

northamptonshire c o m b i n a t i o n

Handbook Season 2015-2016

League sponsors:

Teamwork Sports & Trophy Centre: (01536) 263487

www.teamworksports.co.uk

Duston Garage (Bosch Service): (01604) 756711

www.dustongaragecarsales.co.uk

Northampton Self Store: (01604) 716444

www.selfstoreit.co.uk

also at Wellingborough: 01933 222063 & Corby 01536 268686

Up to date contact information can be accessed online via FA Full Time & at www.northantscombination.co.uk

Full Members Meetings

Venue: Sixfields Stadium, Upton Way, Northampton. NN5 5QA

Monday 7th September 2015
Monday 8th February 2016
AGM—Monday 6th June 2016

League Officers

General Secretary: D.R. JARRETT

Tel: 01604 245940 Mob: 07878 492483

david.jarrett@ntlworld.com

Treasurer: M.S. NAYLOR

Tel: 01604 584324

michael_naylor2@sky.com

Referees Secretary: S. CHENEY

Mob: 07793 241099

simoncheney@hotmail.co.uk

Registration Secretary: R. MASON

Mob: 07833 904502

richard.mason27@btinternet.com

Fixture Secretary: J. PIGGOTT

Tel: 01933 680793 Mob: 07957 856643

jeffpiggott@btinternet.com

RESULTS to be **TEXTED** in by:

Saturday—17:15

Mid-week — 21:00

Constitution 2015/16

PREM		THREE		
1	Brixworth All Saints	1	AFC Houghton Magna	
2	Clipston	2	Corby Kingswood	
3	Corby S& L Khalsa	3	Corby Ravens	
4	Daventry Drayton Grange	4	Corby Strip Mills	
5	Earls Barton United	5	Delapre Old Boys 'A'	
6	Gretton	6	Finedon Falcons	
7	Harpole	7	Grange Park Rangers	
8	James King Blisworth	8	Gretton Reserves	
9	Kettering Nomads	9	Irthlingborough Town	
10	Milton	10	JLB FC	
11	Moulton	11	Kettering Nomads Reserves	
12	Ringstead Rangers	12	Stanwick Rovers	
13	Roade	13	Wboro Gleneagles	
14	Stanion United	14	Wilby	
15	Weldon United	15	Wollaston Victoria Reserves	
16	Welford Victoria			
ONE		FOUR		
1	AFC Corby Shamrock	1	AFC Shamrock Reserves	
2	Burton United	2	Brixworth All Saints Reserves	
3	Corby Eagles	3	Bugbrooke St Michaels B	
4	Corby Grampian	4	Corby Pegasus Reserves	
5	Corby Pegasus	5	Corby United	
6	Finedon Volta	6	Daventry Drayton Grange Reserves	
7	Heyford Athletic	7	Desborough & Rothwell Reserves	
8	Higham Ferrers	8	Earls Barton United Reserves	
9	Kettering Orchard Park	9	Harpole Reserves	
10	Medbourne	10	Irthlingborough Rangers	
11	Spratton	11	Medbourne Reserves	
12	Wboro Rising Sun	12	Stanion United Reserves	
13	Weedon	13	Weedon Reserves	
14	Wollaston Victoria	14	Weldon United A	
15	Wootton St George			
TWO		FIVE		
1	Bugbroke St Michaels A	1	Corby Domino	
2	Corby Locos	2	Corby United Reserves	
3	Desborough & Rothwell United	3	Daventry Rangers	
4	Higham Town	4	Finedon Falcon Reserves	
5	JK Blisworth Reserves	5	Findon Volta Reserves	
6	Kettering Park Rovers	6	Heyford Athletic Reserves	
7	Kislingbury	7	Higham Town Reserves	
8	Moulton Reserves	8	Irthlingborough Town Reserves	
9	Npton Spartak	9	Kettering Ise Lodge	
10	Ringstead Rangers Reserves	10	Spratton Reserves	
11	Roade Reserves	11	Wellingborough Gleneagles Reserves	
12	Wboro Aztecs	12	West Haddon Albion Reserves	
13	Weldon United Reserves	13	Wilby Reserves	
14	West Haddon Albion	14	Wootton Rhinos	
15	Woodford Wolves			

AFC Corby Shamrock

Ground: Woodsend Pavilion, School Place, Gainsborough Road, Corby, Northants.

NN18 0QP

Secretary: Michael Kelly

Address: 13, Stavanger Close, Corby, Northants. NN18 9HT

Email: h8mek@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07737 250406



Shorts: Black

Socks: Green





Shorts: Black

Socks: Black

Reserves



Shorts: Black

Socks: Black

AFC Houghton Magna F.C.

Ground: Village Hall, Leys Lane, Great Houghton, Northampton. NN4 7Al

Secretary: Phil Roach

Address: The White Hart, 39 High Street, Great Houghton, Northampton. NN4 7AF

Email: robert_garrett80@hotmail.com

Mobile: 07771 359459

First Team

Alternative



Shorts: Green **Shorts:** TBC

Socks: Yellow Socks: TBC

Brixworth All Saints F.C.

Ground: St Davids Playing Fields, Entrance via Froxhill Cres, Brixworth, Northants.

NN6 9EA

Secretary: Peter Anscomb

Address: 4, Eastfield Road, Brixworth, Northants. NN6 9ED

Email: neldred@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07948 409298 Telephone: 01604 880114 Ground: 01604 880073



Bugbrooke St Michael F.C.

Ground: Bugbrooke Playing Fields, Birds Close, Gayton Road, Bugbrooke, Northants.

NN73RN

Secretary: Graham Connew

Address: 51, Pilgrims Lane, Bugbrooke, Northants. NN7 3PJ

Email: graybags05@btinternet.com

Mobile: 07799 492280 Telephone: 01604 880114



Burton United F.C.

Ground: Toll Bar Road, Islip, Northants. NN14 3LH

Secretary: Charlie Hull

Address: 54, Spinney Road, Burton Latimer, Kettering, Northants. NN15 5ND

Email: hull897@gmail.com

Mobile: 07825 131794 Telephone: 01536 722284



Clipston F.C.

Ground: Clipston Playing Field, Station Road, Clipston, Northants.LE16 9RW

Secretary: Matt Bates

Address: Porter House, Lutterworth Road, Swinford, Leicester. LE17 6BA

Email: batesm@rpsgroup.com

Mobile: 07805 003974 **Telephone:** 01788 860417



Socks: Blue & Red Socks: Yellow

Corby Domino F.C.

Ground: TBC

Secretary: Christopher Mutch

Address: 61, Glastonbury Road, Corby, Northants. NN18 0DD

Email: chrismutch@mail.com

Mobile: 07914 798475 Telephone: 01536 263112

First Team Alternative



Shorts: Black Shorts: TBC

Socks: Black Socks: TBC

Corby Eagles F.C.

Ground: West Glebe South Pavilion (4), Cottingham Road, Corby, Northants. NN17

1SZ

Secretary: Sukhwinder Kaur

Address: 18, Manitoba Close, Corby, Northants. NN18 9HX

Email: corbyeagles84@outlook.com

Mobile: 07999 996058 **Telephone:** 01536 461661



Shorts: Black Shorts: Black Socks: Black

Corby Grampian F.C.

Ground: West Glebe South Pavilion (1), Cottingham Road, Corby, Northants. NN17

1SZ

Secretary: Chris Chalmers

Address: 30, The Avenue, Corby, Northants. NN18 5EE

Email: corbygrampian@yahoo.co.uk

Mobile: 07769 950049 **Telephone:** 01536 400596



Shorts: Blue Shorts: Blue

Socks: Red Socks: Blue

Corby Kingswood F.C.

Ground: Abington Road, Corby, Northants. NN17 2SF

Secretary: Susan Mabbott

Address: 101, Beanfield Avenue, Corby, Northants. NN18 0AU

Email: susanmabbott@yahoo.co.uk

Mobile: 07596 668750



Corby Locos F.C.

Ground: West Glebe South Pavilion (4), Cottingham Road, Corby, Northants. NN17

1SZ

Secretary: David Holmes

Address: 55, Oakley Road, Corby, Northants. NN18 9NH

Email: holmsey1969@gmail.com

Mobile: 07799 405933



Corby Pegasus F.C.

Ground: West Glebe South Pavilion (3), Cottingham Road, Corby, Northants. NN17 1SZ

Secretary: William McAuley

Address: 7, Yardley Close, Corby, Northants. NN17 2YE

Email: w.mcauley@sky.com

Mobile: 07506 101263 **Telephone:** 01536 204663



Corby Ravens F.C.

Ground: Kingswood Community Centre, Alberta Close, Corby, Northants. NN18

9HU.

Secretary: Andrew Watson

Address: 29, Eastbrook, Corby, Northants. NN18 9BL

Email: andywat67@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07845 521589 **Telephone:** 01536 745806



Shorts: Red Shorts: Black

Socks: Red Socks: Yellow & Black

Corby S&L Khalsa F.C.

Ground: Occupation Road, Corby, Northants. NN17 1EH

Secretary: John Davies

Address: 6, Manitoba Close, Corby, Northants

Email: foundrychairman@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07588 018397 **Telephone:** 01536 743236



Shorts: Black Shorts: Blue Socks: Orange Socks: Blue

Corby Strip Mills F.C.

Ground: West Glebe South Pavilion (1), Cottingham Road, Corby, Northants. NN17

1SZ

Secretary: Rob McNally

Address: 11, Tay Close, Corby, Northants. NN17 2EP

Email: rob.mcnally@rs-components.com

Mobile: 07952 554287



Corby United F.C.

Ground: West Glebe South Pavilion (2), Cottingham Road, Corby, Northants. NN17 1SZ

Secretary: Thomas Brown

Address: 26, Lynton Grove, Exeter Estate, Corby, Northants. NN18 8BP

Email: thomasbrown_corbyutd@yahoo.com

Mobile: 07598 681806 **Telephone:** 01536 400815



Daventry Drayton Grange F.C.

Ground: Mayfield Park Sports Club, Royal Star Drive, Daventry, Northants. NN11

9FZ

Secretary: Paul White

Address: 143, The Medway, Daventry, Northants. NN11 4QY

Email: p.white1955@btinternet.com

Mobile: 07739 867966 **Telephone:** 01327 876670



Daventry Rangers F.C.

Ground: Sports Park, Browns Road, Daventry, Northants. NN11 4NS

Secretary: Josephine Edgar

Address: 12, Derwent Close, Daventry, Northants. NN11 4RA

Email: davrangers@hotmail.com

Mobile: 07828 156102 **Telephone:** 01327 439429



Delapre F.C.

Ground: Sports Ground, Wootton Hall Police HQ, Mereway, Northampton. NN4

0JF

Secretary: James Kerr

Address: 103, Martins Lane, Hardingstone, Northampton. NN4 6DJ

Email: j.kerr139@sky.com

Mobile: 07771 745319 Telephone: 01604 709715



Desborough & Rothwell United F.C.

Ground: Montsaye Academy, Greening Road, Rothwell, Northants. NN14 6BB

Secretary: Jonathan Manning

Address: 59, Littlewood Street, Rothwell, Northants. NN14 6DU

Email: jonnyjamesman@aol.com

Mobile: 07907 591685 **Telephone:** 01536 713510



Earls Barton United F.C.

Ground: The Grange, Northampton Road, Earls Barton, Northants. NN6 0HA

Secretary: Anne Cleaver

Address: 8, Cordon Crescent, Earls Barton, Northants, NN6 0HA

Email: anne.ebufc@ntlworld.com

Mobile: 07971 607193 Telephone: 01604 466366



Finedon Falcons F.C.

Ground: Kennedys Tower Sports, Irthlingborough Road, Finedon, Northants. NN9 5EJ

Secretary: James Damrell

Address: 44, Croftmeadow Court, Thorplands, Northampton. NN3 8QA

Email: damrell744@msn.com

Mobile: 07907 591685 **Telephone:** 01536 713510



Finedon Volta F.C.

Ground: Finedon Recreation Ground, Wellingborough Road, Finedon, Northants.

NN9 5JT

Secretary: Gail Smith

Address: 204, Kingsley Avenue, Kettering, Northants. NN16 9EY

Email: gailsecrdsfl@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07825 616703



Grange Park Rangers F.C.

Ground: Foxfields, Foxfields Way, Grange Park, Northampton. NN4 5BE

Secretary: Andy Suchocki

Address: 7, Hazel Copse, Grange Park, Northampton, NN4 5BY

Email: andysuchocki@gmail.com

Mobile: 07958 696682 **Telephone:** 01604 768737



Gretton F.C.

Ground: Gretton Recreation Ground, Kirby Road, Gretton, Northants. NN17 3DB

Secretary: Kieran Sweeney

Address: 48, Watson Close, Corby, Northants. NN17 4AN

Email: grettonfootballclub@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07710 872129



Harpole F.C.

Ground: Playing Field, Larkhall Lane, Harpole, Northampton. NN7 4DP

Secretary: Dean Mills

Address: 5, Galileo Close, Duston, Northampton. NN5 6GR

Email: deanmills1710@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07584 993728



Heyford Athletic F.C.

Ground: Playing Field, Middle Street, Nether Heyford, Northants, Northants. NN7

3LL

Secretary: Bob Hancox

Address: 80, Rochelle Way, Duston, Northampton, NN5 6YW

Email: heyfordafc@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07850 763983 **Telephone:** 01604 752421



Higham Ferrers F.C.

Ground: Vine Hill Drive, Saffron Road, Higham Ferrers, Northants. NN10 8EF

Secretary: Derek Styman

Address: 10, Heron Close, Burton Latimer, Northants. NN15 5TL

Email: derekstyman@btinternet.com

Mobile: 07807 286925 **Telephone:** 01536 420803



Higham Town F.C.

Ground: First Team - Maracana Irthlingborough Recreation, Scarborough

Street, Irthlingborough, Northants. NN9 5TT

Reserves - Eastfield Park, Gold street, Wellingborough, Northants. NN8 4AT

Secretary: Cory Attwell

Address: 29,Lodge Way, Irthlingborough, Northants. NN9 5YJ

Email: irthlingboroughtownfc@hotmail.com

Mobile: 07903 004910 **Telephone:** 01933 652226



James King Blisworth F.C.

Ground: Blisworth Playing Field, Courteenhall Road, Blisworth, Northants. NN7 3DD

Secretary: Sam King

Address: Northampton. NN4 0XB

Email: sam.king@jameskingplant.co.uk

Mobile: 07976 247338



JLB F.C.

Ground: Kislingbury Playing Fields, Beech Lane, Kislingbury, Northampton. NN7

4AL

Secretary: Chris Templar

Address: 22, Fallowfields, Crick, Northants. NN6 7GA

Email: cjtemplar@gmail.com

Mobile: 07732 324712



Kettering Ise Lodge F.C.

Ground: Community Centre, St Vincents Avenue, Kettering, Northants. NN15 5DR

Secretary: Kelly Meagan

Address: 9, Margaret Road, Kettering, Northants. NN16 0QH

Email: meag01@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07877 184892



Kettering Nomads F.C.

Ground: Orlingbury Road, Isham, Nr Kettering, Northants. NN14 1HY

Secretary: Tim Dale

Address: 13, High Street, Rushton, Kettering, Northants. NN14 1RQ

Email: tim.j.dale70@gmail.com

Mobile: 07888 876567 **Telephone:** 01536 710479



Kettering Orchard Park F.C.

Ground: Weekley Glebe, Weekley Glebe Road, Kettering, Northants. NN16 9NS

Secretary: Mark Craddock

Address: 11, Holly Road, Kettering, Northants. NN15 6WW

Email: rickcooper@live.co.uk

Mobile: 07737 645127



Kettering Park Rovers F.C.

Ground: Geddington Village Hall, Queen Street, Geddington, Northants. NN14 1AZ

Secretary: Peter Rowbotham

Address: 103, Federation Avenue, Desborough, Northants. NN14 2NU

Email: peter@rowbotham4.wanadoo.co.uk

Mobile: 07941 058350 **Telephone:** 01536 761593



Kislingbury F.C.

Ground: Kislingbury Playing Fields, Beech Lane, Kislingbury, Northampton. NN7 4AL

Secretary: Mark Chambers

Address: 41 Prestbury Road, Duston, Northampton. NN5 6XP

Email: markchamberspod@btinternet.com

Mobile: 07595 919781



Medbourne F.C.

Ground: Medbourne Sports & Social Club, Hallaton Road, Medbourne, Leics. LE16

9HT

Secretary: Adam Stanton

Address: 26, Moseley Avenue, Market Harborough, Leicestershire. LE16 9HT

Email: adam.stanton@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07732 223283 **Telephone:** 01858 681728



Milton F.C.

Ground: Collingtree Road, Milton Malsor, Northampton. NN7 3AU

Secretary: Len MacKintosh

Address: 71, Buttmead, Blisworth, Northants. NN7 3DQ

Email: lenmackintosh@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07729 127614 **Telephone**: 01604 858145



Moulton F.C.

Ground: Brunting Road, Moulton, Northampton. NN3 7QF

Secretary: Scott Hallett

Address: 24 Northampton Lane South, Moulton, Northampton. NN3 7RL

Email: sh1972@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07907 570543



Northampton Spartak F.C.

Ground: Harleston Playing Fields, Harlestone, Northampton. NN7 4EH

Secretary: Simon Hollis

Address: 1, Whernside Way, Northampton. NN5 6DU

Email: simonjh1986@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07515 569729



Ringstead Rangers F.C.

Ground: Recreation Ground, Gladstone Street, Ringstead, Northants. NN14 6DE

Secretary: Ross Light

Address: 4, Chapel Hill, Higham Ferrers, Northants. NN10 8NA

Email: ross.light@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07769 334027 **Telephone**: 09133 314836



Roade F.C.

Ground: Connolly Way, off Hyde Road, Roade, Northants. NN7 2LU

Secretary: Pete Hurst

Address: 26, Bailey Brooke Lane, Roade, Northampton. NN7 2PT

Email: petehurst22@yahoo.co.uk

Mobile: 07831 531283 **Telephone**: 01604 863250



Spratton F.C.

Ground: Smith Street, Spratton, Northants. NN6 8HW

Secretary: Warren Osbourne

Address: 10, Glebelands, Spratton, Northampton. NN6 8JG

Email: gutterreach@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07810 371110 **Telephone**: 01604 948487



Stanion Redstar F.C.

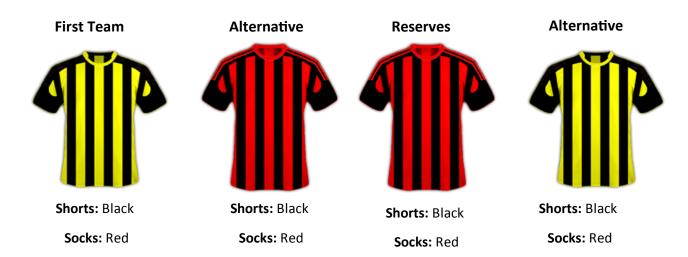
Ground: Village Hall, Brigstock Road, Stanion, Northants. NN14 1BX

Secretary: Sharon Murison

Address: 15, Millfield Avenue, Cottingham, Leics. LE16 8XX

Email: sgclmurison@aol.com

Mobile: 07810 433085 **Telephone**: 01536 771247



Stanwick Rovers F.C.

Ground: Recreational Ground, Patricks Lane, Stanwick, Northants. NN9 6PP

Secretary: Ally Shand

Address: 38, Denford Road, Rigdtead, Northants. NN14 4DF

Email: allyshand@yahoo.co.uk

Mobile: 07941 388023 **Telephone**: 01933 623901



Weedon F.C.

Ground: Jubilee Field, Bridge Street, Weedon, Northants

Secretary: Danny Chapman

Address: 31, Queen Street, Weedon, Northants. NN7 4RA

Email: weedonfootballclub@yahoo.co.uk

Mobile: 07720 858820



Weldon United F.C.

Ground: Corby Athletic Club, Jimmy Kane Way, Rockingham Road, Corby, North-

ants. NN17 2FB

Reserves & 'A' Teams: Oundle Road, Weldon, Northants. NN17 3JT

Secretary: Kim Bullock

Address: 11, Chapman Grove, Corby, Northants. NN17 1HL

Email: weldonunited@live.co.uk

Mobile: 07818 406484

First Team	Alternative	Reserves	Alternative	'A' Team	Alternative
1			1		1
Shorts: Black	Shorts: Black				
Socks: Green	Socks: Black	Socks: Black	Socks: Black	Socks : Black	Socks: Green

Welford Victoria F.C.

Ground: Sports Field, Newlands Road, Welford, Northants. NN6 6HR

Secretary: Clare Horn

Address: 3, West Courts, Welford, Northants. NN6 6GY

Email: clare.horn540@btinternet.com

Mobile: 07762 782383 **Telephone**: 01858 575501



Wellingborough Aztecs F.C.

Ground: Sir Christopher Hatton Academy, The Pyghtle, Wellingborough, North-

ants. NN8 4PR

Secretary: Ross Gilby

Address: 30, Grove Street, Higham Ferrers, Northants. NN10 8HX

Email: ross.gilby@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07787 571763 **Telephone**: 01933 391860



Wellingborough Gleneagles F.C.

Ground: Weavers Sports Centre, Weavers Road, Wellingborough, Northants. NN8

3JQ

Secretary: Paul White

Address: 5, Brickhill Mews, Wellingborough, Northants. NN8 3GH

Email: chalkywhite234@googlemail.com

Mobile: 07557 672697



Wellingborough Rising Sun F.C.

Ground: Eastfield Park, Gold Street, Wellingborough, Northants. NN8 4AT

Secretary: Leroy Shelley

Address: 33, Flowerhill Drive, Wellingborough, Northants. NN8 4GF

Email: penfold83@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07999 975646



West Haddon Albion F.C.

Ground: Northampton Road, West Haddon, Northants. NN6 7AR

Secretary: Roy Briggs

Address: 6, Church Close, West Haddon, Northants, NN6 7DY

Email: whfclub@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07840 959666 **Telephone:** 01788 510563



Wilby F.C.

Ground: Main road, Wilby, Northants. NN8 2UE

Secretary: Anthony Foreman

Address: 36, Stanwell way, Wellingborough, Northants. NN8 3DF

Email: wilbyfootballclub@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07801 191665 **Telephone**: 01933 222163



Wollaston Victoria F.C.

Ground: Wollaston Playing Field, London Road, Wollaston, Northants. NN29 7QP

Secretary: Neal Perry

Address: 24 Neale Close, Wollaston, Northants. NN29 7UT

Email: neal.perry@teleware.com

Mobile: 07771 650863 **Telephone:** 01933 663735



Woodford Wolves F.C.

Ground: Woodford Community & Sports, Highfield Road, Woodfor, Northants.

NN14 4HD

Secretary: Lucy Catchpole

Address: 152, Oundle Road, Thrapston, Northants. NN14 4PG

Email: lucy111262@hotmail.com

Mobile: 07950 109729 **Telephone**: 01832 731847



Wootton Rhinos F.C.

Ground: Curtlee Hill, Wootton, Northampton. NN4 6ED

Secretary: Matthew McInerney

Address: 17, Nene Way, Bingham, Nottingham, Notts. NG13 8YF

Email: mpmcinerney@outlook.com

Mobile: 07890 679793 **Telephone:** 01604 721777



Wootton St George F.C.

Ground: Curtlee Hill, Wootton, Northampton. NN4 6ED

Secretary: Nick Bradshaw

Address: 6, Copymoor Close, Wootton Fields, Northampton. NN4 6BL

Email: nick.bradshaw@travisperkins.co.uk

Mobile: 07852 950650

First Team Alternative

Shorts: Red

Socks: Red

Shorts: Black

Socks: Black

RULES 2015 - 2016

1. DEFINITIONS

(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 Northamptonshire Combination Football 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.
- "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 [The FA] [the Competition][the Northamptonshire 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.
- "written" or "in writing" means the representation or reproduction of words or symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.
- **(B)** All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a member of the Competition to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee in relation thereto, subject to the provisions of Rule 16.
- **(C)** The Competition will be known as "Teamwork Sports & Trophy Centre Northants Combination" (or such other name as the Competition may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A Club which ceases to exist or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall thereupon automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.
- **(D)** The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Competition acting (save where otherwise specifically mentioned herein) through the Management Committee in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of The FA.

2. NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

- (A) This Competition shall consist of not more than 100 Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority.
- **(B)** 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 Northamptonshire County Football Association and must have a constitution approved by the Sanctioning Authority.
- This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Northamptonshire County Football Association(s) and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions.
- (C) 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.

- (D) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination
- (i) The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination
- (ii) Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.
- **(E)** 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.
- **(F)** 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.
- **(G)** 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.

3. ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

(A) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition must be made in writing to the Secretary and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee of £60.00 per first team and additional teams £50.00 plus a deposit of £100.00 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. The Entry Fee shall apply.

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.

- **(B)** The Annual Subscription shall be £60.00 per Club additional teams £50.00 payable on or before the 1st May in each year.
- **(C)** 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. The deposit shall be returnable to Clubs on leaving the Competition provided they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all orders of the Management Committee.
- **(D)** A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the Entry Fee, Annual Subscription and Deposit have been paid and the following information submitted
- (i) Completed Form 1A & 1B by 1st May failing to comply they shall be fined £10.00.
- (ii) Telephone contact for the Club secretary including an answering facility.
- (iii) Additional telephone contact for a Club member responsible for Club administration in the absence of the Club secretary.
- (E) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing or email by 1st June of its Sanctioning Authority affiliation number for the forthcoming Season, failing to comply they shall be fined £10.00. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form (1A & 1B), of details of its Headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition.
- **(F)** Any club desiring membership or any existing club wishing to add a team or teams shall apply in writing to the Hon Secretary by the 1st day of May preceding the season applied for. Applications received after this date may not be accepted, with the exception of Step 6 relegated Clubs.
- **(G)** Applications shall be dealt with by the Vetting Committee. The Vetting Committee shall carry out an inspection of the facilities of each club making an application and will report on their findings and recommendations to the Committee.
- **(H)** Promotion to Step 6: Any Premier Division club wishing to apply for promotion to Step 6 must apply in writing to The Football Association and copied to the Northamptonshire Combination, League Secretary by the 31st December.

4. MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

- (A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and 8 ordinary members who shall all be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- **(B)** 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 1st March 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.
- (C) 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.

(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 (Secretary).
- **(F)** Nominations for Life Members, Life Vice Presidents and Vice Presidents from League Officers having completed 21 years in office to be submitted in writing to the Hon Secretary by the 1st day of February each year for approval by the Committee.
- **(G)** Any Committee member missing three consecutive meetings may be asked to resign his/her position on the Committee.
- **(H)** The Committee shall have the power to deal with any matter, which is not covered by the Rules of the League, under the Rules of the Football Association and the Laws of the Game.
- (J) A Finance Committee shall be appointed whose business it will be to deal with the finances of the League. The Finance Committee to consist of the League Chairman, the Hon Secretary, the Hon Treasurer and at least two other members appointed from the Committee.
- **(K)** In cases of extreme emergency the League Chairman and the Hon Secretary shall have power to act on behalf of the League in all matters.

5. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

- (A) The Management Committee may appoint such other sub-committees as they may consider necessary and may delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary to such committees. The decisions of all such 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.
- **(C)** 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. (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 the Rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competitions. 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), 10(a), 11 and 19, for all breaches of Rule a formal written charge must be issued. The respondent shall be given seven days from the date of notice to reply to the charge and given the opportunity to:-

- (i) Accept or deny the charge
- (ii) Submit in writing a case of mitigation, or
- (iii) Put their case before the Board

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.

- **(E)** 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.
- **(F)** 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.
- **(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 shall be fined no less than £20.00 or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the Management Committee.

- (I) 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. Fixtures that have already been made would then be considered as broken fixtures.
- (J) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or match may have any 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 com-

mencement of the Competition season.

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

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- (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 two thirds of Members are present and entitled to vote:-
- (i) To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
- (ii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
- (iii) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies (as recommended by the Management Committee). This is subject to the secretary of the new club attending an administration awareness course organized by the league. The course will take place no later than 21 days after the AGM. Clubs, whose secretary fails to attend the course, will not have their membership accepted.
- (iv) Constitution of the Competition for ensuing season.
- (v) Election of Officers and Management Committee.
- (vi) Appointment of Auditors.
- (vii) Alteration of Rules, if any.
- (ix) Fix the date for the commencement of the playing season and kick off times applicable to the Competitions.
- (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.
- **(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.
- **(C)** A signed copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Sanctioning Authority within fourteen days of its adoption by the Annual General Meeting.
- **(D)** 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.
- (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 17.
- **(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 Member Club.
- **(H)** Any continuing Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting shall be fined £50.00 a satisfactory reason must be given. Clubs that don't submit a written explanation/apology for their absence within 3 days of the AGM will be fined £20 then an additional £20 per week until such correspondence is received.
- (I) Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an Annual General Meeting.

6.1 Club Meetings.

Club Meetings shall take place in September and February of each season. The day of the week upon which such meetings shall be held will be decided by the committee. Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to the meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.

Any club not represented at a Club meeting shall be fined £30.00 for the first offence and £50.00 for a second offence. Clubs that don't submit a written explanation/apology for their absence within 3 days of the Full Members League meeting will be fined £20.

Clubs that have not attended any meetings during a season will be fined an additional £100 and will also be required to provide a satisfactory written explanation to the Hon General Secretary before their application for membership for the following season can be processed.

A roll call of clubs in attendance shall be taken at the close of the meeting preceding the item Any Other Business. Any club which has left the meeting without the courtesy of informing the Chair shall be considered to have not attended the meeting and will be fined as per rule.

No minutes will be issued for Club meetings. An agenda will be available before the Club meeting.

7. AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

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 Com-
petition 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 Northamptonshire Combination 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 Northamptonshire County Football Association(s) to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary of the Competition.

8. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

(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 signing a registration form for that Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any Player aged 10 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

- (ii) 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.
- (iii) Each Club must have at least 12 Players registered per team 14 days before the start of each Playing Season.

These are to be lodged with the Hon Registration Secretary not less than fourteen days before the League's opening fixture or the club will be fined £10.00. A club registering no players seven days before the season start date will incur an additional fine of £30.00. A club registering no players before the season start date will have its membership of the League terminated.

- **(B)** A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by an Officer of the Club and either
- (a) submitted to the Competition by 21:00 on the day prior to playing and whose registration has been confirmed by the Competition prior to that Player playing in a Competition Match. (In order to protect themselves all Clubs are reminded that they are responsible for verifying the identity of their players before submitting a registration form, and that the players signature will match with any subsequent registration check signature). see: *Appendix A.*
- or (b) 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 again play until the Club is in possession of the approval of the Competition. A maximum of **NIL** players may be registered in accordance with sub paragraph (b).

Registration forms may also be submitted to the (Registrations) Secretary by electronic mail prior to the player playing by 21:00 on the day prior to playing, original to be sent to Registration secretary within two days.

If the player's registration is later found to be unacceptable the club will be held responsible and be dealt with by the Committee who shall the power to cancel a player's registration at any time, if this is found to be necessary. This includes a player who has signed a registration form during the close season and is later found to be under suspension. Clubs should check the status of each player with County FA's or their websites. The League reserves the right to ask any club to provide proof of identification for a registered player for registration purposes.

- (D) A player having taken part in matches for any Club affiliated to any County Football Association shall not be allowed to join, be transferred to, or sign for a Club in the Competition without first proving to the officials of the intended Club that the player has discharged all reasonable financial liabilities to the previous Club or Clubs, and a Club official may not accept such player's signature without first ascertaining whether such claims have been discharged to the satisfaction of the Club, or Clubs, for which the player last played. In the event that a Player could be required to pay a proportion of a debt due under The FA Football Debt Recovery System then, whether or not the debt has been referred to the relevant County FA, the Competition must not affect the player's registration in any way or refuse to register a transfer due to that debt being outstanding. The Competition cannot refuse to register a Player for an unpaid non-footballing debt.
- (E) A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/team for each registration book.
- **(F)** 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 (Registrations) Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.
- (G) 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 signed for one Club in the Competition, sign for another Club in the Competition in that season except for the purpose of a transfer.
- (iii) Submit a signed registration form for registration that the player had willfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.
- **(H)** (i) The Management Committee shall have power to accept the registration of any player subject to the provisions of clauses (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 16).
- (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 16) subject to the right of appeal to the FA or the rele-

vant 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.

(iv) 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 the team playing in this Competition.

(I) 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 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 or one day 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.

A player can only be transferred on two occasions and there must be a minimum of 28 days between each transfers.

The status of a transferred player shall include appearances for his previous club. If that previous club has only one team then all the appearances for that club will be counted as first team appearances. A club contravening this rule will be fined £10.00 and any points gained will be deducted.

A club with a first or senior team in another league shall conform to this rule and shall provide any documentary evidence called for from the club or other leagues.

- (J) A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 1st March except by special permission of the Management Committee.
- **(K)** 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.
- (L) A register containing the names of all players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Hon 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). In order to play in the League again either for his original Club or for another Club it will be necessary for him to be reregistered as required by this Rule.
- (M) 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 fifty per cent of games for that team in this Competition in the current season.
- (N) A team shall not include any more than 3 players who have taken part in 50% or more senior competition matches during the current season.

Teams in any division shall not be allowed to play more than three higher level team players in their lower teams in any one match. A first team player is one who has played fifty per cent or more of his matches for his club's first team. This rule is to operate from the 1st day of November of each season. Failure to do so will result in the defaulting club being fined £10.00.

N.B. The first team player rule includes matches played at a more senior level ie: Step 6 and above.

(O) 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. If a match is replayed the offending

team will be responsible for the associated costs.

- (i) Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players shall have the points gained in the match deducted from its total and be fined not less than £20.00 and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- (ii) In addition the team shall have up to 6 points deducted from its total at the discretion of the Management Committee and may be dealt with in any further manner which is thought to be fit. Points deduction in excess of 3 would only apply to those who have knowingly played an ineligible player. Clubs guilty of a simple administration error may have less than 3 points deducted.
- (P) (i) Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities.
- (ii) The availability of children must be cleared with the Head Teachers (except for Sunday Leagues).
- (iii) To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16.
- (Q) (i) Officials representing the League may conduct player registration checks at matches. All players and substitutes are required to provide information as required by the League official in their own hand at the time that this is required to be done. Failure or refusal by a player or club to fully comply will result in a fine of not less than £50.00 and not less than 3 points deducted. *Appendix B.*

9. CLUB COLOURS. CLUB NAME

(A) Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 1st May 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 5 days before the match. Any team not having a change of colours or delaying the kick-off by not having a change shall be fined £10.00.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the away 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. It is requested that all teams shall have numbered shirts from one to fourteen with players commencing the match with numbers one to eleven.

(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.

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

- (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).

All matches shall have 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. The kick off times for matches shall be 2.30 pm with the exception of those during November, December and January when they shall be 2.00 pm or earlier times as mutually agreed by the Committee or member clubs concerned. Mid-week matches shall have a kick off time no later than 6:30 pm.

Clubs with floodlights may kick off at 3.00 pm on Saturdays and 7.30 pm midweek, subject to opponents agreement. The half time interval shall not exceed fifteen minutes.

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

Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time shall be fined a sum not exceeding £10.00 or be otherwise dealt

with as the Management Committee may determine.

Competing clubs must provide a club assistant referee for the duration of the match or be liable to a fine of £10. See 13c 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. Four corner flags and a set of assistant referee flags or be liable to a fine of £10.00 in each instance.

Clubs in ALL Divisions of the League to provide clean and hygienic dressing rooms for teams and match official/s as agreed by the management committee, hot washing facilities and drinks at the ground for the Referee and visiting team. Clubs failing to provide these facilities will be fined £20.00 in each case.

(C) 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 all relevant 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).

- **(D)** 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 five clear days prior to the playing of the match. If not so provided, the away club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the competition.
- Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine of £10.00 in each case.
- (E) A minimum of seven players will constitute a team for a Competition match.
- **(F)** (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. Not withstanding 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.

Any club breaking a League fixture shall be fined £30.00 for a 1st offence, £50.00 for a 2nd offence and £75.00 for a 3rd offence plus any reasonable expenses incurred by the opposing club on production of the necessary receipts and subject to the ground being available.

Three points shall be deducted but the match may be awarded subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed. Any team breaking 3 or more fixtures within a season, may be relegated from their current division at the end of the season.

- (ii) Any Club with more than one team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence:- First Team, Reserve Team, A Team. Clubs in breach of this requirement shall be fined a sum not exceeding £30 or otherwise dealt with by the Management Committee.
- (iii) Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture must or where a fixture has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the League Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the match officials.

Clubs unable to fulfil a fixture on match day MUST notify all via telephone. Any Club failing to comply shall be dealt with by the Management Committee who may inflict any penalty it may deem suitable. Failure to comply with this procedure will result in a fine of £10.00.

- (iv) In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee.
- Failing such agreement and notification to the League Secretary within 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. Providing gate money is taken and retained the visiting Club shall receive their actual standard class rail or bus fares or the equivalent for 16 persons, or car allowance at 35p per mile for transporting 16 persons, or hire charge of a coach (receipt to be submitted)., The residue (if any) to be equally divided between the two Clubs after deducting the cost of advertising, printing, posting, police and match officials charges. The home Club shall take the whole of the proceeds of the second match.
- (v) 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.

(vi) 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.

In all abandoned games, a result sheet must be submitted to the registration secretary within 4 days of the match, with

the score at time of abandonment and time in which the match was abandoned.

Matches abandoned by the referee for any cause must be reported by the referee and home club to the Hon Secretary by telephone before 4.30pm for Saturday fixtures or 8.30pm for evening fixtures. Failure to comply with this procedure will result in a fine of £10.00.

- (vii) The league reserves the right to inspect the pitch of a club that has postponed their game.
- **(G)** A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use 5 substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from 5 players.

Except for matches played at Step 7 of the National League System and Division One, 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 15 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.

NB: Matches played at Step 7 of the National League System (Premier Division) may use three substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from 5 players as in accordance with the FA directive

- (H) The half time interval shall be of five minutes duration, but it shall not exceed fifteen minutes The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.
- (I) The Competition shall require all players and club officials to have signed the FA's Respect Codes of Conduct and produce these if so requested by the League management committee.

The participating clubs taking part in the fixture shall identify a team captain designated with a captain's armband who has a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his/her team mates.

(J) All officially sanctioned games played during the season outside of League games to be notified to the League

11. REPORTING RESULTS

- (A) Both the home club and away club are required to submit results and statistics including referees' scores and respect marks of the match played in the prescribed manner on the FA Full-Time System within 3 days of the date. Appointed team administrators submitting their results and statistics electronically must confirm the full name and surname of team players who have taken part in that match for approval by the League. Failure to do so or complete (including goalscorers) in full or correctly will be fined £10.00 in each instance or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide.
- **(B)** Each Club playing in the Competition, Competition Cups, Football Association Cups and County Football Association Cups must submit match results by SMS text message to the FA Full-Time system, on the day of the match by teams before 5.15pm and for evening games before 9.00 pm. If no result received, incorrectly entered result or result received late clubs will be fined £10.00 for each instance.
- **(C)** A club responsible for result sheets arriving late in a single delivery will result in the club being fined the sum of £10.00 with the exception of correspondence bearing a first class stamp and a postmark for the day immediately previous to deadline day. After seven days, an additional fine of £10.00 per team will be imposed for each subsequent week a result sheet is late.
- (D) Proven falsification of result sheets shall result in the club being fined £30.00 and minimum 3 points deducted.

12. DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

(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.

In the event of two or more teams being equal on points team rankings may be decided in any one or more of the following ways:-

- (i) goal difference
- (ii) goals scored

- (iii) deciding match(es) played under conditions determined by the Management Committee.
- **(B)** Automatic promotion and relegation shall be applied for the first two and last two teams in each Division except as provided for hereunder, subject to the provisions of Rule 1(b).
- (i) Should one or more teams withdraw from any one Division after the fixtures have commenced an equal number of teams to those withdrawing in that Division shall not be automatically relegated.
- (ii) Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the season may be filled on any of the following ways:
 - (a) retention of otherwise relegated team(s)
 - (b) additional promotion of the next ranked team(s) from the Division below
 - (c) election
- (iii) The last team in the lowest Division shall retire, but be eligible for re-election except as below, and be subject to the conditions of paragraph (B)(1) above.
- (iv) When a senior team is relegated to a lower Division of which its reserve team is a member, or entitled to be a member, such reserve team must accept relegation to, or retain its position in, the next lower Division; and should the senior team be relegated to the lowest Division its reserve team automatically retires from the Competition.
- (v) Should either or both of the leading teams in any of the Divisions have its senior team in the next higher Division, promotion shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next highest team or teams in the Division concerned.
- (C) In the event of a team not completing 75% of its fixtures for the season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting team shall be expunged from the Competition table. All outstanding matches may be awarded.
- **(D)** The Committee shall decide on all matters relating to formation, promotion or relegation within all divisions except where the jurisdiction of the Pyramid of Junior Football is operative. All clubs forming the Premier division or promoted to same to provide ground and dressing room facilities of a standard to the satisfaction of the Committee.
- **(E)** Any club requiring a grading inspection in order to progress their application to join a more Senior league will be charged £10.00.

13. REFEREES

(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.

Referees must acknowledge appointments by 1st class return of post or electronic mail as failure to do so will result in another officer being appointed. Appointed referees shall arrive thirty minutes prior to kick off time.

- (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. The League is not responsible for any expenses relating to non-arrival of referee.
- **(C)** Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £10.00 being imposed on the defaulting team. Club Assistant Referee must report to the referee ten minutes prior to the kick off time failure will result in Club being fined £10.00.

A separate dressing room for referees to be provided if possible. Hot washing facilities must be provided.

(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 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 arbitor and whose decision must be accepted unless the ground is declared fit for play.

A member of the approved league panel may be called in to check the fitness of a ground. This panel will be available on the full time website. Clubs who cancel matches without consulting a referee may be deemed to have caused a fixture to be cancelled and dealt with accordingly.

A League Management Committee member or League Officer may not call off a fixture on their own pitch.

(E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the sanctioning Association Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee of Referee £32.00, Assistant Referees £21.00 for Premier division and subsequent divisions Referee £30.00, Assistant Referees £21.00 inclusive of travel expenses.

The Home Club shall pay the Officials their fees and or expenses immediately after the match. Failure to comply the club will be liable to a fine of £10.00. Clubs are reminded that it is not the referees responsibility to request his/her match fee, therefore the onus is on the home club to ensure prompt payment.

- **(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 a fee of £21.00. 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.
- **(G)** A Referee not keeping his or her engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, within three days of the match, may be reported to the Association with which he or she is registered. Upon unsatisfactory explanation the Referee shall not be appointed to Northamptonshire Combination matches for two months.
- (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 pre-

scribed Form provided (FA Full Time). Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined 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 team sheets supplied by the clubs, in the prepaid envelope supplied to them by the League, duly completed including any breaches of rule within 48 hours of the match. Referees are reminded that teams in the Premier division MUST comply with Rule 24, (excluding Sunday). Rule 10(G) applies to late team sheets.
- **(K)** Referees and Assistant Referees shall be supplied, each Season, with a copy of the Competition Rules which will be available on the FA Full-Time System.
- **(L)** Referees and Assistant Referees shall have undertaken a Respect briefing offered by the FA/County FA or the League **(M)** In Northants Combination fixtures all teams must complete the triple pre-match League result/team sheet. One copy of which be given to the opposition and one to the match referee at least 15 (fifteen) minutes before the commencement of the match, the third copy to be retained by the originator. Opposition and Referees to report non compliance with this rule. Failure of a Club and opposition to comply will be fined £10.00.
- (N) Where and when considered necessary neutral assistant referees shall be appointed, subject to commitments, by the Committee.

14. CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

- (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 or be liable to a fine not exceeding £100.00.
- **(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.
- **(C)** 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.

15. PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS

- (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. Any Club lodging such protest and not proceeding with it shall be deemed guilty of a breach of this Rule and shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.
- (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 three 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.
- **(C)** 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.
 - (i) All parties must have received seven days' notice of the Hearing should they be instructed to attend.
- (ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then the Club should indicate such when forwarding the written response.

16. BOARD OF APPEAL

- (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.
- **(B)** 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.
- (C) The Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the

Management Committee shall direct.

- (D) 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.
- (E) 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.

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

- (A) At the Annual General Meeting, or Special General Meeting called for the purpose, Notice of Motion having been duly circulated on the Agenda, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude any Club or Team from further 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 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 (2/3rds) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot.

A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

- **(C)** Any 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.
- **(D)** Any club where the actions of its players and / or management are deemed by the Committee to have brought the League into disrepute will be fined not less than £50.00.
- **(E)** Players whose actions are deemed by the management committee to have bought the league into disrepute will be fined no less than £50. They may also have their registration suspended until the fine is paid and as a last resort their registration cancelled.

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

(A) Th	ne follov	ving a	agreement	shall	be s	igned	l on l	behal [.]	f of th	ne w	inners	of th	e Cup	or Troph	ıy:-					
"We	A		and B, t		the	Chairman a		and	and Secretar		etary	y of								
				FC,	mem	bers	of	and	rep	rese	enting	the	Club,	having	g bee	en c	declare	ed v	winne	ers of
			Cup	or T	roph	y, and	d it h	aving	been	deli	ivered	to us	by the	Compe	tition,	do h	ereby	on b	ehalf	of the
Club	jointly	and	severally	agre	ee to	o re	turn	the	Cup	or	Tropl	hy to	the	Compe	tition	Secr	retary	on	or l	before
			If	the C	Cup o	r Tro	phy i	s lost	or da	mag	ed wh	ilst u	nder o	ır care v	e agre	ee to	refun	d to	the C	ompe-
tition	the am	ount (of its curre	nt val	lue o	r the	cost	of its	thord	ugh	repair	."								

- **(B)** At the close of each Competition awards may/shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit. Sixteen winners and runners up momentoes shall presented.
- **(C)** The League is to insure all trophies.
- (D) Trophies to be returned to the League by the second Wednesday in February of each year in a condition which is satisfactory to the Committee. Failure to do so will result in a fine minimum £10.00.
- **(E)** Clubs returning incomplete trophies or trophies which have been damaged whilst in their care will be liable to a minimum fine of £50.00 plus the cost of replacement parts and or repairs.
- (F) Failure to return a trophy to the League will result in the club being charged for its replacement.
- (G) Any damage or loss of trophy must be reported to the League Secretary within seven days.

19. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

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.

Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £50.00.

20. ALTERATION TO RULES

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.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the League by 1st March in each year.

21. FINANCE

- (A) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.
- **(B)** All expenditure shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.
- (C) The financial year of the Competition will end on 31st March.
- **(D)** The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be audited/verified annually by some suitable person(s) who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.
- **(E)** All mileage for League Officers, Management Committee Members and Clubs, with such mileage allowance payments for clubs only at the discretion of the Committee, shall be calculated at 35p per mile.

22. INSURANCE

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

All Clubs shall be members of a Players' personal accident scheme. The policy cover 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 a Club affiliates.

23. DISSOLUTION

- (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.
- **(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.
- **(C)** The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:
- (i) Any surplus assets, save for a Trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or Affiliated Association or The Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the sanctioning Association.
- (ii) If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a Trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the Donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the Sanctioning Authority may decide.

24. STANDARD REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY TO PREMIER DIVISION.

Clubs in a position for promotion to the Premier division will be inspected for compliance with this Rule in the season prior to promotion.

- (a). Minimum size of playing area 100 yards x 65 yards, 91 metres x 59.5 metres.
- **(b).** Goal posts and nets to be of professional manufacture and to meet the requirements of the Laws of the Game.
- (c). Shortest distance between touch line and perimeter barrier 1.85 metres.
- (d). Shortest distance between the goal line and pitch perimeter barrier 2.75 metres.
- **(e).** Pitch cordoned off on all sides by rail or rope. If rope is used this must remain taught and be in place for the full duration of the game.
- (f). Playing surface grass must be of good standard.
- (g). Pitch to be free from surface depressions and excessive undulations.
- **(h).** Trainers boxes, if available, to be clearly marked Home and Away. Each box to be able to accommodate at least eight persons, to be a minimum of 1.85 metres from the touch line, to be a minimum three metres apart, to be securely fixed and ideally adjacent to the half way line.
- (i). Technical areas must be suitably marked and used by teams and officials.
- (j). Toilets, Ladies and Gents, to be situated within the ground.
- (k). Separate dressing rooms for each team and officials. These must be situated close enough to

the pitch in order to allow sufficient time for them to be used at half time.

- (I). Separate hot shower facilities for players with at least three shower heads per team. Separate shower facilities for match official.
- (m). Sole use of designated dressing rooms and shower facilities, pitch and surrounding area in order to avoid encroachment from other matches.
- (n). Drinks must be provided to visiting team at half time, also to match officials on arrival, half time and full time.
- (o). Flags must be provided for Assistant Referees by the home club.
- (p). None of the named substitutes to act as Assistant Referees.
- (q). In order to maintain League standards referees must before each match inspect facilities and report any contravention of League rules to the Hon Secretary. They are not expected to enter the players' dressing rooms unless invited.
- **(r).** Officers, Management Committee members and Club secretaries must also report any infringement of rules.
- (s). Provide clean and hygienic toilet facilities to include hot hand washing with soap and towels.
- **(t).** Must have the ability to mark the whole of their own playing area with white lines before each match.
- (u). Undertake the re seeding of all worn areas during the closed season.
- (v). Keep dressing rooms in a clean and hygienic condition by cleaning them prior to each match.
- (w). Clubs failing to comply with Premier division standards will be fined £20.00 in each case.
- (x). In addition to the above All Clubs must meet the FA Step 7 requirements as per appendix C.

25. KNOCK OUT COMPETITIONS.

- (a). All teams will be included in Competitions. The Management committee will fix dates for all rounds.
- **(b).** Qualification of players: as for League games. However Only two players who have played in their first team Cup competition to be allowed to play in reserve team Competition provided that at least one of these has played fifty per cent or more of his games for his reserve team.
- **(c).** Qualification for Cup Finals will be a player who shall have played in a previous round or a minimum of ten games for the team participating in the Final within this League.
- **(d).** No player shall play in any league Competition for more than one club in the same season. A Club contravening this rule will be fined £10.00 and struck out of the Competition.
- **(e).** All teams competing in a Final Tie of the Competition must check with the Hon Registration Secretary not less than fourteen days preceding the match date the eligibility of the players they wish to include in the team for this game. Any club contravening this rule will be fined £10.00.
- **(f).** Clubs playing a reserve team in any round of the Competition are strongly advised to check the eligibility of the players they may require for their particular game.
- (g). Ninety minutes will be played and extra time in all matches if necessary. If the scores are still level at the end of extra time the tie will be decided by the taking of penalty kicks in accordance with the provisions for the taking of penalty kicks as set out by the Football Association.
- **(h).** (i) Referees fees to be as in league matches as per rule 13E in all ties except final ties. Where Assistant Referees are appointed, the two competing clubs will share the costs of assistants equally.
- (ii) Fees are not payable to referees in final ties. The League may at its discretion make a contribution towards referees travelling expenses.
- (iii) Each match official appointed to a final will receive a suitable memento.
- The home club is responsible for paying match officials at conclusion of the game. Opposition to reimburse home club their costs. Failure by opposition to reimburse home club will be fined £20.00.

- (i). Final: the League to be responsible for match expenses.
- (j). The Committee shall make the draw for each round and arrange for the venues for the Finals.
- **(k).** Kick off times for Cup Competitions to be 2 pm with the exception of those during November, December and January where they shall be 1.30 pm.
- (I). All other League rules to apply.
- (m). Dressing rooms to be opened at least thirty minutes prior to kick off time.
- (n). Broken fixtures. Any fixture which is not played due to weather conditions or circumstances over which neither side has control shall be re arranged by the Fixtures Secretary. If a fixture is not played for any other reason, then the defaulting club will be dealt with as the Management Committee deem fit, may be fined up to £50.00 and may be struck out of the competition. Clubs playing an ineligible player will be struck out of the competition.
- **(o).** Upon the first postponement of a cup fixture, the Committee may give notice that the venue for that match may be reversed or moved to an alternative venue. Notice of a fixture reversal will be given by 8pm on the preceding Thursday to both Clubs.

Fees Tariff

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
3 (A)	Entry Fee	£60.00 plus £100.00 deposit
3 (B)	Annual Subscription (Per Team) Additional Teams	£60.00 £50.00
3 (C)	Deposit	£100.00
8 (E)	Registration Books (Each)	£15.00
8 (I)	Transfer Form	£5.00
13 (E)	Referee Fees (Premier Division) All Other Divisions	£32.00 £30.00
13 (E)	Assistant Referee Fees	£21.00
15 (C),16(A),16(G)	Protest/Appeal Fees	£30.00
	Team Sheet Pads 1 st per Team Additional Pads	£10.00 £15.00

Fines Tariff

RULE	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM
		FINE
2 (B)	Failure to Affiliate by 1 st June	£20.00
2 (E)	Failure to Comply With FA Initiatives	£20.00
2 (F)	Unauthorised Entry Of Teams Into Competitions	£50.00
3 (C)	Failure to Pay a Deposit	£NIL
3 (E)	Failure to Provide Completed Form 1A & 1B by 1 st May	£10.00
4 (D)	Communications Conducted by Persons Other Than Nominated Officers	£NIL
5 (H)	Failure to Comply With An Instruction Of The Management Committee	£20.00
5 (I)	Failure to Pay A Fine Within 21 Days Of Notice	£20.00
6 (H)	Failure to Be Represented At AGM	£50.00
- ()	No Written Explanation/Apology For Their Absence Within 3 Days	£20.00
	No Written Explanation/Apology For Their Absence Addition 7 Days	£20.00
6.1	Failure to be Represented At Club Meeting 1 st OFFENCE	£30.00
	Failure to be Represented At Club Meeting 2 nd OFFENCE	£50.00
	Failure to be Represented At Either Club Meeting	£100.00
	No Written Explanation/Apology For Their Absence Within 3 DAYS	£20.00
	No Written Explanation/Apology For Their Absence Additional 7 DAYS	£20.00
7	Failure to Submit the Required Written Agreement or to Notify Changes to Signatories (Form B)	£NIL
8 (A) (iii)	Failure to Have The Required Number of Registered Players Prior to the Season Com-	£10.00
	mencing 14 Days	
	Failure to Have The Required Number of Registered Players Prior to the Season Com-	£30.00
	mencing 7 Days	
8 (B)	Failure To Correctly Register A Player	£NIL
8 (C)	Fielding More Than the Permitted Number of Players Who Have Participated in Senior	£10.00
	Competitions Matches	
8 (G)	Signing or Playing For Multiple Clubs, or Inaccurate Completion of a Registration Form	£NIL
8 (H) (ii)	Registration Irregularities	£30.00
8 (O)	Playing An Ineligible Player	£20.00
8 (P)	Failure to Give Priority to School Activities	£NIL
9 (A)	Delaying Kick Off Due to Change Kit	£10.00
9 (B)	Failure to Obtain Consent For a Change Of Club Name	£NIL
10 (B)	Delaying Kick Off	£10.00
	No Nets	£10.00
	No Corner Flags	£10.00
	At Least 2 Match Balls Available	£10.00
	No Refreshment to Opponents	£20.00
	No Refreshment to Referee	£20.00
	No Changing Room For Opponents	£20.00
	No Changing Room For Referee	£20.00
	No Hot Washing Facilities For Opponents	£20.00
	No Hot Washing Facilities For Referee	£20.00
	Clean & Hygienic Dressing Rooms	£20.00
10 (C)	Failure to Play Matches On The Date Fixed	£
10 (D)	Failure to Provide Details of a Fixture to Opponents	£10.00
	Failure to Provide Details of a Fixture to Referee	£10.00
10 (E)	Playing Match With Less Than Required Number of Players	£NIL
10 (F) (i)	Failure to Play Fixture 1 st Offence	£30.00
	Failure to Play Fixture 2 nd Offence	£50.00
	Failure to Play Fixture 3 rd Offence	£75.00
10 (F) (ii)	Not Playing Higher Team Fixture	£30.00
10 (F) (iii)	Failure to Notify Secretary & Match Official of Postponement	£10.00
10 (F) (vi)	Failure to Notify Secretary of Abandonment	£10.00
	No Captain's Armband	£NIL

11 (A)	Late Team Sheet on FA Full Time (3 days)	£10.00
11 (B)	Failure to Provide Result on SMS (Home & Away Clubs)	£10.00
11 (C)	Late Team Sheet on FA Full Time Additional 7 days	£10.00
11 (D)	Proven Falsification of Result Sheet	£30.00
13 (C)	Failure to Provide Club Assistant Referee	£10.00
13 (E)	Failure to Pay Match Officials' Fees And Expenses	£10.00
13 (F)	Failure to Pay Match Officials Where a Match is Not Played	£10.00
13 (H)	Failure to Provide Referee's Mark	£NIL
13 (M)	Late Team Sheet to Referee (15mins Before Kick Off)	£10.00
14 (A)	Withdrawal From League After 31st March	£100.00
14 (B)	Failure To Start/Complete Fixtures	£100.00
17 (D)	Club Bringing League Into Disrepute	£100.00
17 (E)	Player Bringing League Into Disrepute	£100.00
18 (D)	Late Return of League Trophies in Satisfactory Condition	£50.00
19	Non Attendance at Special General Meeting	£50.00
	PREMIER DIVISION CLUBS ONLY	
24 (E)	Pitch not cordoned off	£20
24 (H)	Trainer Boxes not Marked 'Home' and 'Away'	£20
24 (I)	No Technical Area Marked	£20
24 (L)	Hot Shower facilities players/referee	£20
24 (M)	Sole use of dressing rooms & showers	£20
24 (N)	No Refreshment to Opposition at half time	£20
24 (N)	No Refreshment to Referee on arrival	£20
24 (N)	No Refreshment to Referee at half time	£20
24 (N)	No Refreshment to Referee at full time	£20
24 (O)	No Assistant Referee flags	£20
24 (P)	Substitute Used as Asst Referee	£20
24 (S)	No Clean & Hygienic Toilet Facilities incl Soap & Towels	£20
24 (T)	Pitch Not Marked with White Lines	£20
24 (V)	Dressing Rooms Not Clean & Hygienic	£20
	CUP COMPETITION	
25 (D)	Player Playing for More Than One Club + Struck Out of Cup Competition	£10
25 (E)	Not Checking Availability of Players For Cup Final	£10
25 (H)(iii)	Failure by Opposition to Reimburse Home Club	£20
25 (N)	Broken Cup Fixtures	£50

Registrations & Transfers Forms must be signed by Club Secretary

You will be aware that last season several clubs were fined and had points deducted for playing players who were under suspension. This was/is a very serious situation which impacted on promotion and relegation in addition to undermining the objective of the suspension system. It is possible that this situation was not new and specific to this league. We therefore all need to work together along with the NFA to avoid problems occurring again in future.

The type of problems fall into three categories:

- 1 The registration of suspended players under a false name.
- 2 Playing suspend players under their correct name.
- 3 Playing suspended players under a false name.

Whilst the league has some responsibility for helping ensuring that suspended players are identified at an early stage, the ultimate responsibility lies with the club. Clubs found guilty will be subject to sanctions both from the league and the NFA, particularly if they cannot demonstrate they have in place processes which minimise the risk of suspended (ineligible) players being played. To this end you are advised to adopt the following approach when registering players;

- 1 Ask to see a document/picture which confirms their identity (passport/driving licence)
- 2 Check the NFA/ national suspension date base, especially if the player has moved from another county.
- 3 Be aware that players have in the past used abbreviated names to avoid detection i.e. Daniel to Danny cross check addresses and dates of birth.
- 4 Be aware players are not always totally honest never take their word that they are clear always check suspension lists and with the previous club.
- 5 Don't assume that because the player was with you last season that he must be ok.

NB – you are also advised to make periodically checks on your players eligibility throughout the season as the situation does change

Whilst the league will endeavour to check all players eligibility, this is particularly difficult at the start of the season when several hundred registrations need to checked in a short period of time. It is much easier for clubs to be individually responsible. Please help in this area by sending in registration forms as an when they become available – do not stock pile or wait until the last minute to send in. Clubs who wait to the last minute may find that their registrations have not been processed prior to the start of the season and therefore these players cannot play.

As part of the process for identifying ineligible players the league will also be increasing the number of match day registration checks by appointing a person to take specific responsibility for this activity. Be aware that registration forms must be signed by the player, not a third party otherwise you will be liable to sanctions for playing an unregistered player.

Following the above process will hopefully minimise the risk of problems for both clubs and the league.

FIFA MANDATE International Transfer Certificates.

It is the responsibility of the Club and player to ensure that any necessary clearance has been obtained to enable him to play in England in accordance with the FIFA Regulations.

Any player who has played any sort of football abroad must be cleared by his former National Association before he can play in England. This applies to all players over the age of 12 and at all levels of the game. It is necessary for the club to make an application direct to The F.A. for clearance to be obtained.

- Under normal circumstances TWO league officers will be present when checks are being carried out. However, under exceptional circumstances i.e. the need to take urgent action a single officer may carry out a check following agreement with the League General Secretary. When only one officer is present he should concentrate on ensuring that the team which has been specifically targeted undertakes the check correctly.
- Officers carrying out the check will make themselves known to the two managers (or person/s in charge of each team), during the first half informing them that a registration check will be carried out during the half time interval according to league rules.
- At half time a clipboard with the registration form attached will be given to the individual responsible for each team.
- At handover the league officer will record the name and position of the persons to which the form was given.
- The league officer will also make the teams aware that the half time interval will be extended by 5 minutes to allow the check form to be completed.
- The league officers will then ensure that the match official is aware that a check is being carried out and obtained his/her co operation in extending the half time interval and ascertain the number of substitutes each team has.
- The league officers will endeavour to be in the changing rooms when the form is being completed.
- Before leaving the ground the officer will check that the form has been fully completed and that the total numbers of players i.e. 11 plus the agreed number of substitutes is correct If this is not the case it must be resolved at the time. The recording of player's shirt numbers on the form should enable the officer to identify any players who have not signed the form.
- In some circumstances eg. If a team has refused or only partially completed the registration check the league officer will make the club aware of the consequences for breaching league rules and may be required to take individual or team photographs.
- Completed forms to be sent to the Registration officer by the Tuesday following the match.
- The registration officers will within 24 hours of receipt check the form and immediately inform the General Secretary of any anomalies.

The Registration officer will keep a record of the clubs and dates on which checks were carried out and the outcome. This record will be reported on at the monthly management committee meeting.

GROUND GRADING REQUIREMENTS FA Step 7 Minimum Ground Grading

1. GROUND

1.1 Security of Tenure

Where a club does not own the freehold of their ground then evidence of adequate security of tenure must be provided.

1.2 Ground Share

Ground sharing would be at the discretion of each league within the National League System, taking into account local circumstances. Where ground sharing is permitted the club must have sole control over and use of facilities on match days. Ground sharing must not be allowed in order for a club to gain promotion.

1.3 Capacity

There is no stated ground capacity.

1.4 Boundary of Ground

There is no requirement for a ground to be enclosed in any way.

1.5 Clubhouse

A clubhouse facility, whilst being desirable, is not compulsory.

If a clubhouse facility exits either on or adjacent to the ground, this should be open on match days to provide refreshments to spectators.

1.6 Car Parking

There should be adequate car parking facilities on or adjacent to the ground.

1.7 Pitch Perimeter Barrier

As a minimum, there must be post and rope surrounding the pitch on all those sides that may be occupied by spectators. The barrier, if other than solid wall type of construction may be infilled. Advertising boards may be acceptable as a means of infill

Ideally, there should be a minimum of 1.83 metres, ideally 2 metres between the touchline, goal line and the pitch perimeter barrier.

1.8 Pitch Standards

The playing surface will be grass, unless otherwise authorised by the respective League Rules and must be of an acceptable standard. It must be free from surface depressions and excessive undulations.

The maximum slope allowable shall not exceed an even gradient of vertical to horizontal 1:41 in any direction.

1.9 Playing Area

The playing area is to be in accordance with the requirements of the Laws of the Game. Law 1 states that the length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length - Minimum 90 m (100 yds) Maximum 120 m (130 yds)
Width - Minimum 45 m (50 yds) Maximum 90 m (100 yds)

It should be noted that at Grade H the playing area must be a minimum of 100 metres x 64 metres.

Goal posts and goal net supports should be of professional manufacture and conform to the current safety requirements and to the requirements of the Laws of the Game.

Reference should be made to the Goalpost Safety Information booklet published by The Football Association.

1.10 Technical Area

Portable trainers' boxes are permitted and must be securely fixed when in use.

It is desirable for a Technical Area to be marked out in accordance with the guidance contained in the 'Laws of the Game' booklet.

1.11 Secure Walkway

A secure walkway is not a requirement.

1.12 Floodlighting

Floodlighting is not compulsory at this Grade.

However, where it is provided it must be to an average lux reading of 120. No single reading can be less than one quarter of the highest reading so as to ensure an even spread of light.

Reading shall be on a grid of 88 markings (8 across, 11 down) evenly spaced with the outside readings falling on the pitch boundary line. The average of all the readings is taken to be the average illumination level in lux of the floodlighting installation

The lux values must be tested every two years in accordance with current guidelines by an approved independent contrac-

tor.

When new or improved installations are being planned, an average lux. reading of 180 should be provided.

1.13 Public Address System

A public address system is not compulsory.

1.14 Entrances

There is no requirement for fixed entry points.

However, where a turnstile is installed, it must be fully operational and of the controlled revolving type.

1.15 Exits

Where fixed exit points are provided, there must be sufficient to ensure the safe evacuation of the ground if necessary. All exits must be clearly signposted.

1.16 Emergency Access

Access for emergency services should be provided.

2. SPECTATOR FACILITIES

2.1 Seated Accommodation

Seated accommodation is not a requirement.

2.2 Covered Standing Accommodation

Covered accommodation is not compulsory.

Hard standing is not compulsory.

However, where it is provided it must be a minimum width of 0.9 metre, measured from the spectator side of the pitch perimeter barrier where provided. .

2.3 Toilets

Provision should be made for adequate toilet facilities.

2.4 Refreshment Facilities

Refreshment facilities for spectators are not compulsory.

3. DRESSING ROOM FACILITIES

All dressing rooms must be secure and suitable for purpose.

3.1 Players

Separate dressing rooms must be provided for both teams. Existing dressing room dimensions will be in order, provided that they are of a minimum of 12 square metres, excluding shower and toilet areas. However, clubs wishing to progress should be aware of the need to increase to a minimum of 18 square metres. Where clubs are planning to build new changing rooms, these must be planned to be a minimum size of 18 square metres, excluding shower and toilet areas.

Each dressing room should have the following:

A shower area comprising of at least 3 working showerheads for each team – if not located in the dressing room then they must be located adjacent to it.

Adequate toilet facilities exclusively for the use of players - if not located in the dressing room then they must be located adjacent to it and must not be accessible to the general public.

Hot and cold running water

Shared shower facilities are not acceptable.

Ideally separate toilet facilities should be provided for each team. It is not acceptable for players and match officials to share toilet facilities.

In order to be considered for promotion to Step 6, clubs must have en suite shower and toilet facilities with a minimum of 4 showerheads.

3.2 Match Officials

Separate dressing rooms must be provided for match officials, the minimum size of which shall be

4 square metres excluding shower and toilet areas.

Each match official's dressing room should have the following:

At least 1 working showerhead.

Adequate toilet facilities, exclusively for the use of match officials, which must be separate from those provided for the players. These do not necessarily need to be situated in the dressing room but must not be accessible to the general public.

Hot and cold running water

Provision should be made for changing accommodation for both male and female match officials.

When new changing rooms are being planned or existing changing rooms refurbished an area of 6 square metres and facilities for mixed gender match officials should be provided.

In order to comply with the G Grade after promotion to Step 6, clubs must provide en suite shower and toilet facilities for the match officials.

All dressing room areas to be maintained to a high level of cleanliness and secure on match days.

REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM

Definitions

In the interpretation of these Regulations: any words and expressions, unless otherwise defined herein, shall be words and expressions as defined as follows:-

"AC" means the Alliance Committee appointed by FA Council.

"Association" means The Football Association Limited.

"Club" means a football club for the time being in a League in membership of the NLS.

"League" means any competition sanctioned by the Association and/or an Affiliated Association in membership of the NLS.

"LC" means the Leagues Committee appointed by FA Council.

- "NLS" means the National League System of competitions controlled by the Association where promotion and relegation links exist between participating Leagues.
- "Playing Season" means the period between the date on which the first competitive fixture in the League is played each year until the date on which the last competitive fixture in the League is played. For Clubs participating in Play Off Matches this does include the period when Play Off Matches are played.
- "Play Off Matches" means matches played between Clubs in a Play Off Position on a format to be determined by each League provided that the format is the same across each Step.
- "Play Off Position" means the position of a Club at the end of each Playing Season which is provided for in Standardised Rule 13 as qualifying the Club to take part in a Play Off Match to qualify for promotion to the next Step for the next Playing Season.

"Regulations" means these regulations.

"Rules" means the FA Standardised Rules or FA Standard Code of Rules under which a League is administered.

"Step" means the level at which a Club participates in the National League System.

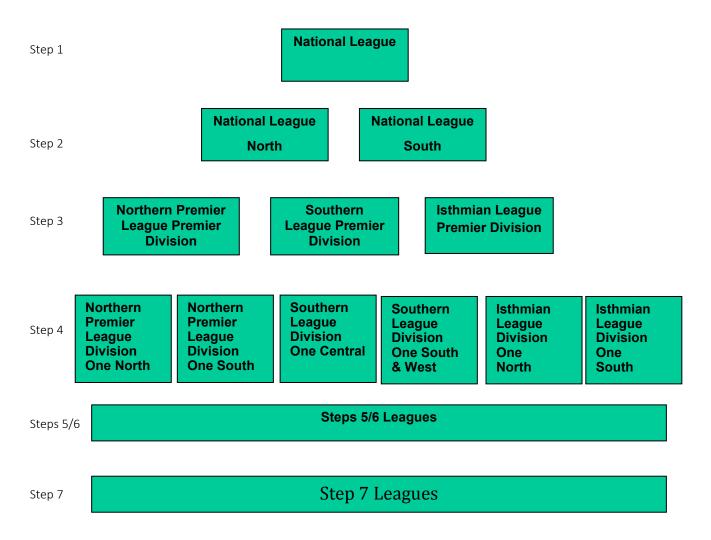
The National League System ("NLS") shall be operated in accordance with the Regulations.

The aims and objectives of the NLS are to provide:

- 2.1 Clubs with a level of competitive football appropriate to their playing ability, stadium/ground facilities and geographical location.
- 2.2 A framework for discussion on matters of policy and common interest to Leagues and Clubs.
- 2.3 The seasonal movement of Clubs.

All Leagues are bound by the Regulations. A Club is bound by the Regulations from the date it has qualified for placement into the NLS until such time as it leaves the NLS for whatever reason.

- 3. Position of a League in the National League System
- 3.1 The current structure of the NLS is set out below:



The Leagues currently at Steps 5, 6 and 7 are set out at the end of the Regulations.

- Any league wishing to become part of the NLS must apply to The Association by 31st December in the relevant year in such form and/or providing such information as shall be required by the LC from time to time. The decision as to whether or not a league should be admitted to the NLS shall be made by the LC which will then decide on the Step at which the League will play.
- 3.3 Any League wishing to propose an adjustment to its position within the NLS must apply in writing to the LC by 31st
 December in any year for such proposal to be determined by the LC in order, if approved, to have effect in the following Playing Season.

4. Rules and Regulations for Promotion and Relegation

The LC shall provide for the seasonal promotion, relegation or lateral movement of Clubs. A League must be committed to promoting and relegating Clubs at the conclusion of each Playing Season.

5. Detailed Promotion and Relegation Issues

- 5.1 The criteria for entry to the NLS and the criteria for ground/stadium facilities and the criteria for participation in Play Off Matches shall be determined by the LC. All criteria so determined shall be published by The Association from time to time.
- 5.2 At the conclusion of each Playing Season, the following procedures will apply to promotion/relegation subject to the application of the Rules:

Step 1 and Step 2

The following does not apply to promotion from Step 1.

The Clubs finishing in the bottom four places at Step 1 at the end of the Playing Season will be relegated to a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 2 for the following Playing Season. They will be replaced by the Clubs finishing in 1st position in each of the divisions at Step 2 together with a further two Clubs determined by a series of Play Off Matches. Where a Club finishes in 1st position but does not meet the criteria for participation at the next Step, the Club finishing in 2nd position shall be promoted and the Club finishing in the next eligible position shall take part in the Play Off Matches. Where a Club finishes in a Play Off Position but does not meet the criteria for participation in Play Off Matches the Club finishing in the next eligible position shall take part in the Play Off Matches. The Play Off Matches shall be played so that in each Step 2 division the highest placed of the eligible Clubs plays against the lowest placed and the other two Clubs play each other. The aggregate winners will play each other and the winner of that match will be promoted. If there are only three eligible Clubs then the highest placed shall receive a bye to a second match where it will play the winner of the other Play Off Match and the winner of that match will be promoted. Clubs finishing below position 7 will not be considered for Play Off Matches.

Step 2 and Step 3

The Clubs in the bottom three places in each of the two divisions at Step 2 at the end of the Playing Season will be relegated to a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 3 for the following Playing Season. They will be replaced by the Clubs finishing in 1st position in each of the divisions at Step 3 together with a further three Clubs determined by a series of Play Off Matches. Where a Club finishes in 1st position but does not meet the criteria for participation at the next Step, the Club finishing in 2nd position shall be promoted and the Club finishing in the next eligible position shall take part in the Play Off Matches. Where a Club finishes in a Play Off Position but does not meet the criteria for participation in Play Off Matches the Club finishing in the next eligible position shall take part in the Play Off Matches. The Play Off Matches shall be played so that the highest placed of the eligible Clubs plays against the lowest placed and the other two Clubs play each other. At Step 2 the aggregate winners will play each other and the winner of that match will be promoted and at Step 3 the winners of each first match will play each other and the winner of that match will be promoted. If there are only three eligible Clubs then the highest placed shall receive a bye to a second match where it will play the winner of the other Play Off Matches.

The promoted Clubs will be placed in a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 2.

Step 3 and Step 4

The Clubs in the bottom four places in each of the three divisions at Step 3 at the end of the Playing Season will be relegated to a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 4 for the following Playing Season. They will be replaced by the Club finishing in 1st position in each of the divisions at Step 4 together with a further six Clubs to be determined by a series of Play Off Matches. Where a Club finishes in 1st position but does not meet the criteria for participation at the next Step, the Club finishing in 2nd position shall be promoted and the Club finishing in the next eligible position shall take part in the Play Off Matches. Where a Club finishes in a Play Off Position but does not meet the criteria for participation in Play Off Matches the Club finishing in the next eligible position shall take part in the Play Off Matches. The Play Off Matches shall be played so that the highest placed of the eligible Clubs plays against the lowest placed and the other two Clubs play each other. The winners of each match will play each other and the winner of that match will be promoted. If there are only three eligible Clubs then the highest placed shall receive a bye to a second match where it will play the winner of the other Play Off Matches.

The promoted Clubs will be placed in a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 3.

Step 4 and Step 5

At the end of the Playing Season the Clubs in the bottom two places in each of the four divisions at Step 4 administered by the Northern Premier and Southern Leagues, together with the Clubs in the bottom three places in each of the two divisions administered by the Isthmian League will be relegated and placed in the most geographically appropriate League at Step 5. Irrespective of any provision contained within the Rules the Clubs finishing in bottom position in each of the six Step 4 divisions will be relegated and will not be reprieved. These Clubs will be replaced by the fourteen most suitable Clubs from the Leagues at Step 5 as determined by the LC. The suitability shall be determined as the Club finishing in 1st position in each Step 5 League which meets the entry criteria and wishes to be considered for promotion. In the event of the 1st placed Club not being eligible, the Clubs finishing in 2nd or 3rd position shall be subject to the same criteria. In usual circumstances, no more than one Club will be promoted from any one League. The Clubs to be promoted from Step 5 will be allocated to the most geographically appropriate division at Step 4.

If vacancies remain, consideration will be given to reprieving those Clubs other than bottom placed clubs relegated from Step 4 who will be ranked according to the average number of points gained per games played and the Club with the highest average shall be reprieved first. In the event of Clubs having an identical record the Club to be reprieved shall be determined by the LC.

Any Club seeking promotion from Step 5 to Step 4 must make application to the Association on the prescribed form, copied to their existing League, by 30th November in the relevant year. The application must be accompanied by the appropriate application fee, as determined by the LC, which is non refundable. Applicant Clubs must achieve a minimum E Grade by 31st March in the Playing Season when promotion is sought.

Step 5 to Step 6 and Step 6 to Step 7

The promotion and relegation of Clubs between Steps 5, 6 and 7 shall be dealt with as follows.

Movement of Clubs between Steps 5, 6 and 7, where a League operates at each Step, shall be included in their constitutional rules and regulations. Irrespective of any provision contained within the Rules, the Clubs finishing in bottom position in each of the fourteen Step 5 divisions will be relegated to Step 6 and will not be reprieved, as determined by the LC.

Clubs seeking promotion to Step 5 from a League at Step 6 which is not linked to Step 5, must make application using the prescribed form direct to the Association, copied to their existing League, by 31st December in the relevant year. Each application must be accompanied by the agreed application fee, as determined by the LC, which is non refundable.

Clubs seeking promotion to Step 6 from a League at Step 7 which is not linked to Step 6, must make application using the prescribed form direct to the Association, copied to their existing League, by 31st December in the relevant year. In order to be considered for promotion Clubs must finish in 1st position in their Step 7 league. If the Club finishing in 1st position does not wish to be promoted or fails to meet the entry criteria then the club finishing in 2nd position will be eligible for promotion. If the club in 2nd position does not seek promotion or fails to meet the entry criteria then clubs down to 5th position may be considered for promotion provided that they meet the appropriate entry criteria. Clubs finishing below 5th position will not be considered for promotion and only one club will be considered from each League. Each application must be accompanied by the agreed application fee, as determined by the LC, which is non refundable.

- 5.3 Where a vacancy occurs within the NLS the following procedures will apply:-
 - 5.3.1 (a) Where a Club notifies its intention to resign from its League at the end of the Playing Season, then a vacancy is created on the date the notification of intention to resign is formally accepted by that League.

In all cases, the Club will be placed in the bottom position in that division.

In cases where the vacancy is created prior to the end of the Playing Season, the vacancy will be filled by the best ranked Club in that same division.

In cases where the vacancy is created after the end of the Playing Season but before the League's AGM, the vacancy will be filled in accordance with Regulation 5.3.2 below.

5.3.1 (b) Where, during the course of the Playing Season, a Club notifies its intention to resign from its League with immediate effect or where a Club is removed from the League for any other reason, then the playing record of that Club will be expunged and a vacancy is created on the date the resignation or removal is formally accepted or recorded by that League.

In all such cases the Club will be placed in the bottom position in that division and the vacancy will be filled by the best ranked Club in that same division.

5.3.2 Where a vacancy occurs at Step 1 following the completion of a Playing Season the best ranked Club in a relegation position in that division is reprieved.

Where a vacancy occurs at Steps 2 and 3 following the completion of a Playing Season the best ranked Club in a relegation position across the particular Step is reprieved. The ranking to be determined by the average points gained per game played and comparable league position. The Club with the highest average shall be reprieved first. In the event of Clubs having an identical record the Club to be reprieved shall be determined by the LC.

Where a vacancy arises and clubs at Step 4 are to be reprieved, the four clubs in 21st position in the Northern Premier and Southern Leagues and the two clubs in 22nd position in the Isthmian League would be ranked by the average points per game played. In the event of all of the above six clubs being reprieved and there are further vacancies available the next two places would be allocated to the clubs in 23rd position in the Isthmian League ranked on the average points per game played.

- 5.3.3 Where a vacancy occurs after the date of a League AGM then a League is not able to replace the Club (s) concerned for the following Playing Season.
- 5.3.4 In the event that for any reason whatsoever there are more vacancies in a division before the end of a Playing Season than relegation places in that division, the question of relegation and reprieves shall be dealt with at the sole discretion of the LC.
- Only internal changes to the constitution of a League are allowed following the holding of a League's Annual General Meeting.
- 5.5 Clubs are not allowed to enter into a ground share agreement in order to gain promotion or to retain membership at a particular Step where the Club has failed to attain or maintain the relevant Grade.
- 5.6 Ground grading requirements will be in accordance with the Rules.

In order to be considered for promotion, the following requirements will apply.

- Step 1 Clubs must comply fully with the requirements of Grade A.
- Step 2 Clubs competing at Step 2 must comply fully with the requirements of Grade B. To be considered for promotion to Step 1 or to be included in the Play Off Matches, Clubs must meet the requirements of Grade B together with any additional requirements by 31st March in the year in which they seek promotion. Clubs must also attain Grade A by 31st March in the year following promotion.
- Step 3 Clubs competing at Step 3 must comply fully with the requirements of Grade C. To be considered for promotion to Step 2 or to be included in the Play Off Matches, Clubs must meet the requirements of Grade C and attain Grade B by 31st March in the year following promotion.
- Step 4 Clubs competing at Step 4 must comply fully with the requirements of Grade D. To be considered for promotion to Step 3 or to be included in the Play Off Matches, Clubs must meet the requirements of Grade D and attain Grade C by 31^{st} March in the year following promotion.
- Step 5 Clubs competing at Step 5 must comply fully with the requirements of Grade F. To be considered for promotion to Step 4, Clubs must meet the requirements of Grade E by 31st March in the year in which they seek promotion, and attain Grade D by 31st March in the year following promotion.
- Step 6 Clubs competing at Step 6 must comply fully with the requirements of Grade G. To be considered for promotion to Step 5 Clubs must meet the requirements of Grade G and attain Grade F by 31st March in the year following promotion.
- Step 7 Clubs competing at Step 7 must comply fully with the minimum requirements in force. To be considered for promotion to Step 6 Clubs must meet the requirements of Grade H and attain Grade G by 31st March in the year following promotion. Clubs can be promoted from Step 7 to 6 without floodlights provided that all other requirements of Grade H are met by 31st March in the Playing Season in which the Club wishes to gain promotion and that the Club has the following in place:-

Planning permission for floodlights

Funding applications submitted if required

Quotations/estimates for the work to be carried out

A development/business plan

That by 30th September following promotion the floodlights are installed and in working order.

Failure to install floodlights in working order by 30th September following promotion will result in a sanction being imposed at the discretion of the League of which the Club is a member. If by 31st March in the year following promotion the floodlights are still not installed then the Club will be a relegated Club and be dealt with accordingly.

5.7 If a Club is relegated for not achieving the required Grade for the Step at which it is playing it will not be eligible for promotion again until it has attained the required Grade for the Step to which it wishes to be promoted. The Club must have that Grade at 31st March in the year in which it seeks promotion.

6. The Movement of Clubs within the National League System other than by Promotion or Relegation

6.1 Movement of a Club from participation in one League to another is not permitted other than by promotion and relegation or otherwise as set out in League Rules save with the approval of the LC.

It may be necessary from time to time to move Clubs laterally at the same Step. Each year the LC will consider whether any lateral movements may be necessary at each Step; if so the Clubs likely to be affected shall be notified and given the opportunity to present a case if that Club does not wish to be moved laterally. The final decision shall rest with a sub-committee of the LC. This sub-committee may include members of Step 5 or Step 6 Leagues if appropriate. Any appeal shall be to the LC using members who have not been involved in the original decision. The decision of that appeal shall be final and binding subject only to Arbitration under FA Rule K.

In coming to its decision the LC will have regard to any representations made by any party, the distance to be travelled by any Club to be moved compared to the distance travelled in the Playing Season prior to movement; the financial impact on the Club to be moved, the frequency with which the Club has been moved in the past; the number of Clubs both in the division to which the Club is to be moved and in the division from which the Club is moved, and any other matter that it considers to be relevant.

- Any Club proposing to move from one League to another must make application in writing to The Association on or before 31st March in each year to be effective for the following Playing Season. In the event of such application being successful the League from which the Club is moving shall not levy a financial penalty on that Club.
- 6.3 (i) If a Club (whether a Members' Club or a Company) is wound up, liquidated, or is removed from its League or withdraws from football competition ('the Former Club'), and a new Club ('the New Club') is established which wishes to be placed within the NLS, then unless otherwise determined by the LC, it will be allowed to make an application only to join a League/division at Step 5 of the NLS unless the Former Club was in either Step 4 or Step 5 when the event which caused it to cease its membership occurred in which case it must re-join the NLS at a minimum of two Steps below the level at which it was at the time the event occurred, or withdrew from football competition, whichever is lower. Where the Former Club was a member of The FA Premier League or Football League then the LC shall at its absolute discretion determine in which League the New Club shall be placed for the following Playing Season and will set out at its complete discretion the requirements to be met by the New Club.

In order for consideration to be given to the placement in the NLS of the New Club in the following Playing Season, an initial application must be received by the LC by 1st March or within twenty-one days of the Former Club being wound up, liquidated, resigning or being removed from its League or withdrawing from football competition, if such date is later than 1st March.

The full application accompanied by all necessary documents including evidence of security of tenure having been granted to the New Club and affiliation to a County Football Association must be received by 31st March or within twenty-one days of the Former Club being wound up, liquidated, resigning or being removed from its League or withdrawing from football competition, if such date is later than 1st March. The application shall be copied to the League of which membership is being requested. The application will be determined by the LC.

In considering any application, the LC will set out at its sole discretion the requirements to be met by the New Club.

In the event of more than one application being received within twenty-one days of the Former Club being wound up, liquidated, resigning or being removed from its League or withdrawing from football competition, the LC will consider at its discretion which application will be considered in accordance with this Regulation.

- 6.3 (ii) If a Club is removed from its League and wishes to remain in the NLS it shall apply to the LC within two working days of it receiving written notification of its removal from its League. The LC will consider such application and will place the Club in what it considers at its sole discretion to be the most appropriate League/division for the following Playing Season.
- If a Club (whether a Members' Club or a Company) ceases to be a member of its league and that Club (that is not a New Club as defined at 6.3 above) wishes to be placed within the NLS for the immediately following Playing Season, then unless otherwise determined by the LC, it may be allowed to make an application to join a League/division below the most recent League/division of which the Club was a member.

In order for consideration to be given to the placement in the NLS by the Club in the immediately following Playing Season, an initial application must be received by the LC in accordance with the procedures set out at 6.3 above. The application shall be copied to the League of which membership is being requested. The application will be determined by the LC at its absolute discretion.

In considering any application, the LC will set out at its sole discretion the requirements to be met by the Club in determining whether to approve the application.

6.5 If two or more Clubs ("the Merging Clubs") are proposing a transaction or series of transactions that result in the merging or consolidation ("the Proposed Merger") of those Clubs into one Club ("the Merged Club") then a formal application to do so must be received by the LC and the league(s) of which the Merging Clubs are members by 31st December to be valid for the following Playing Season.

A Deed of Agreement, which shall be legally binding on all parties must be submitted to The Association by 31st March in the year immediately following receipt of the application. The LC shall determine at its absolute discretion where the Merged Club is to be included in the NLS for the following Playing Season subject to the provisions of item 6.5.5 below.

In arriving at its decision the LC may apply the following minimum criteria:

- 6.5.1 The requirements of Standardised Rule 2.9 for the current Playing Season must be met by each of the Merging Clubs. If one or more of the Merging Clubs is subject to an insolvency event then Standardised Rule 2.9.2 shall be applied to such club(s), otherwise Standardised Rule 2.9.1 shall be applied;
- 6.5.2 The proposed playing name of the Merged Club must be acceptable to the LC; and
- 6.5.3 The Merged Club must have security of tenure to a ground that meets the relevant ground grading requirements;
- 6.5.4 Any other criteria that the LC may from time to time deem to be appropriate;
- 6.5.5 The Merged Club will ordinarily be placed at the lower of the Steps at which the Merging Clubs ended the Playing Season in which the application is made. For the purposes of this Regulation, if one of the Merging Clubs has finished that Playing Season in a relegation place, then they will be deemed to have ended the Playing Season at the Step to which they would have been relegated without the Proposed Merger proceeding.

Any decision regarding whether a proposed transaction or series of transactions falls to be considered under this

7. Placement of a Club into a League

- 7.1 Usually a club can only enter the NLS at Step 7. However, in exceptional circumstances a League may seek approval from the LC to receive a club not currently in membership of a League within the NLS provided that there is: (a) a vacancy within its constitution (b) the club meets the entry criteria and (c) promotion and relegation issues have been satisfied. Such request must be received by no later than 1st March.
- 7.2 Reserve teams, including a team from a club or Club which is not considered by the LC to be sufficiently separate from another club or Club, will not be permitted to compete above Step 6 in the NLS. There must be a minimum of two Steps between a first and reserve team. This does not apply at Steps 6 & 7. No two teams from the same Club can play at the same Step. Reserve teams currently at Step 5 can remain unless relegated, once relegated they will not be permitted to be promoted back to Step 5.
- 7.3 Teams from Higher Education or Further Education establishments are not permitted to compete above Step 5. This does not prevent any such establishment forming a Club which complies with all entry criteria and which is separate from the establishment itself.
- 7.4 Where a Club moves from one League to another, for whatever reason, the League from which it is being moved must provide the League to which the Club is being moved with a certificate confirming that the Club being moved does not owe any money or other property of any nature to the League from which it is being moved. The Club being moved cannot compete in its new League until such certificate has been provided and the onus will be on the Club being moved to ensure that it has cleared all indebtedness to its previous League.

8. Procedures for the Determination of any Matter, Dispute or Difference by the Leagues Committee

- 8.1 The LC may adopt such procedures for the determination of any matter, dispute or difference as it considers appropriate and expedient, having regard to the aims and objectives set out at Regulation 1. The LC may require the attendance at a meeting or the written observations of any League or Club, as it considers appropriate to assist its determination.
- 8.2(a) Any dispute or difference between a League and a Club relating to promotion and relegation issues, lateral movement and/or other eligibility criteria must be referred for determination to the LC; such determination shall be final and binding subject only to Arbitration in accordance with Rule K.*
 - *Amendments to Regulation 8.2(a) are subject to FA Council approval on 11 July 2015.
- 8.2(b) Any decision of the LC shall be subject to a right of appeal to an Appeal Board. The decision of that Appeal Board shall be final and binding on all parties.
 - All referrals of appeals shall be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for Football Association Appeals save for appeals in relation to Ground Grading decisions where the procedures are outlined in 8.2(c) below.

8.2(c) Procedures for Ground Grading Appeals

- (i) The ratification of the Ground Grading decision must be sent in writing within 14 days of the final decision date, currently 31st March.
- (ii) Appeals in relation to Ground Grading Appeals must be submitted to The FA Judicial Services Department within seven days from the date of the written decision outlining the Grounds of Appeal, with a copy to The

FA Leagues & Clubs Department.

- (iii) The Ground Grading Technical Panel will appear before an Appeal Board with the Appellant to respond to the application and there is no requirement to make a formal response in writing.
- (iv) In all cases the Ground Grading Technical Panel will submit any documentation including the Ground Grading report that was considered by the Ground Grading Technical Panel in relation to the Ground Grading decision, (which the appellant would already have received).
- (v) Dates would be set annually in advance by the Judicial Services Department for the hearing of Ground Grading appeals and details of the dates would be notified to all Clubs in the correspondence from the Ground Grading Technical Panel notifying the decision of the Ground Grading assessment.
- (vi) All Ground Grading Appeals are to be heard by the end of April each year.
- 8.3 The LC may, at its discretion, delegate the resolution of any matter, dispute or difference arising under these Regulations to any body it considers to be appropriate (including a sub-committee or commission which may include members of council not on the LC or a body constituted by a County Football Association).

9. Arbitration

The fact of participation in the NLS and signifying agreement to be bound by the Regulations shall constitute an agreement between each League and Club to refer to Arbitration any challenge in law arising out of, or in relation to, the Regulations in accordance with the provisions of FA Rule K.

10. Precedence

In the case of conflict between the Regulations for the Operation of the National League System and the Rules, the Regulations take precedence.

LEAGUES/DIVISIONS AT STEPS 5, 6 & 7 OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM (season 2015/2016)

Step 5	Step 6	Step 7
Combined Counties League Prem-	Combined Counties League Div 1	Anglian Combination Premier Div
Eastern Counties League Premier	East Midlands Counties League	Cambridgeshire County League Premier Div
Essex Senior League	Eastern Counties League Div 1	Central Midlands League Div North
Hellenic League Premier Div	Hellenic League Div 1 East	Central Midlands League Div South
Midland League Premier Div	Hellenic League Div 1 West	Cheshire League Premier Div
North West Counties League Prem-	Kent Invicta League	Dorset Premier League
Northern Counties East League	Midland League Div 1	Essex Olympian League Premier Div
Northern League Div 1	North West Counties League Div 1	Essex & Suffolk Border League Premier Div
Southern Counties East League	Northern Counties East Div 1	Gloucestershire County League Premier Div
Spartan South Midlands League	Northern League Div 2	Hampshire Premier League Senior Div
Southern Combination Football League Div 1	South West Peninsula League Premier Div	Herts Senior County League Premier Div
United Counties League Premier Div	Spartan South Midlands League Div	Humber Premier League Premier Div
Wessex League Premier Div	Southern Combination Football	Kent County League Premier Div
Western League Premier Div	United Counties League Div 1	Leicestershire Senior League Premier Div
	Wessex League Div 1	Liverpool County Premier League Premier Div
	West Midlands (Regional) League	Manchester Football League Premier Div
	Western League Div 1	Middlesex County League Premier Div
		Northamptonshire Combination Premier Div
		Northern Football Alliance Premier Div
		Nottinghamshire Senior League Senior Div
		Peterborough & District League Premier Div
		South West Peninsula League Div 1 East
		South West Peninsula League Div 1 West
		Somerset County League Premier Div
		Staffordshire County Senior League Premier Div
		Suffolk & Ipswich League Senior Div
		Wearside League
		West Cheshire League Div 1
		West Lancashire League Premier Div
		West Riding County Amateur League Premier Div
		West Yorkshire League Premier Div
		Wiltshire Football League Premier Div

Step 7A
Midland League Div 2
Oxfordshire Senior League Premier Div
Sheffield & Hallamshire County Senior League Premier Div
Spartan South Midlands League Div 2
Thames Valley Premier League Premier Div
Teesside League Div 1
West Midlands (Regional) League Div 1
York Football League Premier Div
Step 7B
Bedfordshire County League Premier Div
Surrey Elite Intermediate League

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Rule 13(D) A member of the approved league panel may be called in to check the fitness of a ground. This panel will be available on the full time website. Clubs who cancel matches without consulting a referee may be deemed to have caused a fixture to be cancelled and dealt with accordingly.

(This panel of referees can change and will be updated regularly on the website)

CORBY:

John McGoldrick, Mark Ward

DAVENTRY:

Jason O'Farrell

KETTERING:

Chris Brawn

NORTHAMPTON:

Lawrence Roberts, Chris Sheppard Paul Stradling, James Wetherall

WELLINGBOROUGH/RUSHDEN:

Rob Page, Simon Cheney, Ian Huckle

Guideline for Marking Referees

The Referees performance will be measured in every Northamptonshire Combination Football League match. Each club will be required to mark the Referee out of 100 marks. These marks will be submitted to the County FA. Please follow the specific guidelines that include match control, player management and application and interpretation of Law.

Mark	Comment
100	An exceptional performance displaying excellent control and accurate application and interpretation of Law supported by management strategies.
90	First class match control and player management incorporating accurate decisions and Law interpretation.
80	A very good performance with high level of accuracy, management and match control.
70	A performance displaying effective management techniques with good Law application and control with the potential for the next level.
60	A performance with a level of management and control. Identified shortcomings may be improved if the assessor's advice is acted upon. There may be evidence of inaccurate application of Law.
50	A performance below the expected where specific areas of Law application, management and control have been identified, requiring action needed to ensure improvement.
40	Unsatisfactory performance showing deficiencies in all categories of performance requiring immediate remedial action to be taken.
30	A poor performance displaying distinct lack of control and management skills, interpretation of Law is inadequate.

A mark of between 70 and 80 represents the standard expected of a Northants Combination Football League Referee. Where a club marks a Referee below 60, the club is required to submit a letter to the General Secretary, substantiating their judgement.

If possible the mark awarded to the Referee should not be done immediately after the game has been completed. Feeling will undoubtedly be running high and isolated incidents of a contentious nature will certainly colour the thinking.