. The Management Committee shall review any competition match that has taken place where either or both teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by the Association 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.
4. 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 3 substitute players of whom 3 may be used.

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.

The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than 5 minutes before the start of the match and a Player not so named may not take part in that match.

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

1. The half time interval shall be of 5 minutes’ duration, but it shall not exceed fifteen minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.
2. The teams taking part in fixture Competition Match shall identify a team captain who may wear an armband and shall have responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his/her team mates. Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the fine tariff.

**REPORTING RESULTS**

21 (A) The Discipline Secretary must receive within 7 days of the date played, the result of each Competition match in the prescribed manner (LAL4). This must include the forename(s) and surname of the team players (in block letters). The referee marks (LAL6) required by Rule 13, should be sent to the Referee’s assistant secretary within 5 days of the match. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine in accordance with fines tariff.

(B)Both Clubs shall SMS text to notify the result of each match to Full Time within 1 hr of completion of the game. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine in accordance with fines tariff.

©The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of the Club. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine in accordance with 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 match. The teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective Divisions at the conclusion shall be adjudged the winners. Matches must not be played for double points.

In the event of two or more teams are equal on points team at the end of the playing season, rankings shall be determined by goal difference where the goals scored against by each team shall be deducted from the goals scored by that team and the largest positive difference shall be placed the highest. In the event of the goal difference 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 most matches during the playing season shall be placed the highest

In the event of the two 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 Season shall 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 as determined by the Management Committee.

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

(C) Not applicable.

(D)In the event of a team withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting teams 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 Management Committee.

(E) (i) Promotion and relegation in the premier division and divisions 1 and 2 shall be 2 up and 2 down, with the exception that any club winning promotion to the premier division and division 1 whose ground and facilities are not considered adequate by the Management Committee, and any club who has not been awarded the F.A. Charter Standard accreditation shall not be promoted to the Premier Division.

(ii)No more than two clubs may be relegated. When two-up two-down has been completed and either the Premier or Division One contains fewer than 14 teams, then the highest placed team (s), in Division One and Two respectively eligible for promotion will be promoted.

(iii)Promotion and relegation in the remaining divisions shall also be two up and two down, except that

(a)no 2nd. XI may be promoted higher than division 1;

(b)no 2nd. XI may play in the same division as its own 1st. XI, or 3rd. XI in the same division as the club’s 2nd. XI;

(c)therefore, if any conflict between the promotion of a 2nd. or 3rd. XI and the relegation of a 1st. or 2nd. XI, the latter to have primacy;

(d)new clubs in principle would come into division 2, even if some 1st. XIs had previously been relegated from it. However, introduction of new clubs shall not result in relegation of an existing 1st XI from any division.

(e) If clubs drop out of the Competition, divisional composition to be adjusted according to Football Association guidelines, unless Rule 22 D applies.

**MATCH OFFICIALS**

(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 Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Authority.

(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 Assistant Referees, the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that game, 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 open age competition.

©Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee. Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff. Clubs are asked to volunteer non-playing members who can be trained on assistant referee courses run by the LFA at no cost to the club. It is intended that all Premier league teams will be required to provide an LFA-trained non-playing assistant referee with effect from the 2018-19 season when no league appointed Assistant Referees are available.

(D)The appointed Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and the decision shall be final subject to the determination of the Local Authority or the owners of a ground, which must be accepted.

(E)Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the sanctioning Association, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee in accordance with the fines tariff (£29) and travel expenses of 25p per mile.

Match officials will be paid their fees and expenses by the Home Club immediately after the match. Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff.

(F)In the event of a 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 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 Football Association, award marks to the Referee for each 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 Management Committee shall determine.

(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 Football Association/County Association.

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

(K)Referees and Assistant Referees shall be supplied, each Season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.

(L)Referees and Assistant Referees shall have undertaken a Respect briefing offered by the FA/County FA or the League.

1. Subject to approval by the Sanctioning Authority, as an alternative to wearing black shirts, referees and assistant referees may wear coloured shirts provided that;

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

14.(A)A 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 March each Season.

1. The Management Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a team being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season.
2. In the event of a Member Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50, the Management Committee are empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.

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 [ ]. 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.”

On receiving a trophy at or about the time of the presentation dinner the club shall receive the following letter and duly sign for and observe its contents:

Dear….

LEAGUE TROPHIES

Your club was presented with the……………………….trophy/ trophies at the Presentation Dinner and the League now requires the Chairman and Secretary of your club to acknowledge the acceptance of the following undertakings by signing and returning the attached duplicate of this letter.

In signing this letter you jointly and severally undertake to:

**• Ensure the safekeeping of these on behalf of the League and to recompense the League for any loss or damage • Attend to any engraving requirements prior to return • Ensure the cleanliness of returned trophies**

**• Arrange for the return of the trophies to the League at any of the January meetings of clubs or to a member of the League Council before the end of next January.**

Failure to return trophies by the due date will result in your club’s being fined £30. Yours sincerely,

League Secretary Signed by:

Chairman…………………………… Name……………………….. Secretary …………………………... Name………………………...

On behalf of ……………………………(club) Date…………………..

Failure to return trophy(s) by 31st January or Regional meetings will result in a fine £30.

(B) Not applicable

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

17.(A)At the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting called for the purpose, Notice of Motion having been duly circulated on the Agenda by direction of the Management Committee, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude any Club or Team from membership which must be supported by (more than) two thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club which is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

1. At the Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, 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) two-thirds (2/3) 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.

1. Any official 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 expulsion or such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Clause (A) of this Rule.
2. All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on the Form “D” to the [ ] County Foot ball Association and must have a constitution approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Lancashire County Football Association and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding 16 in number.

1. 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 these Rules.
2. Inclusivity and Non-discrimination
	1. The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting

inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination

* 1. Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.
1. 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.
2. 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 Management Committee.
3. At the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the constitution of the divisions at their discretion. When necessary this Rule shall take precedence over Rule 12.

**ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT**

3.(A) Applications by Clubs for admission to the 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 the Entry Fee set out in the Fees Tariff per team 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 Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting.

When Rule 12(B) is applied or a team seeks a transfer or, is compulsorily transferred to another division, no Entry Fee shall be payable.

1. The Annual Subscription shall be as set out in the Fees tariff per Club/team payable on or before the Annual General Meeting of the Competition in each year. Clubs with 4 or more teams shall pay a maximum of £200.00 in Annual Subscription.
2. In the event of any issue concerning the membership of any Club with the Competition the Management Committee may require a Deposit to be paid by or on behalf of the Club on such terms and for such period as it may in its entire discretion think fit.
3. A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the Entry Fee, Annual Subscription and Deposit (if required) have been paid.
4. Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 1st August 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, Officers and any other information required by the Competition.

See Fines Tariff.

**MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION**

4.(A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and and at least 7 ordinary members who shall all be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

1. All candidates for election as Officers or Members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two Member Clubs, not later than 10th May in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting.
2. The Management Committee shall meet as and when required with no more than three calendar months 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.

1. 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.
2. All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their nominated Officers.

**POWERS OF MANAGEMENT**

5.(A) The Management Committee 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 Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee 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.

1. Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained the Management Committee 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.
2. Each Member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee 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.

1. The Management Committee 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 5(I), 6(H)and 19, for all breaches of Rule a formal written charge must be issued to the Club concerned The Club charged shall be given seven days from the date of notification of the charge to reply to the charge and given the opportunity to:(i) Accept or deny the charge

* 1. Submit in writing a case of mitigation, or
	2. Put their case before the Management Committee at a personal hearing 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.

Any fines levied shall be in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

The maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Competition must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

1. All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16.

Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within ten days.

1. More than fifty percent (50%) of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any sub-committee thereof.
2. The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill in an acting capacity, any vacancies that may occur amongst their number.
3. A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee.
4. All fines and charges are payable forthwith and must be paid within 21 days of the date of 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 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.
5. A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.
6. The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the Annual General or Special General Meeting called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Competition season.
7. The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

6.(A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 30th June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least

[ ] Members are present and entitled to vote:-

1. To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
2. To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
3. Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
4. Constitution of the Competition for ensuing season.
5. Election of Officers and Management Committee.
6. Appointment of Auditors.
7. Alteration of Rules, if any.
8. Fix the date for the commencement of the season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.
9. Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.
10. A copy of the duly audited/verified Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least fourteen days prior to the meeting, together with any proposed change of Rules.
11. A signed copy of the duly audited/verified Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to Sanctioning Authority within fourteen days of its adoption by the Annual General Meeting.
12. Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Fourteen days’ notice shall be given of any Meeting.
13. Clubs who have withdrawn their Membership of the Competition during the 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 17.
14. 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.
15. No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Member Club. (H) Any continuing Club must be represented at the Annual General Meeting.

(I) Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an Annual General Meeting.

**AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED**

7. The Chairman and the Secretary of each Club which is an unincorporated Association and two directors of each Club which is an incorporated entity 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 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 16.”

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

**QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS**

8.(A) (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.

1. While serving in any branch of Her Majesty’s Regular Forces, a player must first obtain the consent of his Association Secretary before signing a registration form to play for the Club.
2. Each Club must have at least 14 Players registered 7 days before the start of each Playing Season.
3. A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has;
	1. signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by an Officer of the Club which is submitted to the Competition 48hrs prior to the player playing and whose registration has been confirmed by the Competition prior to that player playing in a competitive match.
	2. signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink on a match day prior to playing, countersigned by an Officer of the Club and witnessed by an Officer of the opposing Club, and submitted to the Competition within two days of the match. The Player shall not play again until the Club is in possession of the approval of the Competition. A maximum of 2 player may be registered in accordance with this paragraph (8bii)
	3. Players previously registered on LAL3 may be registered en bloc on LAL3a at the start of the season. Any player not returned on LAL3A to the Registration Secretary will not be registered to play and will need to be reregistered
	4. registered through the whole game system.

Any registration form which is sent by either of the means set out at Rules 8 (B) (i) or (ii), (iii) above that is not fully and correctly completed will be returned to the club unprocessed. If a club attempts to register a player via the WGS but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via the WGS, the registration will not be processed. Players registered through the whole game system, details of the player’s name, DOB, address and postcode must be sent to the Registration Secretary 48hrs prior to playing.

For clubs registering players under Rules 8(B) (i), (ii) or (iii) registration forms will be provided in a format to be determined by the Competition. For clubs registering players via the WGS (under rule 8(B) (iv)) clubs must access WGS in order to complete the registration process.

1. Not applicable
2. A player that owes a Football Debt (as defined under 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.
3. A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/team for each player registered.
4. The Management Committee 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 Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

1. It shall be a breach of Rule for a player to:-
	1. Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same season without first being transferred.
	2. Having registered for one Club in the Competition, registers for another

Club in the Competition in that season except for the purpose of a transfer.

* 1. Submit a signed registration form or submit a registration through the WGSfor registration that the player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.
1. The Management Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any player subject to the provisions of clauses (ii) and (iii) below.
	1. The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player or may fine any player, at their discretion who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 16).
	2. The Management Committee 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 16) subject to the right of appeal to the FA or the relevant County Football Association. Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a participant from being involved in this Competition. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the player is registered or intending to be registered with.
	3. For a player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with clause (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 Clause (iii) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any case be subject to an Appeal to the Football Association. 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 a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence for any team playing in this Competition.)

1. 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 three 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 Competition Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the Player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date after receipt of such transfer.

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

1. A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 31st March except by special permission of the Management Committee.
2. 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 Management Committee.
3. 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 any duly appointed Member Club representative at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one Season only.

In the event of a 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 player without a written contract will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 8(A)(i).

1. A player shall not be eligible to play for a team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding match (as specified in Rule 12(A)) unless the player has played 3 games for that team in this Competition in the current season. (N) Not applicable
2. Any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a match or matches shall have any points gained from that match or matches deducted from its record, up to a maximum of 12 points, and have levied upon it a fine. The Management Committee may also order that such match or matches be replayed on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee which may also levy penalty points against the Club in default.

The Management Committee may vary this decision in respect of the points gained 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.

In exceptional circumstances the Management Committee may, at its discretion, award the points available in the match in question to the opponents, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.

1. (The following Clause applies to Competitions involving players in full-time secondary education):-
	1. Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities.
	2. The availability of children must be cleared with the Head Teachers (except for Sunday Leagues).
	3. To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16.

**CLUB COLOURS. CLUB NAME**

9.(A) Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by [date] who shall decide as to their suitability.

Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all 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 colour of the goalkeepers jersey) at least [ ] days before the match. If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the away/home team shall make the change. A club must delay the scheduled time of kick off for a completion match by not having a change of colours. Shirts must be numbered.

(B) Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority and from the Management Committee. Any Club wishing to change its colours during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the Management Committee.

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

10.(A)The Annual General Meeting shall determine the date for the commencement of the season.

(B) All 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 matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee. If through any fault of the home team a match has to be replayed, the Management Committee shall have power to order the venue to be changed.

The Management Committee shall have power to decide whether a pitch and/or facilities are suitable for matches in the Competition and to order the Club concerned to play its fixtures on another ground.

Football Turf pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition providing they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA’s Register of Football Turf pitches. For clubs playing at Step 7 and below a pitch 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 10(D). Within the National League Structure (NLS) all matches shall have duration of 90 minutes All matches outside the NLS shall have a duration of 90 minutes unless a shorter time (not less than sixty (60) minutes) is mutually arranged by the two Clubs in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves. Two matches involving the same two teams can be played on the same day providing the total playing time is not more than 120 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 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 and at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable.

1. Except by permission of the Management Committee all matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The Football Association 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 (Fixtures) Secretary.

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).

1. The Secretary 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 the Secretary of the opposing Club at least 2 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.
2. A minimum of 7 players will constitute a team for a Competition match.
3. (i) Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have power to inflict a fine, 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 Management Committee 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. Match not played – (BOTH CLUBS INVOLVED IN A MATCH NOT PLAYED FOR ANY REASON OTHER THAN AN UNFIT PITCH MUST e-mail/text THE DISCIPLNE

 SECRETARY WITHIN 24H, excluding Sunday, OF THE

POSTPONEMENT). Specific penalties and fines to be imposed on defaulting clubs; 1st team – Premier Division £50 other Division £30, 2nd team £25, other teams £20. In the event of the defaulting club not advising their opponents of their inability to keep the engagement then the fine will be increased by 50%. All postponed games will be reviewed, and where games are awarded the defaulting club shall be deducted 1 point.

* 1. 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, A Team.
	2. Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a fixture has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the (Fixtures) Secretary, the Competition Referees Appointments Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the match officials.
	3. In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Fixtures Secretary within 2 days the Management Committee shall have power to order the 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 Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand.
	4. The Management Committee shall review all 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 Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a 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 match to the opponent. In cases where a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule all points for the match as void. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match.
	5. The Management Committee shall review any match that has taken place where either or both teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by the Association 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 8(O) above. Where both teams were under suspension the game must be declared null and void.
1. A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use 3 substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from 3 players.

Except for matches played at Step 7 of the National League System 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.

The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than [ ] minutes before the start of the match and a Player not so named may not take part in that match.

A player who has been selected, appointed or named as a substitute before the start of the match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a player in that game within the meaning of Rule 8 of this Competition.

1. The half time interval shall be of 5 minutes’ duration, but it shall not exceed fifteen minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.
2. The Cubs taking part in fixture Competition Match shall identify a team captain who has a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his/her team mates.

**REPORTING RESULTS**

11.(A)The Discipline Secretary must receive within 7 days of the date played, the result of each Competition match in the prescribed manner (LAL4). This must include the forename(s) and surname of the team players (in block letters). The referee marks (LAL6) required by Rule 13, should be sent to the Referee’s assistant secretary within 5 days of the match.

1. Both Clubs shall SMS text to notify the result of each match to Full Time within 1 hr of completion of the game.
2. The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of the Club.

**DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP**

12.(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 match. The teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective Divisions at the conclusion shall be adjudged the winners. Matches must not be played for double points.

In circumstances where two or more teams are equal on points team rankings shall be determined by goal difference where the goals scored against by each team shall be deducted from the goals scored by that team and the largest positive difference shall be placed the highest. In the event of the goal difference being equal the highest placed team shall be the team which has scored the most goals. In the event that two or more teams have the same goal difference and have scored the same number of goals then the highest placed team shall be the team which has won the most matches.

In the event of the two 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 Season will be the highest placed team.

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 as determined by the Management Committee.

(B) Automatic promotion shall be applied for the first two teams and automatic relegation shall be applied to the last two teams in each Division except as provided for hereunder, subject to the provisions of Rule 2(B). (C) Not applicable.

1. In the event of a team withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting teams shall be expunged from the Competition table. For the purposes of this rule 12(D) a completed fixture shall include any Competition match(es) which has been awarded by the Management Committee.
2. (i) Promotion and relegation in the premier division and divisions 1 and 2 shall be 2 up and 2 down, with the exception that any club winning promotion to the premier division and division 1 whose ground and facilities are not considered adequate by the Management Committee, and any club who has not been awarded the F.A. Charter Standard accreditation shall not be promoted to the Premier Division.
	1. No more than two clubs may be relegated. When two-up two-down has been completed and either the Premier or Division One contains fewer than 14 teams, then the highest placed team (s), in Division One and Two respectively eligible for promotion will be promoted.
	2. Promotion and relegation in the remaining divisions shall also be two up and two down, except that
		1. no 2nd. XI may be promoted higher than division 1;
		2. no 2nd. XI may play in the same division as its own 1st. XI, or 3rd. XIin the same division as the club’s 2nd. XI;
		3. therefore, if any conflict between the promotion of a 2nd. or 3rd. XI andthe relegation of a 1st. or 2nd. XI, the latter to have primacy;
		4. new clubs in principle would come into division 2, even if some 1st. XIshad previously been relegated from it. However, introduction of new clubs shall not result in relegation of an existing 1st XI from any division. (e) If clubs drop out of the Competition, divisional composition to be adjusted according to Football Association guidelines, unless Rule 12 D(i) applies.

**REFEREES**

13.(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 Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Authority.

1. 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 Assistant Referees, the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that game, 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 open age competition.
2. Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee. Clubs are asked to volunteer non-playing members who can be trained on assistant referee courses run by the LFA at no cost to the club. It is intended that all Premier league teams will be required to provide an LFA-trained non-playing assistant referee with effect from the 2018-19 season when no league appointed Assistant Referees are available.
3. The appointed Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and the decision shall be final subject to either in the case of a ground of a Local Authority or the owners of a ground, the Representative of that body is the sole arbiter and whose decision must be accepted unless the ground is declared fit for play.
4. Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the sanctioning Association, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee of £25 and travel expenses of 25p per mile.

The Home Club shall pay the Officials their fees and/or expenses before/immediately after the match.

1. In the event of a 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.
2. 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 Association with which he or she is registered.
3. Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The Football Association, award marks to the Referee for each 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 or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.
4. 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 Football Association/County Association.
5. The Referee shall submit a report Form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the match, the number of players in each team and the time of kick-off to the (Registration) Secretary within two days of the match.
6. Referees and Assistant Referees shall be supplied, each Season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.
7. Referees and Assistant Referees shall have undertaken a Respect briefing offered by the FA/County FA or the League.
8. Subject to approval by the Sanctioning Authority, as an alternative to wearing black shirts, referees and assistant referees may wear coloured shirts provided that;

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

14.(A)A 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 March each Season.

1. The Management Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a team being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season.
2. In the event of a Member Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50, the Management Committee are empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.

**PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS**

15.(A)(i) All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee.

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

1. Except in cases where the Management Committee 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 5 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 Management Committee. A Member of the Management Committee 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.
2. No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee 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 enquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.
3. 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.
	1. All parties must have received 7 days’ notice of the Hearing should they be instructed to attend.
	2. Should a Club elect to state its case in person then the Club should indicate such when forwarding the written response.

**PROTESTS, APPEALS**

16.(A)All protests, claims or complaints relating to these Rules and appeals arising from a Player’s contract shall be heard and determined by the Management Committee, or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee. The Clubs or Players protesting, appealing, claiming or complaining must send a copy of such protest, appeal, claim or complaint and deposit a fee 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 Management Committee.

1. 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.
2. The Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Management Committee shall direct.
3. Any appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority within fourteen (14) days of the posting of the written notification of the decision causing the appeal, accompanied by a fee 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.
4. If so requested the Management Committee may arbitrate on any disputes, protests, appeals, claims or complaints between two Clubs in which event both Clubs shall send a non-returnable fee. Such arbitration shall be final and binding upon the parties to the arbitration.
5. No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an Annual General meeting unless this is on the grounds of unconstitutional conduct.

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

17.(A)At the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting called for the purpose, Notice of Motion having been duly circulated on the Agenda by direction of the Management Committee, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude any Club or Team from membership which must be supported by (more than) two thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club which is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

1. At the Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, 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) two-thirds (2/3) 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.

1. Any official 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 expulsion or such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Clause (A) of this Rule.

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

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

“We (A) (name) and (B) (name), the Chairman and Secretary of FC (Limited), 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 [ ]. 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.”

On receiving a trophy at or about the time of the presentation dinner the club shall receive the following letter and duly sign for and observe its contents:

Dear….

LEAGUE TROPHIES

Your club was presented with the……………………….trophy/ trophies at the Presentation Dinner and the League now requires the Chairman and Secretary of your club to acknowledge the acceptance of the following undertakings by signing and returning the attached duplicate of this letter.

In signing this letter you jointly and severally undertake to:

**• Ensure the safekeeping of these on behalf of the League and to recompense the League for any loss or damage • Attend to any engraving requirements prior to return • Ensure the cleanliness of returned trophies**

**• Arrange for the return of the trophies to the League at any of the January meetings of clubs or to a member of the League Council before the end of next January.**

Failure to return trophies by the due date will result in your club’s being fined £30. Yours sincerely,

League Secretary Signed by:

Chairman…………………………… Name……………………….. Secretary …………………………... Name………………………...

On behalf of ……………………………(club) Date…………………..

Failure to return trophy(s) by 31st January or Regional meetings will result in a fine £30.

(B) Not applicable

**SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

19. Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting.

The Management Committee may call a Special General Meeting at any time. At least seven days’ notice shall be given of either 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 Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only, as will members of the Management Committee.

Any continuing Member Club must be represented at a Special General Meeting. Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all Special General Meetings.

**ALTERATION TO RULES**

20. Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 19. Any alteration made during the Playing Season to these Rules shall not take effect until the following season.

Notices of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the secretary by 1st May each year. The proposals, together with any from the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the clubs by 25th May and any amendments shall be submitted to the secretary by 30th May. The proposals and amendments thereto shall be circulated to the clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present and entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the sanctioning authority at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

**FINANCE**

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

1. All expenditure in excess of £ 200 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.
2. The financial year of the Competition will end on 30th May.
3. The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be audited annually by some suitable person(s) who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

**INSURANCE**

22. All Clubs must have public liability insurance cover of at least 10 million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.

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 Football Association is the sanctioning association, the minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which the club affiliated.

**DISSOLUTION**

23. (A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a Special General Meeting by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant Special General Meeting.

1. In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.
2. The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:
	1. 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 Association.
	2. 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.

**FEES TARIFF**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| RULE NUMBER | DESCRIPTION | FEE |
| 3(A) | ENTRY FEE | £50.00 |
| 3(B) | ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION | £100.00Additional teams £50.00 to a maximum of £200.00 |
| 3(C) | BOND | £50.00 |
| 8(E) | REGISTRATION FORM | £- |
| 8(I) | TRANSFER FORM | £5.00 |
| 13(E) | REFEREE FEES | £25.00 |
| 13(E)  | ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES | £15.00 |
| 15(C), 16(A), 16(G) | PROTEST/APPEAL FEES | MAX £50.00 |

**FINES TARIFF**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| RULE NUMBER | DESCRIPTION | FEE |
| 3(E) | FAILURE TO PROVIDEAFFILIATION NUMBER/DETAILS FORM | £50.00  |
| 5(D) | BREACH OF ANY RULE | Max £250.00 |
| 5(H)  | FAILURE TO COMPLY  | Fined or penalised as |
|  | WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  | Management decides |
| 5(H) | SPECIFIC FINES | SEE APPENDIX 3 |
| 5(I) | FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN 21 DAYS OF NOTICE | £50.00 |
| 6(H)  | FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM | £30.00 |
| 8(B), (E) | FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER PLAYERS AND REGISTRATION FEES | SEE APPENDIX 3 |
| 10(B) | PITCH REQUIREMENTS | SEE APPENDIX 3 |
| 10(B) | LATE KICK-OFF | MAX £20.00SEE APPENDIX 3 |
| 9(A), 10(B) | DELAYING KICK OFF/NO NETS/ NO CORNER FLAGS | £30.00 |
| 10(D) | FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE  | £30.00 |
| 10(F) (i) & (iii) | FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE | SEE APPENDIX 3 |
| 10(F) ii | GAMES NOT PLAYED IN | MAX £50.00 |
|  | ORDER OF SENIORITY | SEE APPENDIX 3 |
| 11(A) | FAILURE TO SUPPLY  | £20.00  |
|  | REFEREES MARKS | SEE APPENDIX 3 |
| 11(A) & 11(C) | FAILURE TO SUPPLY TEAM  | £10.00  |
|  | SHEET | SEE APPENDIX 3 |
| 11(B)  | FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT | SEE APPENDIX 3 |
| 13(C) | FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE | £15 |
| 14(A) | WITHDRAWAL FROM LEAGUE AFTER 31ST MARCH | MAX £100.00 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 14(B) | WITHDRAWAL OF TEAM AFTER START OF SEASON | MAX £50.00 |
| 14(B) | FAILURE TO START/COMPLETE FIXTURES | MAX £250.00  |
| 18(A) | FAILURE TO RETURN TROPHY(S) BY DUE DATE | £30.00 |
| 19 | FAILURE TO ATTEND SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING | £30.00 |
| 9 (A) | TEAM SHEET INCORRECTLYFILLED IN | £5 EACH OFFENCE |