

HANDBOOK 2017/18



LEAGUE CONTACTS

Office

Nene Valley Community Centre, Peterborough PE2 9RE
Tel: (01733) 330056 Fax 01733 330067
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Presidents

1895-1899 H. Dullej Esq, Wellingborough
1899-1940 Rt Hon Lord Lilford
1946-1954 G. Hooton Esq
1955-1956 H. C. L. Warwick Esq
1956-1968 W. R. Penn Esq
1968-1970 C. E. Buller Esq
1970-1972 J. F. Nash Esq
1972-1975 K. G. Edwards Esq
1975-1989 W. Clements Esq
1989-1990 Position vacant
1990-1995 K. H. Ambridge Esq
1995-2001 T. N. Bates Esq
2001-2002 Position Vacant
2002-2011 D. Shaw Esq (Patron)
2011-2017 Mr K. H. Ambridge

Honorary Life Members

Mr A. Crick (Stone in Oxney)
Mr B. Foley (Cogenhoe)
Mr J. Garley (Higham)
Mr B. Keens MBE (Wootton)
Mr R. Linnell (Northampton)
Mr D. Oxe (Peterborough)
Mr D. W. Page (Fleet)
Mr G. Paul (Northampton)
Mr T. M. Sadler (Bedford)
Mr J. Sampson (Northampton)
Mr E. Thresher (Long Buckby)
Mr M. J. Wall (Northampton)
Mr J. Walker (St Neots)
Mr P. Nicholson (Kettering)
Mr G. Wrighting
Mr A. Goldsmith

Honorary Secretaries

1895-1897 J. C. Bailey, Earls Barton
1897- F. Spencer (Sec pro tem)
1897-1919 L. E. Swain, Northampton
1919-1940 J. Allen
1946-1954 H. J. Clark
1954-1965 K. G. Edwards
1965-1970 K. G. Bacon
1970-1980 E. W. Evans
1980-1981 G. A. Paul
1981-1985 G. T. Ellitson
1985-1988 M. J. Wall
1988-2005 R. J. Gamble
2005-2009 A. Crick
2009-2012 N. J. Haycox
2012 to date W. Newey

Mid Counties East Pool

Roger Coxhead Tel: 07714 745828
Matt Leach Tel: 07714 745827
Assessors Passes

Directors

**Chairman of League
(Development Sub Committee)**
John R Weeks *Elected June 1989/Elected Chairman June 2003*
Mobile: 07835 229552 E-mail: john.weeks@theucl.co.uk

**Vice Chairman/Facilities Co-Ordinator
(Development Sub Committee)**
Alan Poulain *Elected July 2012/Elected Vice-Chairman June 2015*
Elected Assistant Secretary September 2015
Tel: 07852 813510 Email: alan.poulain@theucl.co.uk

**Company Secretary/Treasurer
(Development Sub Committee)
(Discipline Sub Committee)**
Wendy T Newey *Elected Secretary/Treasurer June 2012*
Tel: (01733) 330056 Fax 01733 330067 Mobile : 07890 518457
E-mail: wendy.newey@theucl.co.uk

Fixture Director
Roger K Walker *Elected February 1986/Elected Fixture Director June 2015*
(Discipline Sub Committee)
Tel/Fax: (01480) 431661 Mobile: 07850 632127 (Only for use of an evening and
at weekends) E-mail: roger.walker@theucl.co.uk

**Discipline & Referee Director
(Development Sub Committee)
(Discipline Sub Committee Chairman)**
Trevor Mitchell *Elected Sept 2001/Elected Discipline & Referee Director 2016*
Tel: (01780) 763516 Mobile: 07912 178260
E-mail: trevor.mitchell@theucl.co.uk

**Development Director
(Development Sub Committee Chairman)**
Ian Hughes *Elected Facilities & Development Adviser December 2010*
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**Commercial Director
(Development Sub Committee)**
Jon Smith *Elected Commercial Director 2017*
Email: jon.smith@theucl.co.uk

League Board Members

Stuart Coles *Elected June 1991*
(Development Sub Committee)
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Dave Foster *Elected June 2010/Elected Results Secretary June 2010*
(Discipline Sub Committee)
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Russell Matthews *Elected June 2016*
(Discipline Sub Committee)
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Eddie Slinn
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LEAGUE HISTORY

1900 - 01	Handsome Trophy presented to First Division of League by JC Denham Parker Esq., Conservative Candidate for E Northants
1904 - 05	Second Division of League dropped through insufficient entries
1905 - 06	Second Division started again
1909	Plaque presented to Mr George Cowper in recognition of services rendered as Auditor
1911	Gold Medal presented to r WS Knight (Chairman 1904 - 1911) for services to the League. Mr Knight made Life Vice-President of League. Second division dropped through insufficient entries
1919	Mr Swain made life Member of Management Committee
1925 - 26	Second Division formed
1934	Name of League Changed to United Counties
1939 - 45	League Abandoned owing to World War II
1945 - 46	League re-started
1946	Mr HW. Clark appointed as Honorary Secretary and Treasurer
1948	Mr W. Clements appointed Referees Secretary
1949	The Chairman, Mr Rowlett, passed away
1950 - 51	Second Division re-started with 19 entries
1951 - 52	First Division increased to twenty clubs
1952 - 53	KO Cup Competition organised for Division Two
1954	Mr KG. Edwards appointed as Honorary Secretary/Treasurer
1955	Silver Tea Service presented to Mr HJ Clark in recognition of 8 years' service as Honorary Secretary/Treasurer
1956	Competition run with one division only
1961	Division Two re-started
1965	Mr KG. Bacon appointed as Honorary Secretary/Treasurer
1967	Chairman, Mr FCA Dunsmore, passed away. Mr KG Edwards elected Chairman
1968	Division Three started
1969	Mr EW. Evans appointed as Honorary Registration Secretary
1970	Mr CE. Buller, President, passed away. Mr JF Nash elected President. Mr KG Edwards retired as Chairman. Mr Jerr elected Chairman, Mr EW Evans elected Honorary Secretary/Treasurer, Mr DJ Panter appointed Honorary Registration Secretary
1972	Mr KG. Edwards elected President. Premier Division commenced, other Divisions re-numbered
1973	Mr W Clements presented with Gold Watch after completing 25 years as Honorary Referees Secretary
1975	Mr KG. Edwards, President, and Mr CC Cox, Vice Chairman, passed away. Mr W. Clements retired as Honorary Referees Secretary and elected President. Mr J. Garley elected Vice Chairman and Mr P. Humphries appointed Honorary Referees Secretary
1976	Mr GA Paul appointed Honorary Treasurer and Assistant Secretary
1977	Mr ME Pay, B.E.M., elected Chairman
1978	Mr J Kerr re-elected Chairman
1980	Mr EW Evans, Honorary Secretary, passed away. Mr GA Paul elected Secretary, Mr G Ellitson elected Assistant Secretary. Reserve Section started. Stamford AFC won FA Vase at Wembley
1981	Mr J Kerr retired as Chairman and was presented with Silver Tea Service. Mr J Garley elected Chairman, Mr KH Ambridge elected Vice Chairman, Mr G Ellitson appointed Honorary Secretary, Mr M Wall appointed Honorary Treasurer/Assistant Secretary
1983	Reserve Section formed into two divisions
1984	Mr J Garley retired as Chairman and was presented with a carriage clock. Mr TN Bates elected Chairman
1985	Sponsorship received from Nene Group of Companies and League renamed Nene Group United Counties Football League
1986	Mr MJ Wall appointed General Secretary/Treasurer. Mr R Walker appointed Fixture Secretary. Mr B O'Bray appointed Referee Appointments' Secretary. Mr J Biggs appointed Press Liaison Officer
1988	Mr M Wall retired as General Secretary/Treasurer and Mr B O'Bray retired as Referee Appointments' Secretary. Appropriate gifts were presented to both Officers. Mr RJ Gamble appointed General Secretary/Treasurer and Mr GA Carter appointed Referee Appointments' Secretary. Nene Group Benevolent Cup competition inaugurated with silver trophy presented to the League by the Nene Group of Companies
1989	Mr W Clements, President, and Mr KH Ambridge, Vice Chairman, retired and were presented with appropriate gifts. Mr MJ Wall elected Vice Chairman. Mr JS Walker appointed Fixture Secretary. Mr BJ Faulkner appointed Referee Appointments' Secretary. Pyramid of Junior Football created with seven feeder leagues under the UCL
1990	New sponsorship received and League renamed Hereward Sports United Counties Football League. Mr KH Ambridge elected President, Mr RK Walker appointed Assistant Secretary. Mr BJ Faulkner retired as Referee Appointments' Secretary. League telephone newslines started
1991	Mr MJ Wall, Vice Chairman, retired and made Honorary Life Member. Mr G Whiting elected Vice Chairman
1992	Mr J Kerr, Honorary Life Member, passed away. Premier Division fully floodlight
1994	Mr G Whiting retired as Vice Chairman. Mr PA Paul elected as Vice Chairman
1995	Mr KH Ambridge retired as President and was made an Honorary Life Member. Mr TN Bates retired as Chairman and was elected as President and Vice Chairman. Mr GA Paul appointed as Chairman. Centenary dinner held at Wickstead Park. Mr DJ Panter completed 25 years as an Officer of the League and was presented with a suitably inscribed plaque
1996	Mr JR Weeks appointed as Vice Chairman – new sponsorship received and League renamed to The uhlspport Football League

LEAGUE HISTORY continued

1997	Mr E Williams, Management Committee and Mr P Keech, Referee, retired and were presented with suitably inscribed plaques
1998	Mr D Kitchen appointed as Referee Appointments' Secretary
1999	Mr W Clements, Honorary Life Member, passed away. Sponsorship from uhl'sport ceased and the name of League returned to The United Counties Football League. Mr J Biggs elected as an Officer of the League as Press Officer.
2000	New sponsorship received and League renamed to The Eagle Bitter United Counties Football League. Benevolent Cup terminated. Mr D Panter retired as Registrations Secretary, Mr J Biggs appointed.
2001	Mr DJ Panter, Results Secretary, Vice President and President elect, passed away after 31 years as a League Officer. Mr T Bates retired as President and elected as an Honorary Life Member.
2002	Mr D Shaw elected as Patron. Mr G Ward retired from Management Committee and as a Referee and an appropriate presentation was made. Mr T Mitchell appointed as Referee Assessors Co-ordinator
2003	Mr GA Paul resigned as Chairman and was elected as an Honorary Life Member, an appropriate presentation was made. Mr JR Weeks elected as Chairman and Mr G. Whiting elected as Vice Chairman. Mr A Beard (Assistant Referee) retired and was presented with a suitably inscribed plaque. Mr J Sampson elected as an honorary Life Member. Mr G Harris, member of Management Committee, passed away.
2005	Mr R Gamble resigned as Secretary/Treasurer and was presented with a suitably inscribed plaque and elected as a Life Member. Mr D Holland (Referee) retired and was presented with a suitable inscribed plaque. Mr A Crick appointed as Secretary/Treasurer. Mr D Derrig appointed as Child Protection/Stadium Funding Advisor. Mr T Marriott (Life Member) passed away. League agreed a commercial agreement with Sports Marketing Services (UK) Limited.
2006	Mr J Chappell, Honorary Life Member, passed away. Mr D Inskip, member of Management Committee, passed away. Mr Brian O'Bray received a suitable presentation to mark 40 years' service to the League.
2007	Steve Kuhne received a suitable presentation to recognise his achievement in scoring 300 UCL goals. Whitworths FC received a suitable presentation to recognise their achievement in remaining undefeated in Division One in the season 2006/7.
2008	Don Richardson of Raunds Town and Colin Buxton of Pottton United received a suitable presentation to recognise 50 years' service to their Clubs.
2009	Terry Bates, Honorary Life Member and former President and Chairman passed away. League changed sponsor and became The Hereward Teamwear United Counties Football League. Mr P Tebbutt received a suitable presentation to mark his services to the League. Commercial Agreement came to an end. Allan Crick resigned as General Secretary/Treasurer. Nick Haycox appointed General Secretary/Treasurer. Dave Foster appointed Results Secretary. Premier Division became an FA respect Division on 1 March, extended to whole League for Season 2009-2010.
2010	Allan Crick elected as Life member. Presentations made to Les Homer to recognise his service to the League and to Frank Hobbs of Daventry Town in recognition of service to his Club. Ian Hughes elected as Facilities & Development Adviser.
2011	League changed sponsor and became the ChromaSport & Trophies United Counties League. Ken Ambridge elected as President. Bryan Keens MBE elected as Life member. Presentations made to Richard Dowden and John Thomas to recognise services to the League and to Bryan Keens MBE of Wootton Blue Cross in recognition of service to his Club. Brian Stamp, Life Member, passed away.
2012	Wendy Newey elected as Company Secretary / Treasurer. League became a Limited Company. Wendy Newey appointed Welfare Officer. Ian Hughes appointed Respect Officer and Chartered Standard Co-ordinator.
2013	Alan Poulain and Bob Osborne were elected to the Board. Alan appointed as Respect Officer.
2014	Fixture Director John Walker and long-standing Board Member Peter Nicholson retired from their roles, John remained as a Board Member. Daniel Leggett appointed as Fixture Director.
2015	George Whiting, Vice-Chairman at the time, sadly passed away in May 2015. Alan Poulain became Vice-Chairman, Roger Walker took the Fixture Director role and Daniel Leggett assumed position of Assistant Secretary.
2016	Daniel Leggett stepped down from the United Counties League. Alan Poulain assumed the role of Facilities Co-Ordinator and Assistant Secretary. Jeremy Biggs, Registration Director and Press Officer, sadly passed away.
2017	John Walker long standing board member retires from his role. UCL President, Mr K. H. Ambridge, sadly passed away.



MEMBER CLUBS & GROUND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Blackstones	01780 757835	Melton Town	01664 480576
Boston Town	01205 365470	Newport Pagnell Town	01908 611993
Bourne Town	07538 711446	Northampton ON Chenecks	01604 634045
Buckingham Town	01908 375978	Northampton Sileby Rangers	01604 670366
Bugbrooke St Michaels	01604 830707	Oadby Town	01162 715728
Burton Park Wanderers	01536 217006	Oakham United	07817 578896
Cogenhoe United	01604 890521	Olney Town	01234 712227
Daventry Town	01327 311239	Peterborough Northern Star	01733 552416
Deeping Rangers	01778 344701	Potton United	01767 261100
Desborough Town	01536 761350	Pinchbeck United	07508 809969
Eynesbury Rovers	07938 511581	Raunds Town	01933 623351
Harborough Town	01858 467339	Rothwell Corinthians	01536 711706
Harrowby United	01476 401201	Rushden & Higham United	07957 120021
Holbeach United	01406 424761	Sleaford Town	01529 415951
Huntingdon Town	07974 664818	St Andrews	01162 839298
Irchester United	01933 312877	Stewart & Lloyds Corby	01536 401497
Kirby Muxloe	01162 393201	Thrapston Town	07708 635522
Leicester Nirvana	01162 660009	Wellingborough Town	01933 441388
Long Buckby AFC	07749 393045	Wellingborough Whitworth	07825 632545
Lutterworth Athletic	01455 554046	Wisbech Town	01945 581511
Lutterworth Town		Yaxley	01733 244928

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COMPLIMENTARY PASSES



CHROMA
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United Counties Football League

COMPLIMENTARY TICKET
2017-2018

*Admit to GROUND and STAND of all
ChromaSport & Trophies United Counties
League Clubs
(For use in League/League KO Matches Excluding Finals)*

Pass No: [REDACTED] NOT TRANSFERABLE

CHROMA
CHROMASPORT



www.chromasport.co.uk
01733 262526
10 Wulfric Square, Peterborough

Clubs		League Board Members	
Blackstones FC	001-10	John Weeks	421/422/514
Boston Town FC	011-020	Alan Poulain	423
Bourne Town FC	021-030	Wendy Newey	424
Buckingham Town FC	031-040	Roger Walker	425
Bugbrooke St Michaels FC	041-050	Trevor Mitchell	426
Burton Park Wanderers FC	051-060	Ian Hughes	427
Cogenhoe United FC	061-070	John Walker	428
Daventry Town FC	071-080	Stuart Coles	429
Deeping Rangers FC	081-090	David Holmes	430
Desborough Town FC	091-100	Eddie Slinn	431
Eynesbury Rovers FC	101-110	Dave Foster	432
Harborough Town FC	111-120	Jon Smith	433/491
Harrowby United FC	121-130	Russell Matthews	434
Holbeach United FC	131-140	Cliff Mills	435
Huntingdon Town FC	141-150	Life Members	
Irchester United FC	151-160	K Ambridge	436
Kirby Muxloe FC	161-170	A Crick	437
Long Buckby AFC	171-180	B Foley	438
Leicester Nirvana FC	181-190	J Garley	439
Lutterworth Athletic FC	191-200	B Keens	440
Lutterworth Town FC	201-210	R Linnell	441
Melton Town FC	211-220	D Oxer	442
Newport Pagnell Town FC	221-230	D Page	443
Northampton ON Chenecks FC	231-240	G Paul	444
Northampton Sileby Rangers FC	241-250	T Sadler	445
Oadby Town FC	251-260	J Sampson	446
Oakham United FC	261-270	E Thresher	447
Olney Town FC	271-280	M Wall	448
Peterborough Northern Star FC	281-290	P Nicholson	449
Pinchbeck United FC	291-300	A Goldsmith	472
Potton United FC	301-310	G Writing	473
Raunds Town FC	311-320	County Football Associations	
Rothwell Corinthians FC	321-330	Northamptonshire FA	450-451
Rushden & Higham United FC	331-340	Cambridgeshire FA	452-453
Sleaford Town FC	341-350	Huntingdonshire FA	454-455
St Andrews FC	351-360	Leicestershire & Rutland FA	456-457
Stewarts & Lloyds FC	361-370	Lincolnshire FA	458-459
Thrapston Town FC	371-380	Berks & Bucks FA	460-461
Wellingborough Town FC	381-390	Bedfordshire FA	462-463
Wellingborough Whitworth FC	391-400	ChromaSport & Trophies	464-465/493-495
Wisbech Town FC	401-410	Peterborough & District Football League	466-467
Yaxley FC	411-420	Northamptonshire Combination League	468-469
Media		Bedfordshire County Football League	470-471
Media Outlets	474-475/507-509/514	Mike Hair	492
Assessors	476-490/496-506/511-12	Roger Coxhead	478
		Matt Leach	499/510
		Clive Bruce	513

BLACKSTONES FOOTBALL CLUB



Club Contacts

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TBC

First Team Manager:

Andrew Lodge
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Social Media

Club Website: <http://www.clubwebsite.co.uk/blackstones>

Twitter: @fcbblackstones

Facebook:

Club Location



Ground: ALH Recruitment Stadium, Blackstones Sports and Social Club, Lincoln Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire, PE9 1SH

Ground Directions: From centre Stamford take A6121 to Bourne. Turn left into Rutland Road 100 yards then Lincoln Road, Ground Entrance opposite Birdies Fish and Chip shop Lincoln Road approx. 30 yards from Rutland Road.

Club Kits



Home

Away

BOSTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB



Club Contacts

Secretary:

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Fixture Secretary:

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First Team Manager:

Gary Frost



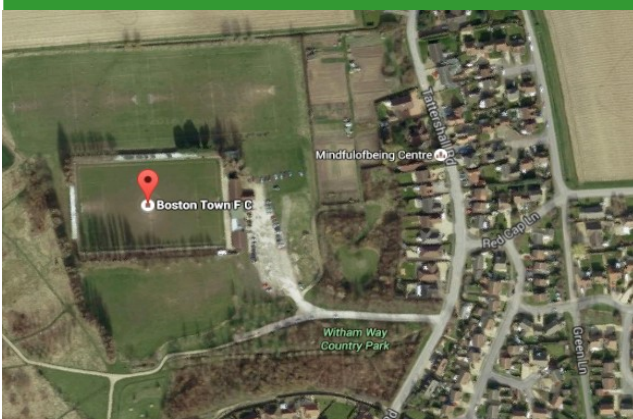
Social Media

Club Website: www.bostontownfc.co.uk

 **Twitter:** @bostontownfc

 **Facebook:**

Club Location



Ground: Tattershall Road, Boston, PE21 9LR

Ground Directions: Go into town on A16 from Spalding. Turn left at roundabout into liquor Pond Street becoming Queens Street over railway crossing along Sleaford Road. Turn right into Carlton Road then right at crossroads into Fydell Street. Over railway crossing and river take 2nd left (sharp turn) into Tattershall Road. Continue over railway crossing, ground on the left.

Groundsman: Michael Vines

Club Kits



BOURNE TOWN FOOTBALL

Club Contacts

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Social Media

Club Website: www.clubwebsite.co.uk/bournefc

 **Twitter:** @bournetownfc

 **Facebook:**

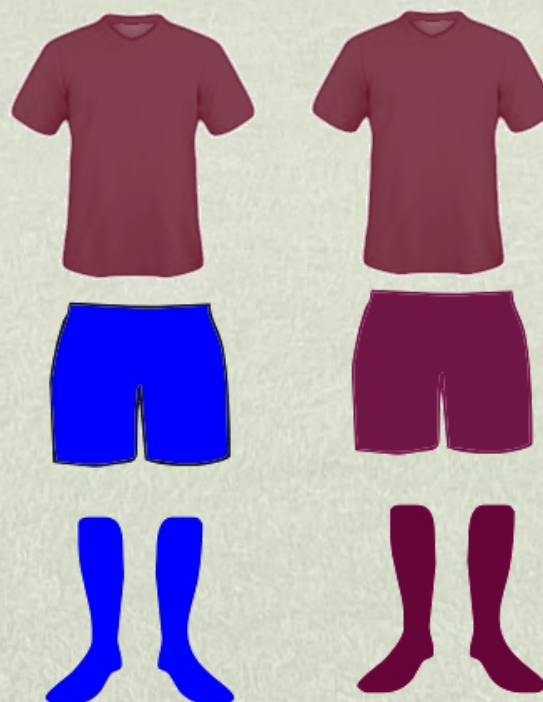
Club Location



Ground: Abbey Lawns, Abbey Road, Bourne, PE10 9EN
T: 07538 711446

Ground Directions: From the town centre turn East along Abbey Road (A151 to Spalding) ground is 300 yards on the right. Car parking is on the main road adjacent to the ground.

Club Kits



Home

Away

BUCKINGHAM TOWN FOOT-

Club Contacts

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Social Media

Club Website: www.pitchero.com/clubs/btfc

Twitter: @Bt_fc

Facebook:



Club Location



Ground: Manor Field, Milton Keynes, MK2 2HX

Ground Directions: From A5 dual carriageway at Milton Keynes, follow signs for Bletchley/Fenny Stratford. At first roundabout take 4th exit. Sign posted Fenny Stratford & Bletchley Ground 1/4 mile from Leighton Buzzard roundabout, on Watling Street, opposite garden centre.

Groundsman: Michael O'Hanlon

Mobile: 07801 133547

Club Kits



BUGBROOKE ST MICHAELS



Club Contacts

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Social Media

Club Website: www.bsmfc.co.uk



Twitter:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bugbrooke.stmichaelsfc>

Club Location



Ground: Birds Close, Gayton Road, Bugbrooke, NN7 3PH
T: 01604 830707

Ground Directions: At M1 Junction 16 take A45 to Northampton. At first roundabout follow signs to Bugbrooke. Go straight through village, ground entrance immediately past last house on the left.

Club Kits



First Team

Reserves Team

BURTON PARK WANDERERS FOOTBALL CLUB

Club Contacts

Secretary:

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Email: Ketteringtown1@hotmail.co.uk



Social Media

Club Website: www.bpwfc.co.uk

Twitter: @bpwfc

Facebook:



Club Location



Ground: Latimer Park, Polwell Lane, Burton Latimer, Northants, NN15 5PS

Ground Directions: A14 exit at J10 head towards Burton Latimer, at versalift roundabout turn right straight over roundabout next to Alpro and right at next roundabout follow road around past Morrison's, past Alomasc and take left into car park.

Club Kits



First Team

Reserve Team

COGENHOE UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

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Email: ksckemp@aol.com

First Team Manager:

Tom Chapman


Reserve Team Manager:

Jack Stone



Social Media

Club Website: www.cogenhoeunited.co.uk

 **Twitter:** @cogenhoeunited

 **Facebook:**

Club Location



Ground: Compton Park, Brafield Road, Cogenhoe, Northampton, NN7 1ND
T: 01604 890521

Ground Directions: From A45 Northampton Ring Road turn as indicated to Billing/Cogenhoe. Go over River Nene and up hill ignoring first turning on left to Cogenhoe. Take next left and ground is on right hand side.

Club Kits



DAVENTRY TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB



Club Contacts

Secretary:

Brian Porter
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Fixture Secretary:

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Programme Editor:

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First Team Manager:

Arron Parkinson / Ian King
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Social Media



Club Website: www.dtfc.co.uk
Twitter: @daventrytownfc
Facebook: www.facebook.com/dtfc.co.uk

Club Location



Ground: Elderstubs, Browns Road, Daventry, NN11 4NS

Ground Directions: From North-Exit M1 Junction 18 take third exit onto A5 then turn left at the first roundabout A428. Take first left at second roundabout Daventry staying on A5 follow signs for A361 Daventry off the next roundabout.

At second roundabout take third exit at Daventry Court Hotel on to A361. Turn left onto A45 at second roundabout towards Daventry. At second roundabout "Mapleleaf Garage" take second exit on A45. At second roundabout take third exit right into Browns Road. The club is at the far left.

From South-Exit M1 Junction 16 follows A45 towards Daventry. At first roundabout, take first exit following signs for A45 Coventry.

At second roundabout take second exit into Browns Road. The club is at the far end on the left.

Groundsmans: Robin Humphries
Mobile: 07976 833898

Club Kits





DEEPING RANGERS FOOTBALL CLUB

Club Contacts

Secretary:

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Fixture Secretary:

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Social Media

Club Website: www.deepingrangersfc.co.uk



Twitter: @deepingrangers



Facebook:

Club Location



Ground: The Haydon Whitham Stadium, Outgang Road, Market Deeping, Peterborough, PE6 8LQ

Ground Directions:

Groundsman: David Holmes

19 Rycroft Avenue, Deeping St James, PE6 8EZ

Mobile: 07747 605346

Email: daveandjill19@talktalk.net

Club Kits



Home Kit

Away Kit

DESBOROUGH TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB



Club Contacts

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Shaun Mason
Mobile: 07595 958337



Social Media

Club Website: www.pitchero.com/clubs/desborough



Twitter:

Facebook:

Club Location



Ground: Waterworks Field, Braybrooke Road, Desborough, NN14 2LJ
T: 01536 761350

Ground Directions: Leave A14 at junction 3 marked A6
Leicester, in 1 mile turn right at roundabout and ground 1/2 mile on left.

Groundmans: Stephen Coe
20 Hereford Close, Desborough
Mobile: 07919 275889

Club Kits



EYNESBURY ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB



Club Contacts

Secretary:

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Social Media

Club Website: www.clubwebsite.co.uk/eynesburyrovers

Twitter: [@eynesburyrovers](https://twitter.com/eynesburyrovers)

Facebook:



Club Location



Ground: Alfred Hall Memorial Ground Hall Road, Eynesbury, St Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 2SF
T: 07938 511581

Ground Directions: From the A1 take the A428 signposted St Neots and Cambridge. Turn towards St Neots at the roundabout by Tesco onto Barford Road (Tesco's is on your left). Go straight over the next 3 roundabouts onto Berkley Street, you come to a blind bend with traffic calming measures. Take the next left onto Hardwick Road and then the first left on to Hall Road, the Ground is at the end of the road.

Groundsman: Matt Plumb

Mobile: 07854 950008

Email: mattplumb09@yahoo.co.uk

Club Kits



First Team

Reserve Team

HARBOROUGH TOWN FOOTBALL



Club Contacts

Secretary:

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Reserve Team Manager:

Tony Sansome / James Logan
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Social Media

Club Website: www.harboroughtown.org



Twitter: @harboroughfc

Facebook:

Club Location



Ground: Bowden's Park, Northampton Road, Market Harborough, LE16 9HF

T: 01858 467339

Ground Directions: 1/2 mile south of Market Harborough on the A508, 4 miles north of the A14 junction, 2 towards Market Harborough. Turn left towards Leisure Centre at roundabout, but keep left past inflatable dome on the right, then through large car park. Club house straight in front with parking area.

Groundsman: Kerry Dunkley

Mobile: 07710 230624

Email: facilities@harboroughtownfc.org

Club Kits



First Team

Reserve Team

HARROWBY UNITED FOOTBALL

Club Contacts

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Social Media

Club Website: www.pitchero.com/clubs/harrowbyunitedfootballclub

 **Twitter:** @harrowbyunited

 **Facebook:**

Club Location



Ground: 13a Dickens Road, Grantham, NG31 9QY

T: 01476 401201

Ground Directions: From A1 take B6403, go past roundabout, to An-caster and take road for Harrowby. Follow the road into Grantham, ground on right opposite Tesco Express.

Club Kits



HOLBEACH UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

Club Contacts

Secretary:

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Programme Editor:

TBC

First Team Manager:

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Social Media

Club Website: www.pitchero.com/clubs/holbeachunitedfc

Twitter: [holbeach_utdfc](https://twitter.com/holbeach_utdfc)

Facebook:



Club Location



Ground: Carter's Park, Park Road, Holbeach, Lincolnshire, PE12 7EE
Ground Directions: Approaching Town Centre traffic lights from Spalding Direction take second Left, or from Kings Lynn direction take sharp right, into Park Road. Ground is 300 yards on the left.

Club Kits



HUNTINGDON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Club Contacts

Secretary:

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Social Media

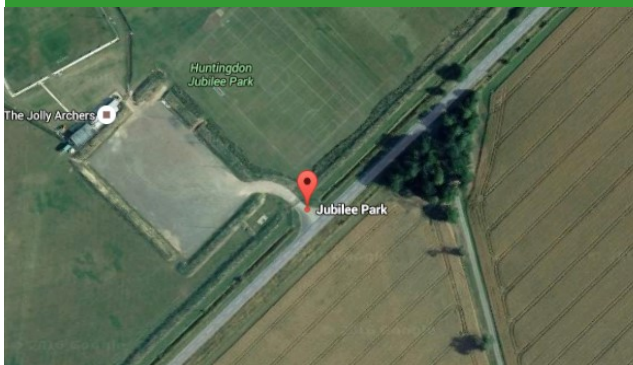
Club Website: www.huntingdowntownfc.com



Twitter: @HTFC_1995

Facebook:

Club Location



Ground: Jubilee Park, Kings Ripton Road, Huntingdon, PE28 2NR
T: 07974 664818

Ground Directions: At the A14 Brampton Hut roundabout, follow signs for A14 East until reaching the Spittals Interchange roundabout, follow the A141 towards St Ives/March and go over 3 roundabouts. Take the next left turn at the traffic lights towards Kings Ripton and the ground is on the left.

Groundsman: Russell Yezek
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Home: 01480 394903
Mobile: 07974 664818
Email: Russell.yezek@ntlworld.com

Club Kits



Home

Away

IRCHESTER UNITED FOOTBALL

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Social Media



Club Website: www.clubwebsite.co.uk/irchesterunitedfootballclub
Twitter: @irchutdfc
Facebook:

Club Location



Ground: Alfred Street, Irchester, NN29 7DR
T: 01933 312877

Ground Directions: From A509 Wellingborough/Newport Pagnell Road, past little Irchester, turn left at roundabout into Gypsy Lane to Irchester. Left at mini roundabout onto Wollaston Road. Third left into Alfred Street.

Groundsman: Melv Tomkins
 56 Arkright Road, Irchester, NN29 7HG
Mobile: 07789 204241
Email: melvyn.tomkins@btinternet.com

Club Kits



First Team

Reserve Team

KIRBY MUXLOE FOOTBALL

Club Contacts

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Fixture Secretary:

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Chairman:

Les Warren
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Programme Editor:

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First Team Manager:

John Love
Mobile: 07788 290124



Social Media

Club Website: www.pitchero.com/clubs/kirbymuxloefc

 **Twitter:** @kirbymuxloefc

 **Facebook:**

Club Location



Ground: Kirby Sports and Village Club, Ratby Lane, Kirby Muxloe, LE9 2AQ

Ground Directions: Follow A47 to St Matthews Way/A594 in Leicester. Continue on A594. Past bus station on left. Continue on this road for approximately 1 mile. Shopping centre is on left hand side. At traffic lights stay in left hand lane Casino is on left. (Do not go under Underpass) Go right on Island with Holiday in on your right. Head onto King Richards Road. Stay on this Road (it will become Hinckley Road) for approximately 4 miles
Pass Leisure Centre on Left. At Island go straight on up Hinckley Road heading for Leicester Forest East. At traffic lights turn Right onto Ratby Lane. At Island take 1st left over M1. At Next Island take 2nd exit. At Mini Island take 2nd exit. Kirby Muxloe Sports and Village club is 200yds on right

From M1. Leave M1 at Junction 21 sign posted Leicester. As you come off the roundabout get into left hand lane and take filter lane on left hand side (the road bends to left but you need to be in right hand lane) Turn right at roundabout (McDonalds will be on left) Stay on this round until you reach roundabout. At roundabout take 1st exit Hinckley Road. At traffic lights turn Right onto Ratby Lane. At Island take 1st left over M1. At Next Island take 2nd exit. At Mini Island take 2nd exit Kirby Muxloe Sports and Village club is 200yds on right
FROM A46. Leave A46 just before the road merges with the M1. At first island turn left. At next island turn right. At next Island turn right over M1 bridge. As you enter village go straight on at next to roundabouts. KMFC is on right

Club Kits



LEICESTER NIRVANA FOOTBALL CLUB

Club Contacts

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Social Media

Club Website: www.pitchero.com/clubs/thurnbynirvana

 **Twitter:** @LeicNirvana

 **Facebook:**

Club Location



Ground: Leicester Nirvana FC, Hamilton Park, 100 Sandhills Avenue,
Leicester, LE5 1LU
T: 01162 660009

Club Kits



Home

Away

LONG BUCKBY AFC

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Fixture Secretary:

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Programme Editor:

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Mobile: 07710 722477
Email: lbafc.dja@gmail.com


First Team Manager:

TBC



Social Media

Club Website: www.longbuckbyafc.co.uk

 **Twitter:** @buckbyafc

 **Facebook:**

Club Location



Ground: Station Road, Long Buckby, Northampton, NN6 7QA
T: 07749 393045

Ground Directions: From Market Square, follow road, signposted Railway Station, ground 350 yards on left after Rugby Club. Please note that cars that park half on/off the kerb will receive a parking ticket.

Club Kits



LUTTERWORTH ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB



Club Contacts

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Reserve Team Manager:

Lee English
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Social Media

Club Website: www.lutterworthathletic.com



Twitter:

Facebook:

Club Location



Ground: Smallman & Son Arena, Hall Park, Hall Lane, Bitteswell, LE17 4LN

T: 01455 554046

Ground Directions: Exit the M1 at junction 20 and take the first exit at the roundabout. Then take the third exit at the next roundabout and head into Lutterworth. Continue on through Lutterworth, and when you have left the town continue for half a mile before taking the first left. The ground is immediately on your left.

Club Kits



LUTTERWORTH TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Club Contacts

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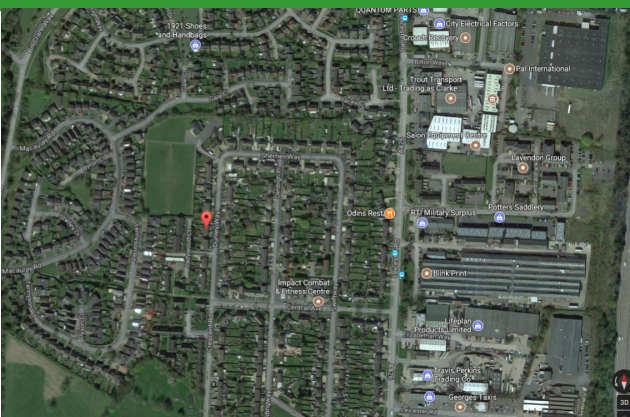
Social Media

Club Website:

 **Twitter:**

 **Facebook:**

Club Location



Ground Directions: At junction 20, take the A4303 exit to Lutterworth/Rugby/A426. At the roundabout, take the 3rd exit onto Lutterworth Road/A4303. Turn left onto Crescent Road, continue onto Dunley Way, the ground is on your left hand side.

Club Kits



MELTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB



Club Contacts

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Social Media

Club Website: www.pitchero.com/clubs/meltonmowbrayfc

Twitter:

Facebook:



Club Location



Ground: Digital Deadline Sportsground, Melton Sports Village, Burton Road, Melton Mowbray, LE13 1DR

T: 01664 480576

Ground Directions: From town centre follow signs for A1/Oakham. 1/2 mile up Burton Road ground on the left.

Club Kits



NEWPORT PAGNELL TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB



Club Contacts

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Social Media

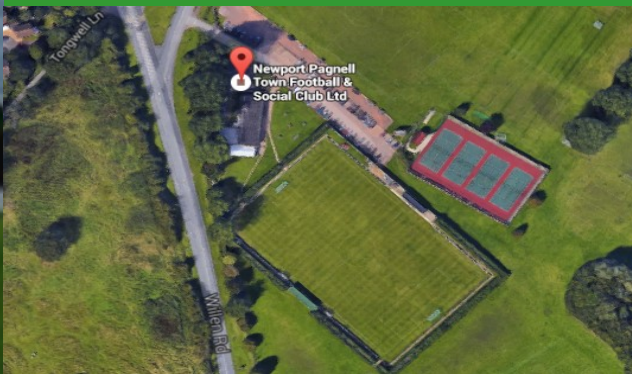


Club Website: www.nptfc.co.uk

Twitter: @nptfc

Facebook:

Club Location



Ground: Willen Road, Newport Pagnell, MK16 0DF

T: 01908 661993

Ground Directions: From A422 Newport Pagnell bypass turn right into Marsh End Road, then right into Willen Road, the ground is Newport first right.

Groundsman: Ian Willis-Croft

Mobile: 07745 639161

Email: ianwilliscroft@btinternet.com

Club Kits



NORTHAMPTON ON CHENECKS FOOTBALL CLUB

Club Contacts

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Social Media

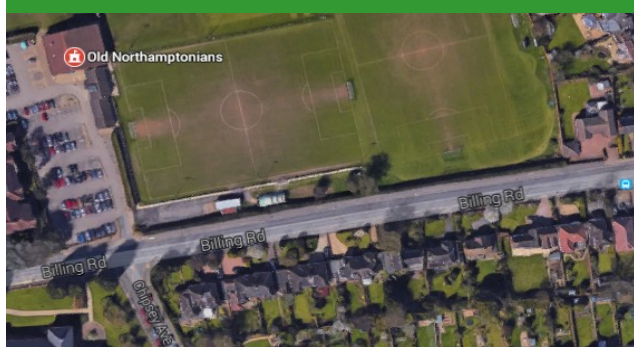
Club Website: www.pitchero.com/clubs/northamptononchenecks

Twitter: @onchenecksfc1

Facebook:



Club Location



Ground: Old Northamptonians Sports Ground, Billing Road, Northampton, NN1 5RT

T: 01604 634045

Ground Directions: Leave A45 at exit marked Bedford A428 and Town Centre. Take exit into Rushmere Road marked Abington, Kingsthorpe and County Cricket. At first set of lights turn left into Billing Road, sports ground 250 yards on the right.

Club Kits



NORTHAMPTON SILEBY RANGERS FOOTBALL CLUB



Club Contacts

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Social Media

Club Website: www.clubwebsite.co.uk/silebyrangers

 **Twitter:** @silebyrangers

 **Facebook:**

Club Location



Ground: Fernie Fields Sports Ground, Talavera Way, NN3 6FR
T: 01604 670366

Ground Directions: Approach from Round Spinney roundabout. Head towards Moulton Park, entrance to ground in 300 yards on the left. Do not try and enter ground via the road marked Fernie Field A this entrance is closed on match days.

Groundsman: David Salisbury
Home: 01604 670366

Club Kits



OADBY TOWN FOOTBALL

Club Contacts

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Fixture Secretary:

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Social Media

Club Website: www.pitchero.com/clubs/oadbytown

Twitter: @OadbyTown_FC

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OTFCThePoachers/>



Club Location



Ground: Freeway Park, Wigston Road, Oadby, LE2 5QG

T: 01162 715728

Ground Directions: A14 Desborough, A6 towards Market Harborough. Follow A6 towards Leicester. Enter Oadby, go past Sainsbury's (traffic lights), next set of lights turn left. Signpost Oadby Town Centre, follow road over mini roundabout (St Peters Church in foreground) bear left towards Wigston. Follow road over roundabout, through the next lights, ground on the left.

Groundsman: Kevin Zupp

Mobile: 07580 004110

Email: zuppy101@hotmail.co.uk

Club Kits



OAKHAM UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

Club Contacts

Secretary:

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Fixture Secretary:

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Social Media

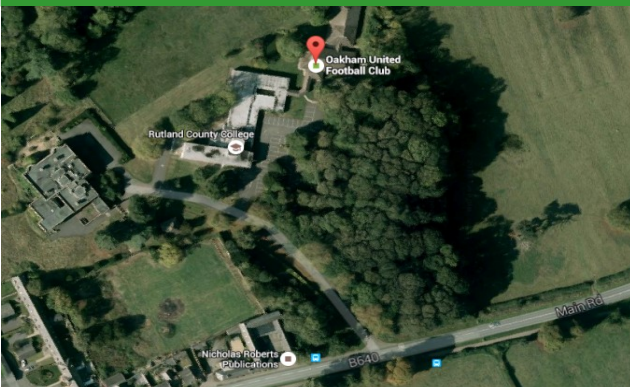


Club Website: www.oakhamunited.co.uk

Twitter: @oakhamunited

Facebook: Oakham United Football Club

Club Location



Ground: Main Road, Barleythorpe, Oakham, LE15 7EE

T: 07817 578896

Ground Directions: Oakham United Football Club is located on the main road running through the village of Barleythorpe (B640). The B640 links the town centre to the A606 Oakham bypass.

Groundsman: Alistair Forbes

27 Glebe Way, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6NW

Mobile: 07912 287598

Email: alistairsydney@talktalk.net

Club Kits



OLNEY TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

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Social Media



Club Website: www.olneytownfc.com

Twitter: @olneytownfc

Facebook:

Club Location



Ground: East St, Olney, Buckinghamshire MK46 4DW

Ground Directions: Approaching from Milton Keynes, and M1 Junction 14 (on the A509) By Car: Follow the A509 into Olney, over river bridge, 200 metres past the Swan Bistro and public house and take the first turning right onto the market square (immediately before the traffic lights), follow road to the right onto a one way system into East Street. Follow East Street for 500 metres, the Football Club is on the right hand side, car park entrance being the immediately following right turn. Approaching from Bedford (North on A428) The ideal turn for Olney is left off the A428 after the village of Cold Brayfield onto the B565. At the first encountered roundabout turn left into Olney on the A509. After the first set of traffic lights (pedestrian crossing) turn left into Midland Road and then immediately right into East Street. Carry on down East Street past the Junctions with Newton Street and Austin Avenue on your left, past the Fire Station and the Football Club car park entrance is your next left turn. Approaching from Northampton (South on the A428) After passing through the village of Yardley Hastings take the next right onto the B5388, follow this road towards Olney - straight over the roundabout on the edge of the town and into Olney down the Yardley Road Hill. At the junction at the end of the road (in front of a pub) cross straight over the High Street into Holes Lane, take your next turn right into East Street - carry on past the fire station on your left. The Football Club car park entrance is your next left turn.

Club Kits



PETERBOROUGH NORTHERN STAR FOOTBALL CLUB



Club Contacts

Secretary:

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Peterborough




**Northern Star
Football Club**

Social Media

Club Website: www.pnsfc.co.uk

 **Twitter:** @pnsfc_official

 **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/peterboroughnorthernstar

Club Location



Ground: Branch Bros Stadium, Chestnut Avenue, Peterborough, PE1 4PE

T: 01733 552416

Ground Directions: From A1 follow A1139. Follow signs for Wisbech A47 Exit Junction 7. At top of slip road turn left. At traffic lights turn right, then first right Eastern Avenue. Turn 2nd left. Ground on right.

From A47 or A16 turn into Welland Road past Household Waste. Take 2nd left Eastern Avenue. Take 4th right central avenue. 2nd Left Chestnut Avenue, ground on left.

Groundsman: Gareth Bullimore

Business: 01733 552416

Email: contact@pnsfc.co.uk

Club Kits



PINCHBECK UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

Club Contacts

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Social Media

Club Website:

 **Twitter:**
 **Facebook:**

Club Location



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Club Kits



POTTON UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB



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Social Media

Club Website: www.clubwebsite.co.uk/pottonunited

Twitter: @pottonunited

Facebook:

Club Location



Ground: The Hutchinson Hollow, Biggleswade Road, Potton, SG19 2LU
T: 01767 261100

Ground Directions: From Sandy take B1042 to Potton.

Once you enter Potton, go over 2 mini roundabouts and approx. 400 yards after 3rd mini roundabout take right turn (B1040 to Biggleswade). Go past BP Garage and the entrance to the ground is at the bottom of the hill on the left, immediately before National Speed Limit sign.

Groundsman: Alan Riley

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Club Kits



RAUNDS TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

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Club Location



Ground: Kiln Park, London Road, Raunds, Northants, NN9 6EQ
T: 01933 623351


Ground Directions: From North, East or West, take A14 J13 and follow A45 signs to Raunds. Turn left at roundabout by BP garage. From South follow A45 towards Thrapston. Turn right at roundabout by BP garage. Ground on left.

Groundsman: Mark Panter
Mobile: 07847 814719
Email: djsentsmarkp@gmail.com



Social Media

Club Website: www.clubwebsite.co.uk/raundstownc

 **Twitter:** @raundstown_fc

 **Facebook:**

Club Kits



ROTHWELL CORINTHIANS FOOTBALL CLUB

Club Contacts

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Social Media

Club Website: www.rothwellcorinthians.co.uk

Twitter: @rothwellcfc

Facebook:



Club Location



Ground: Sergeants Lawn, Desborough Road, Rothwell, NN14 6JR
T: 01536 711706
Ground Directions: From East take A14 leaving at the Rothwell turn (Junction 4). Head through Rothwell on B669. Ground located adjacent to cricket pitch just as you are leaving Rothwell. From West leave A14 at junction 3, take 3rd exit from roundabout into Rothwell. At T-junction turn left on B669. Drive through the town as above.

Groundsman: Mick Johnson
Mobile: 07828 076713
Email: JKrenJohnson@aol.com

Club Kits



RUSHDEN & HIGHAM UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

Club Contacts

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Chairman:

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TBC


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Social Media

Club Website: www.clubwebsite.co.uk/rhufc

 **Twitter:** @cudgeslankies

 **Facebook:**

Club Location



Ground: Hayden Road, Rushden, Northants, NN10 0HX
T: 01933 410036

Ground Directions: From A6/A45 (Chowns Mill Roundabout) take Higham / Rushden bypass at 3rd roundabout, take the 3rd exit onto Newton Road, then immediately right after Newton Road School into Cromwell road this then leads into Hayden Road. Ground is approx. 100 yards on left hand side. From Bedford (A6) take Rushden / Higham Bypass and at the 1st roundabout take the 1st exit onto Newton Road, then turn immediately right after Newton Road School into Cromwell road this the leads into Hayden Road. Ground is approx. 100 yards on the left hand side.

Club Kits



SLEAFORD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB



Club Contacts

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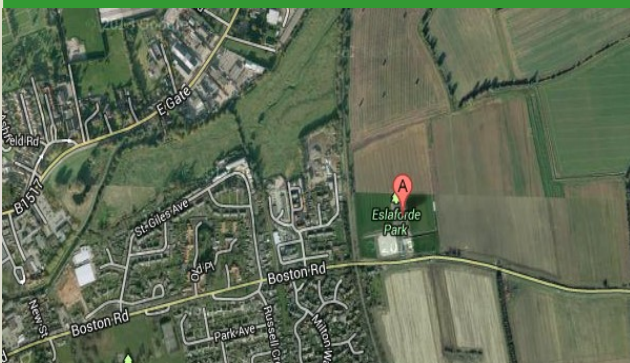
Social Media

Club Website: www.sleafordtownfc.co.uk

 **Twitter:** @sleafordtownfc

 **Facebook:**

Club Location



Ground: Eslaforde Park, Boston Road, Sleaford, NG34 9GH
T: 01529 415951

Ground Directions: From Lincoln follow the A15 (Sleaford) at the first roundabout take the first exit A17 (Boston) and follow the road for about 3 miles. Take the slip road off to Kirkby La Thorpe and follow the road round over the bridge. Continue on the road for around a mile and the stadium is on the right with the car situated in front of the ground.

Club Kits



ST ANDREWS FOOTBALL CLUB

Club Contacts

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Fixture Secretary:

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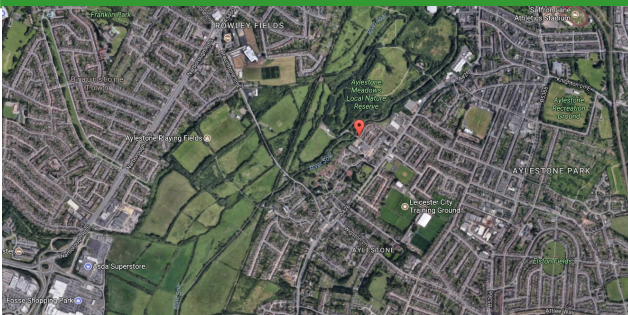
Social Media

Club Website: www.pitchero.com/clubs/standrewsfootballclub

 **Twitter:** @standrewsbar

 **Facebook:**

Club Location



Ground: The Transport Enterprise Arena, Canal St, Aylestone, Leicester, LE2 8LZ

Telephone: 0116 2839298

Ground Directions: From A6-A47 head towards race course, turn left at island. Head towards aylestone, take 4th turning on the second island, head towards aylestone. Turn right at T junction take 3rd left turn right at T junction, left at no entry sign go over bridge into the ground

Club Kits



STEWART & LLOYDS AFC

Club Contacts

Secretary:

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Social Media

Club Website: www.stewartsandlloydsafc.co.uk

 **Twitter:**

 **Facebook:**

Club Location



Ground: Occupation Road, Corby, Northants, NN17 1EH
T: 01536 401497

Ground Directions: From the Oundle / Weldon Road turn at roundabout into A6086 Lloyds Road and continue to roundabout. Take second exit going over railway line along Rockingham road. Continue over speed bumps to roundabout. Turn left in to Occupation Road and first right into Cannock road. Turn right into gates then left into ground.

Groundsman: John Davies

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Club Kits



First Team



Reserve Team

THRAPSTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB



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Thrapston Town Football Club

Social Media

Club Website: pitcher.com/clubs/ThrapstonTown

Twitter: @thrapstontownFc

Facebook:

Club Location



Ground: Chancery Lane, Thrapston, Northampton, NN14 4JL
T: 01832 732470

Ground Directions: Exit A14 (Junction 13) onto A605—Travel towards Peterborough approx. 700 meters to first roundabout. Take 1st exit into Thrapston. At Oundle Road traffic lights (Masons Arms) turn right for approx. 500 meters before turning left into De Vere Road. Ground is at the end of the road.

Groundsman:

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Club Kits



Home Kit

Away Kit

WELLINGBOROUGH TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

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Social Media

Club Website: www.wellingboroughtownfc.co.uk
Twitter: @thedoughboys
Facebook:

Club Location



Ground: London Road, Wellingborough, NN8 2DP
T: 01933 441388

Ground Directions: Take slip road off A45 to Town Centre. Passing Tesco on left, turn left at roundabout, through 1st set of lights then turn right at next lights, into retail park with us on your right behind Dog & Duck Inn.

Groundsman: Mark Panter
 92 High Street, Higham Ferrers, NN10 8BJ
Mobile: 07847 814719
Email: mdpgroundcare@gmail.com

Club Kits



WELLINGBOROUGH WHITWORTH FOOTBALL CLUB

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First Team Manager:

TBC

Reserve Team Manager:

TBC



Social Media

Club Website: www.clubwebsite.co.uk/whitworthfc

 **Twitter:**

 **Facebook:**

Club Location



Ground: Victoria Mill Ground, London Road, Wellingborough, NN8 2DP
T: 07825 632545

Ground Directions: Leave A45 bypass and go past Tesco etc, turn left at roundabout then turn right immediately after Dog & Duck pub for Business Park, then go through gate at bottom of the road.

Club Kits



First Team

Reserve Team

WISBECH TOWN FOOTBALL

Club Contacts

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Social Media

Club Website: www.wisbechtownfc.co.uk

 **Twitter:** @wisbechtownfc

 **Facebook:**

Club Location



Ground: The Elgoods Fenland Stadium, Lynn Road, Wisbech, PE14 7AL
T: 01945 581511

Ground Directions: From A1 follow signs for Wisbech (A47). At the outskirts of Wisbech, take 2nd exit off roundabout, signposted A47. After 1.5 miles, go straight over at the next roundabout. At next roundabout (another 3.1 miles on, Total Garage on right) take first exit (signposted B198 West Walton/Walsoken). Cross over next roundabout (which is new, so not marked on some maps and sat navs) and follow road for just over a mile. The entrance to the stadium is on the right via the right turn lane.

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Email: parsonssnips10@aol.com

Club Kits



Home Kit

Away Kit

YAXLEY FOOTBALL CLUB



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Club Location



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Social Media

Club Website: www.pitchero.com/clubs/yaxleyfootballclub

Twitter: @yaxleyfc

Facebook:

Club Kits



GROUND GRADING REQUIREMENTS

Notices

Clubs are reminded it is their responsibility to ensure they meet the relevant FA Ground Grading criteria at all times. They may be accessed by checking The FA grass roots website and following the link to:

<http://www.thefa.com/my-football/club-leagues/ground-grading>

Ground Grading - Grade H

(appropriate to entry to NLS Step 6)

When considering any developments of the ground to comply with the requirements of this grade, clubs are recommended to bear in mind the criteria for higher gradings which might be achieved for minimal additional expense.

NB The suitability of all installations shall be at the sole discretion of the FA Ground Grading Technical Panel

1. GROUND

It must be possible for spectators to view the match, either standing or seated, for the full length of at least 2 sides of the playing area. Where a side is designated as spectator-free, measures must be in place to ensure there is no unauthorised access.

The location of the ground, in so far as its relation to the conurbation whose name the club bears, or is traditionally associated with, must meet with the approval of both The Football Association and the Board of Directors or Management Committee of the league of which it is in membership.

1.1 Security of Tenure

The club must demonstrate security of tenure as required by The Football Association and the league of which it is a member. (Standardised rule 2.3.2)

1.2 Ground Share

Ground sharing is permitted in accordance with the provisions of individual league rules and the Regulations for the Establishment and Operation of the National League System.

1.3 Capacity

There is no minimum capacity at this level but a club should be mindful that the minimum requirement for Grade D is 1,300.

1.4 Boundary of Ground

The ground must be enclosed by a boundary, not necessarily of a permanent nature. As a general rule, the minimum height, when measured from outside the ground, must be 1.83 metres. It should be noted that at higher grades (E and above) the boundary fence should be of a construction to prevent viewing from outside the ground.

1.5 Clubhouse

There must be a clubhouse facility either on the ground or in the near vicinity and which must be open on match days to provide refreshments to spectators. NB for Grade G and above, the clubhouse, if not on the ground, must be immediately adjacent to it.

1.6 Car Parking

There should be adequate car parking facilities on or adjacent to the ground. Car parking within the ground may not be acceptable.

1.7 Pitch Perimeter Barrier

Subject to the provisions detailed below, there must be a permanent fixed barrier ideally 1.1 m high as measured from the spectator side, of sound construction (eg concrete and steel) and free from all sharp

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edges, surrounding the pitch on all sides that may be occupied by spectators. Existing barriers/rails not at 1.1m high may be acceptable, provided they meet the requirements set out in 1.7 of the Appendix.

GROUND GRADING REQUIREMENTS continued

The barrier, if other than solid wall type of construction may be infilled. Plastic multi-purpose hi-vis fencing is not considered suitable for infill. There must be a minimum of 1.83 metres, ideally 2 metres, between the touchline, goal line and the pitch perimeter barrier. In the case of new stadium, the minimum must be 3 metres. .

Immediately in front of an area of seated accommodation the boundary of the playing area may be indicated by means other than a permanent fixed barrier, provided the Club is able to provide assurances that no spectator be allowed to stand in this area to watch the match.

Where there is a walkway in front of a standing terrace which is itself fronted by a crush barrier that has itself been subject to an annual risk assessment and, if necessary, tested, an alternative to a fixed barrier (e.g. A-frames) may be used, provided no spectators are allowed to stand in this area to watch the match. The Club must implement a safety management system to ensure this and also to protect the integrity of the playing area.

NB where A-frames are utilised instead of a fixed barrier, they must be continuous.

(See also Appendix)

1.8 Pitch Standards

The playing surface must be grass, unless otherwise authorised by the Competition's Board of Directors, and must be of the highest possible standard. It must be level and 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. NB When a new pitch is being developed or significant improvements made to a pitch, the gradient of 1:41 would not be acceptable and the pitch must be constructed with reference to the FA Performance Quality Standard.

The playing surface must be maintained to a standard acceptable to the competition in which the club is playing or seeks to play.

3G football turf

3G football turf may only be used provided conditions (i) to (v) below have been met (the "Performance Standard"): (i) The pitch must be surfaced with 3G football turf that has laboratory type approval according to the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf (2012 & 2015 editions) – FIFA Recommended One Star/Quality level.

(ii) The 3G football turf pitch must be listed on The Association's register of 3G football turf pitches by no later than 31 July and tested annually at the Club's expense.

(iii) Where a 3G football turf pitch is not yet listed on The Association's register (for example if it is a newly installed pitch), a Club must obtain a Performance Test Certificate or Laboratory report and submit it to The Association by no later than 31 July.

(iv) The Association reserves the right to instruct a Club to have its pitch tested at any time in order to ensure that it meets the Performance Standard. All such tests shall be at the Club's expense.

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(v) The 3G football turf, including run-offs, shall be one continuous playing surface and shall be green in colour at least one metre from the outer edge of the touchline and goal line. All line markings shall be in accordance with the Laws of Association Football.

1.9 Playing Area

The playing area must be a minimum of 100 metres x 64 metres and must conform to the requirements of the Laws of the Game.

Goalposts and goal net supports should be of professional manufacture and conform to the relevant safety requirements and to the requirements of the Laws of the Game.

(See also Appendix)

GROUND GRADING REQUIREMENTS continued

Two covered trainers' boxes clearly marked "Home" and "Away or Visitors" must be provided unless adequate provision is made in a seated stand. They must be on the same side of the pitch ideally either side of the halfway line, ideally both equidistant from it and ideally a minimum of 3 metres apart and provide an unobstructed view of the playing area.

NB When new boxes are being constructed or installed, they must be on each side of the half way line, equidistant from it and a minimum of 3 metres apart.

Each box should accommodate at least 8 persons on fixed seats or benches. Where bench seating is provided, a minimum of 0.5 m must be allowed for each person (i.e. 8 persons require a minimum of 4 metres.).

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

A technical area must be marked out, in accordance with the guidance contained in the 'Laws of the Game' booklet.

1.11 Safe Walkway

There must be a safe, unimpeded passage for players and match officials between their dressing rooms and the pitch.

The design of the safe walkway will inevitably differ from ground to ground and it will rarely guarantee the safe passage of players and match officials unless supplemented by stewards. A club should implement procedures appropriate to the particular structure and be ready to respond to on the field situations which might affect spectator behaviour.

1.12 Floodlighting

Floodlights must be provided to an average lux reading of at least 120. No single reading can be less than one quarter of the highest reading so as to ensure an even spread of light. NB When installing a new system, clubs are advised to check any planning restrictions for its use.

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 contractor. Floodlights must be retested after any significant alterations. Existing certification will be accepted provided that the test was carried out within the last two years unless work has been carried out at the ground which may have affected previous readings.

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It is also recommended that at the same time as testing the lights clubs also test the electrical supply within the ground to ensure that the system complies with current electrical standards and request a visual inspection of the columns for signs of corrosion, fatigue and overloading.

An example of an "approved" contractor is one which is in possession of the NICEIC (National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting) Approved Contractors Award or ISO 9000/BS 5750 (International Standards/British Standards) or is a member of the Electrical Contractors' Association. Alternatively, it can be a contractor deemed acceptable by the league.

The contractor must, when detailing the lux values, give confirmation in writing of the date when the illumination test equipment used was last calibrated.

When new or improved installations are being planned, the lighting procured must meet BS 12193 Class 2 and have an average lux reading of at least 200.

1.13 Public Address System

A public address system is not compulsory for this grade but clubs must be mindful that it may be necessary to convey information to spectators in the event of an emergency.

GROUND GRADING REQUIREMENTS continued

1.14 Entrances

There must be at least 1 fully operational turnstile (which must be of the revolving type) or a pay box where a charge for entry to the ground can be taken. In both cases a grille or similar for the payment window and a lock that can be operated from inside must be incorporated.

Electronic turnstiles with bar code readers are also acceptable but an emergency procedure must be in place in the event of a power failure. Adequate protection and security must be incorporated for the turnstile operator or, where tickets are sold from a box office, the cashier.

It must be possible to gain access to the spectator viewing areas from the turnstiles via a bound surface to a minimum width of 0.9 metre.

1.15 Exits

All exits must be clearly signed, ideally with "running man" signs, and are to be kept clear and free from obstructions. (For further information, reference should be made to the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds.)

There must be access via a bound surface to all exits from the nearest spectator viewing areas.

1.16 Lighting

(See Appendix)

1.17 Adjoining Pitches

Where deemed that they are likely to interfere with the playing of a match, ball games will not be played on adjoining pitches whilst a match is in progress.

1.18 Emergency Access

Access must be provided for the emergency services and maintained free from obstruction.

2. SPECTATOR FACILITIES

2.1 Spectator Accommodation

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The minimum covered accommodation must be 50.

Covered accommodation must be of sound construction of timber/steel/brick/concrete or any combination of these materials. Existing timber stands are only acceptable subject to a fire risk assessment conducted by a competent person.

Any seating must afford a good view of the pitch and be clean, functional and in good condition. Bench seating will be permitted provided that it is in good repair and that individual spaces (min 500mm) are clearly marked.

Standing spectators are not allowed in or near a seated spectator stand where they can obstruct views.

Areas where spectators are not permitted to stand must be clearly marked with yellow hatched markings. Alternatively, appropriate signage may be acceptable.

Hard standing to a minimum width of 0.9 metre, measured from the spectator side of the pitch perimeter barrier, must be provided on a minimum of 2 adjacent end/sides of the ground with direct access from the entrance. The surface must be tarmac, concrete, concrete paving or other approved materials which create a bound material

Where a club shares its ground with a cricket club which limits the amount of permanent hard standing which can be installed, a maximum of one side or end of temporary flooring made of a polypropylene material or such like may be acceptable. Precise details of the specification must be supplied to the league and The Football Association before its installation.

GROUND GRADING REQUIREMENTS continued

Spectators must not be permitted to access any end/side without hard standing.

2.2 Press Seating

There is no requirement for dedicated press seating.

2.3 Terracing

Where terracing is provided, it must comply with the requirements of the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds. All terracing must be in a sound condition. Terracing that is crumbling, has grass/weeds growing through it or has broken or loose concrete will not be accepted.

Any level surface within the ground should ideally be hard standing, such as tarmac, concrete, concrete paving or other approved materials which create a bound surface. However, flat and well maintained grassed areas may be accepted.

The use of tree bark instead of grass may be acceptable, subject to prior permission being obtained from the league and The Football Association.

2.4 Toilets

Toilets must be located within the ground and must be accessible both to male and to female spectators. NB Where it is necessary to exit the ground to gain access to toilets located in an adjacent clubhouse, these may be deemed acceptable, provided no great distance is involved.

A minimum of 2 WCs must be provided.

In addition, wash hand basins, with running water, warm air hand driers and/or paper towels, together with a supply of toilet paper, must be provided in each toilet area.

All toilet areas must be in working order, with a roof and operational lighting, and maintained to a high level of cleanliness.

These facilities may be of a temporary or mobile kind but must be connected to the mains supply (ie water and power) and main drainage or an acceptable alternative drainage system.

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They must be fully accessible with permanent access

Individual toilet units often known as 'porta-loos' are permissible on a temporary basis but may not be included in the minimum toilet requirements.

The location of all toilet facilities must be indicated with appropriate signage.

2.5 Refreshment Facilities

2.5.1 Directors/Committee/Guests

Refreshments must be made available for visiting officials and guests.

2.5.2 Ground Refreshment Facilities

Refreshment facilities must be provided at the ground or the clubhouse. These facilities may be of a temporary or mobile type.

2.6 Disabled Facilities

(See Appendix)

2.7 Segregation

When segregation is in operation, there must be adequate toilet facilities and refreshment facilities in each segregated area in addition to the appropriate means of egress and exit.

GROUND GRADING REQUIREMENTS continued

3. DRESSING ROOM FACILITIES

3.1 Players

Separate dressing rooms must be provided for both teams within the enclosed area of the ground. The dressing rooms must be of sound construction and be of a permanent nature. Existing dressing room dimensions will be acceptable provided they are a minimum of 12 square metres, excluding shower and toilet areas. Where clubs are planning to build new dressing rooms these must be a minimum size of 18 square metres, excluding shower and toilet areas.

NB Clubs need to be aware of the increase at grade D to a minimum size of 18 square metres, excluding shower and toilet areas, as from 31st March 2019.

Each dressing room must have the following:

A shower area comprising of at least 4 showerheads

At least 1 wash hand basin located outside the shower area.

(All the above must have hot and cold running water)

At least 1 WC in a cubicle

There must be a treatment table which is clean and in good condition in each dressing room.

3.2 Match Officials

The size of the match official's dressing room must be a minimum of 4 square metres, excluding shower and toilet areas. When new dressing rooms are being constructed the match officials' room should be a minimum of 6 square metres in size, excluding shower and toilet areas.

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NB Clubs need to be aware of the increase at grade D to a minimum size of 6 square metres, excluding shower and toilet areas, as from 31st March 2019.

Each match officials' dressing room must have the following:

at least 1 showerhead

1 wash hand basin

at least 1 WC in a cubicle. This must be for the exclusive use of the match officials but need not necessarily be en suite

Provision must be made for separate dressing rooms for male and female match officials.

Where new dressing rooms are being constructed or existing are being re-designed, separate purpose built facilities for male and female match officials must be provided.

There must be an audible electronic warning device (bell or buzzer) in working order located in the match officials' dressing room, and which is linked to the players' dressing rooms. All dressing room areas must be maintained to a high standard of cleanliness and be heated, well ventilated, free from damp and secure on match days.

4. MEDICAL

A stretcher must be provided for the removal of injured players from the pitch.

(See also Appendix)

GROUND GRADING REQUIREMENTS continued

APPENDIX 1. GROUND

1.7 Pitch Perimeter Barrier

It is important to distinguish between a pitch perimeter barrier/rail which exists to separate spectators from the playing area and a crush barrier which has been constructed and tested according to the requirements of the Green Guide. Where the structure cannot be designated as a crush barrier, e.g. its height exceeds 1.1m, the maximum depth of standing behind it is limited to 1.5m and this must be borne in mind in any capacity calculations.

It is recognised that the above may not be an issue for normal attendances but, when a larger crowd is anticipated, the Club should be mindful of the associated management issues and, if necessary, take professional advice.

Whatever system is employed, a club should be mindful of its responsibility to ensure spectator safety and minimise the possibility of unauthorised incursions on to the playing area.

1.9 Playing Area

Reference should be made to the Goalpost Safety information published by The Football Association and, in particular, it should be noted that the use of metal cup hooks is prohibited.

1.16 Lighting

Whilst their installation is strongly recommended, neither working nor emergency lighting is any longer a grading requirement. Clubs are reminded that they have a responsibility to ensure the safety of spectators entering, leaving and moving about the ground and, if a ground is used in non-daylight hours, adequate

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artificial lighting should be provided. Further, consideration must be given by a club to its procedures in the event of a power failure.

2. SPECTATOR FACILITIES

2.5 Disabled Facilities

A club must take full account of the needs of disabled spectators and be mindful of its obligations under the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Reference made should be made to the publications / data sheets issued by both The Football Association and the Football Foundation.

No specific requirement is currently included in the ground grading criteria but The Football Association strongly recommends that access is provided to both a covered viewing area and toilet and refreshment facilities.

4. MEDICAL

All clubs must provide first aid equipment, including a stretcher, for the use of players and spectators. Its location in the ground, if other than in a dedicated treatment room, should be clearly marked by notices placed in the dressing rooms for teams and match officials.

There must be a nominated and suitably qualified person in attendance to assist with spectator problems unless the St John Ambulance Brigade, Red Cross Society or other capable agency are in attendance. The requirements of the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds are for one first aider per 1000 anticipated spectators, with a minimum of two.

If a crowd of less than 2000 is anticipated, known and practiced arrangements should be in place to summon either a doctor or NHS ambulance alternative. For crowds of over 2000, an experienced crowd doctor should be in attendance.

NB The above in no way purports to be a comprehensive list of Health and Safety issues which it is the responsibility of a club to address. Clubs are recommended to arrange regular safety audits conducted by persons with the appropriate expertise.

GROUND GRADING REQUIREMENTS continued

Ground Grading - Grade G

(appropriate to NLS Step 6)

When considering any developments of the ground to comply with the requirements of this grade, clubs are recommended to bear in mind the criteria for higher gradings which might be achieved for minimal additional expense.

NB The suitability of all installations shall be at the sole discretion of the FA Ground Grading Technical Panel

1. GROUND

It must be possible for spectators to view the match, either standing or seated, for the full length of at least 2 sides of the playing area. Where a side is designated as spectator-free, measures must be in place to ensure there is no unauthorised access.

The location of the ground, in so far as its relation to the conurbation whose name the club bears, or is traditionally associated with, must meet with the approval of both The Football Association and the Board of Directors or Management Committee of the league of which it is in membership.

1.1 Security of Tenure

The club must demonstrate security of tenure as required by The Football Association and the league of which it is a member. (Standardised rule 2.3.2)

1.2 Ground Share

Ground sharing is permitted in accordance with the provisions of individual league rules and the Regulations for the Establishment and Operation of the National League System.

1.3 Capacity

There is no minimum capacity at this level but a club should be mindful that the minimum requirement for Grade D is 1,300.

1.4 Boundary of Ground

The ground must be enclosed by a boundary, not necessarily of a permanent nature. As a general rule, the minimum height, when measured from outside the ground, must be 1.83 metres. It should be noted that at higher grades (E and above) the boundary fence should be of a construction to prevent viewing from outside the ground.

1.5 Clubhouse

There must be a clubhouse facility either on the ground or in the near vicinity and which must be open on match days to provide refreshments to spectators. NB for Grade G and above, the clubhouse, if not on the ground, must be immediately adjacent to it.

1.6 Car Parking

There should be adequate car parking facilities on or adjacent to the ground. Car parking within the ground may not be acceptable.

1.7 Pitch Perimeter Barrier

Subject to the provisions detailed below, there must be a permanent fixed barrier ideally 1.1 m high as measured from the spectator side, of sound construction (eg concrete and steel) and free from all sharp

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edges, surrounding the pitch on all sides that may be occupied by spectators. Existing barriers/rails not at 1.1m high may be acceptable, provided they meet the requirements set out in 1.7 of the Appendix.

The barrier, if other than solid wall type of construction may be infilled. Plastic multi-purpose hi-vis fencing is not considered suitable for infill. There must be a minimum of 1.83 metres, ideally 2 metres, between the touchline, goal line and the pitch perimeter barrier. In the case of new stadium, the minimum must be 3 metres. .

GROUND GRADING REQUIREMENTS continued

Immediately in front of an area of seated accommodation the boundary of the playing area may be indicated by means other than a permanent fixed barrier, provided the Club is able to provide assurances that no spectator be allowed to stand in this area to watch the match.

Where there is a walkway in front of a standing terrace which is itself fronted by a crush barrier that has itself been subject to an annual risk assessment and, if necessary, tested, an alternative to a fixed barrier (e.g. A-frames) may be used, provided no spectators are allowed to stand in this area to watch the match. The Club must implement a safety management system to ensure this and also to protect the integrity of the playing area.

NB where A-frames are utilised instead of a fixed barrier, they must be continuous.

(See also Appendix)

1.8 Pitch Standards

The playing surface must be grass, unless otherwise authorised by the Competition's Board of Directors, and must be of the highest possible standard. It must be level and 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. NB When a new pitch is being developed or significant improvements made to a pitch, the gradient of 1:41 would not be acceptable and the pitch must be constructed with reference to the FA Performance Quality Standard.

The playing surface must be maintained to a standard acceptable to the competition in which the club is playing or seeks to play.

3G football turf

3G football turf may only be used provided conditions (i) to (v) below have been met (the "Performance Standard"): (i) The pitch must be surfaced with 3G football turf that has laboratory type approval according to the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf (2012 & 2015 editions) – FIFA Recommended One Star/Quality level.

(ii) The 3G football turf pitch must be listed on The Association's register of 3G football turf pitches by no later than 31 July and tested annually at the Club's expense.

(iii) Where a 3G football turf pitch is not yet listed on The Association's register (for example if it is a newly installed pitch), a Club must obtain a Performance Test Certificate or Laboratory report and submit it to The Association by no later than 31 July.

(iv) The Association reserves the right to instruct a Club to have its pitch tested at any time in order to ensure that it meets the Performance Standard. All such tests shall be at the Club's expense.

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(v) The 3G football turf, including run-offs, shall be one continuous playing surface and shall be green in colour at least one metre from the outer edge of the touchline and goal line. All line markings shall be in accordance with the Laws of Association Football.

1.9 Playing Area

The playing area must be a minimum of 100 metres x 64 metres and must conform to the requirements of the Laws of the Game.

Goalposts and goal net supports should be of professional manufacture and conform to the relevant safety requirements and to the requirements of the Laws of the Game.

(See also Appendix)

1.10 Technical Area

Two covered trainers' boxes clearly marked "Home" and "Away or Visitors" must be provided unless adequate provision is made in a seated stand. They must be on the same side of the pitch ideally either side of the halfway line, ideally both equidistant from it and ideally a minimum of 3 metres apart and provide an unobstructed view of the playing area.

NB When new boxes are being constructed or installed, they must be on each side of the half way line, equidistant from it and a minimum of 3 metres apart.

GROUND GRADING REQUIREMENTS continued

Each box should accommodate at least 8 persons on fixed seats or benches. Where bench seating is provided, a minimum of 0.5 m must be allowed for each person (i.e. 8 persons require a minimum of 4 metres.).

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

A technical area must be marked out, in accordance with the guidance contained in the 'Laws of the Game' booklet.

1.11 Safe Walkway

There must be a safe, unimpeded passage for players and match officials between their dressing rooms and the pitch.

The design of the safe walkway will inevitably differ from ground to ground and it will rarely guarantee the safe passage of players and match officials unless supplemented by stewards. A club should implement procedures appropriate to the particular structure and be ready to respond to on the field situations which might affect spectator behaviour.

1.12 Floodlighting

Floodlights must be provided to an average lux reading of at least 120. No single reading can be less than one quarter of the highest reading so as to ensure an even spread of light. NB When installing a new system, clubs are advised to check any planning restrictions for its use.

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 contractor. Floodlights must be retested after any significant alterations. Existing certification will be accepted provided that the test was carried out within the last two years unless work has been carried out at the ground which may have affected previous readings.

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It is also recommended that at the same time as testing the lights clubs also test the electrical supply within the ground to ensure that the system complies with current electrical standards and request a visual inspection of the columns for signs of corrosion, fatigue and over-loading.

An example of an "approved" contractor is one which is in possession of the NICEIC (National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting) Approved Contractors Award or ISO 9000/BS 5750 (International Standards/British Standards) or is a member of the Electrical Contractors' Association. Alternatively, it can be a contractor deemed acceptable by the league.

The contractor must, when detailing the lux values, give confirmation in writing of the date when the illumination test equipment used was last calibrated.

When new or improved installations are being planned, the lighting procured must meet BS 12193 Class 2 and have an average lux reading of at least 200.

1.13 Public Address System

A public address system is not compulsory for this grade but clubs must be mindful that it may be necessary to convey information to spectators in the event of an emergency.

1.14 Entrances

There must be at least 1 fully operational turnstile (which must be of the revolving type) or a pay box where a charge for entry to the ground can be taken. In both cases a grille or similar for the payment window and a lock that can be operated from inside must be incorporated.

Electronic turnstiles with bar code readers are also acceptable but an emergency procedure must be in place in the event of a power failure. Adequate protection and security must be incorporated for the turnstile operator or, where tickets are sold from a box office, the cashier.

It must be possible to gain access to the spectator viewing areas from the turnstiles via a bound surface to a minimum width of 0.9 metre.

GROUND GRADING REQUIREMENTS continued

1.15 Exits

All exits must be clearly signed, ideally with “running man” signs, and are to be kept clear and free from obstructions. (For further information, reference should be made to the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds.)

There must be access via a bound surface to all exits from the nearest spectator viewing areas.

1.16 Lighting

(See Appendix)

1.17 Adjoining Pitches

Where deemed that they are likely to interfere with the playing of a match, ball games will not be played on adjoining pitches whilst a match is in progress.

1.18 Emergency Access

Access must be provided for the emergency services and maintained free from obstruction.

2. SPECTATOR FACILITIES

2.1 Spectator Accommodation

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The minimum covered accommodation must be 50.

Covered accommodation must be of sound construction of timber/steel/brick/concrete or any combination of these materials. Existing timber stands are only acceptable subject to a fire risk assessment conducted by a competent person.

Any seating must afford a good view of the pitch and be clean, functional and in good condition. Bench seating will be permitted provided that it is in good repair and that individual spaces (min 500mm) are clearly marked.

Standing spectators are not allowed in or near a seated spectator stand where they can obstruct views.

Areas where spectators are not permitted to stand must be clearly marked with yellow hatched markings. Alternatively, appropriate signage may be acceptable.

Hard standing to a minimum width of 0.9 metre, measured from the spectator side of the pitch perimeter barrier, must be provided on a minimum of 2 adjacent end/sides of the ground with direct access from the entrance. The surface must be tarmac, concrete, concrete paving or other approved materials which create a bound material

Where a club shares its ground with a cricket club which limits the amount of permanent hard standing which can be installed, a maximum of one side or end of temporary flooring made of a polypropylene material or such like may be acceptable. Precise details of the specification must be supplied to the league and The Football Association before its installation.

Spectators must not be permitted to access any end/side without hard standing.

2.2 Press Seating

There is no requirement for dedicated press seating.

2.3 Terracing

Where terracing is provided, it must comply with the requirements of the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds. All terracing must be in a sound condition. Terracing that is crumbling, has grass/weeds growing through it or has broken or loose concrete will not be accepted.

Any level surface within the ground should ideally be hard standing, such as tarmac, concrete, concrete paving or other approved materials which create a bound surface. However, flat and well maintained grassed areas may be accepted.

The use of tree bark instead of grass may be acceptable, subject to prior permission being obtained from the league and The Football Association.

GROUND GRADING REQUIREMENTS continued

2.4 Toilets

Toilets must be located within the ground and must be accessible both to male and to female spectators. NB Where it is necessary to exit the ground to gain access to toilets located in an adjacent clubhouse, these may be deemed acceptable, provided no great distance is involved.

A minimum of 2 WCs must be provided.

In addition, wash hand basins, with running water, warm air hand driers and/or paper towels, together with a supply of toilet paper, must be provided in each toilet area.

All toilet areas must be in working order, with a roof and operational lighting, and maintained to a high level of cleanliness.

These facilities may be of a temporary or mobile kind but must be connected to the mains supply (ie water and power) and main drainage or an acceptable alternative drainage system.

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They must be fully accessible with permanent access

Individual toilet units often known as 'portaloos' are permissible on a temporary basis but may not be included in the minimum toilet requirements.

The location of all toilet facilities must be indicated with appropriate signage.

2.5 Refreshment Facilities

2.5.1 Directors/Committee/Guests

Refreshments must be made available for visiting officials and guests.

2.5.2 Ground Refreshment Facilities

Refreshment facilities must be provided at the ground or the clubhouse. These facilities may be of a temporary or mobile type.

2.6 Disabled Facilities

(See Appendix)

2.7 Segregation

When segregation is in operation, there must be adequate toilet facilities and refreshment facilities in each segregated area in addition to the appropriate means of egress and exit.

3. DRESSING ROOM FACILITIES

3.1 Players

Separate dressing rooms must be provided for both teams within the enclosed area of the ground. The dressing rooms must be of sound construction and be of a permanent nature. Existing dressing room dimensions will be acceptable provided they are a minimum of 12 square metres, excluding shower and toilet areas. Where clubs are planning to build new dressing rooms these must be a minimum size of 18 square metres, excluding shower and toilet areas.

NB Clubs need to be aware of the increase at grade D to a minimum size of 18 square metres, excluding shower and toilet areas, as from 31st March 2019.

Each dressing room must have the following:

A shower area comprising of at least 4 showerheads

At least 1 wash hand basin located outside the shower area.

(All the above must have hot and cold running water)

GROUND GRADING REQUIREMENTS continued

At least 1 WC in a cubicle

There must be a treatment table which is clean and in good condition in each dressing room.

3.2 Match Officials

The size of the match official's dressing room must be a minimum of 4 square metres, excluding shower and toilet areas. When new dressing rooms are being constructed the match officials' room should be a minimum of 6 square metres in size, excluding shower and toilet areas.

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NB Clubs need to be aware of the increase at grade D to a minimum size of 6 square metres, excluding shower and toilet areas, as from 31st March 2019.

Each match officials' dressing room must have the following:

at least 1 showerhead

1 wash hand basin

at least 1 WC in a cubicle. This must be for the exclusive use of the match officials but need not necessarily be en suite

Provision must be made for separate dressing rooms for male and female match officials.

Where new dressing rooms are being constructed or existing are being re-designed, separate purpose built facilities for male and female match officials must be provided.

There must be an audible electronic warning device (bell or buzzer) in working order located in the match officials' dressing room, and which is linked to the players' dressing rooms. All dressing room areas must be maintained to a high standard of cleanliness and be heated, well ventilated, free from damp and secure on match days.

4. MEDICAL

A stretcher must be provided for the removal of injured players from the pitch.

(See also Appendix)

APPENDIX 1. GROUND

1.7 Pitch Perimeter Barrier

It is important to distinguish between a pitch perimeter barrier/rail which exists to separate spectators from the playing area and a crush barrier which has been constructed and tested according to the requirements of the Green Guide. Where the structure cannot be designated as a crush barrier, e.g. its height exceeds 1.1m, the maximum depth of standing behind it is limited to 1.5m and this must be borne in mind in any capacity calculations.

It is recognised that the above may not be an issue for normal attendances but, when a larger crowd is anticipated, the Club should be mindful of the associated management issues and, if necessary, take professional advice.

Whatever system is employed, a club should be mindful of its responsibility to ensure spectator safety and minimise the possibility of unauthorised incursions on to the playing area.

1.9 Playing Area

Reference should be made to the Goalpost Safety information published by The Football Association and, in particular, it should be noted that the use of metal cup hooks is prohibited.

GROUND GRADING REQUIREMENTS continued

1.16 Lighting

Whilst their installation is strongly recommended, neither working nor emergency lighting is any longer a grading requirement. Clubs are reminded that they have a responsibility to ensure the safety of spectators entering, leaving and moving about the ground and, if a ground is used in non-daylight hours, adequate

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artificial lighting should be provided. Further, consideration must be given by a club to its procedures in the event of a power failure.

2. SPECTATOR FACILITIES

2.5 Disabled Facilities

A club must take full account of the needs of disabled spectators and be mindful of its obligations under the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Reference made should be made to the publications / data sheets issued by both The Football Association and the Football Foundation.

No specific requirement is currently included in the ground grading criteria but The Football Association strongly recommends that access is provided to both a covered viewing area and toilet and refreshment facilities.

4. MEDICAL

All clubs must provide first aid equipment, including a stretcher, for the use of players and spectators. Its location in the ground, if other than in a dedicated treatment room, should be clearly marked by notices placed in the dressing rooms for teams and match officials.

There must be a nominated and suitably qualified person in attendance to assist with spectator problems unless the St John Ambulance Brigade, Red Cross Society or other capable agency are in attendance. The requirements of the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds are for one first aider per 1000 anticipated spectators, with a minimum of two.

If a crowd of less than 2000 is anticipated, known and practiced arrangements should be in place to summon either a doctor or NHS ambulance alternative. For crowds of over 2000, an experienced crowd doctor should be in attendance.

NB The above in no way purports to be a comprehensive list of Health and Safety issues which it is the responsibility of a club to address. Clubs are recommended to arrange regular safety audits conducted by persons with the appropriate expertise.

GROUND GRADING REQUIREMENTS continued

Ground Grading - Grade F

(appropriate to NLS Step 5)

When considering any developments of the ground to comply with the requirements of this grade, clubs are recommended to bear in mind the criteria for higher gradings which might be achieved for minimal additional expense.

NB The suitability of all installations shall be at the sole discretion of the FA Ground Grading Technical Panel

1. GROUND

The ground must give an overall appearance and impression of being a football ground suitable for the National League System.

It must be possible for spectators to view the match, either standing or seated, for the full length of at least 3 sides of the playing area but see also para 2.1. Where any side is designated as spectatorfree, measures must be in place to ensure there is no unauthorised access.

The location of the ground, in so far as its relation to the conurbation whose name the club bears, or is traditionally associated with, must meet with the approval of both The Football Association and the Board of Directors or Management Committee of the league of which it is in membership.

The club must disclose plans and details of any proposed future move to a new stadium or of any significant alteration to the existing ground to both the league of which it is in membership and The Football Association.

1.1 Security of Tenure

The club must demonstrate security of tenure as required by The Football Association and the league of which it is a member. (Standardised rule 2.3.2)

1.2 Ground Share

Ground sharing is permitted in accordance with the provisions of individual league rules and the Regulations for the Establishment and Operation of the National League System.

1.3 Capacity

There is no minimum capacity at this level but a club should be mindful that the minimum requirement for Grade D is 1300.

1.4 Boundary of Ground

The ground must be enclosed by a permanent boundary. As a general rule, the minimum height, when measured from outside the ground, must be 1.83 metres. It should be noted that at higher grades the boundary fence should be of a construction to prevent viewing from outside the ground.

Where any side of the ground is bounded by private land/property, the fixed boundary of that private land / property may be acceptable as the boundary of the ground

1.5 Clubhouse

There must be a clubhouse facility either on or adjacent to the ground, which 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. Car parking within the ground may not be acceptable

1.7 Pitch Perimeter Barrier

Subject to the provisions detailed below, there must be a permanent fixed barrier ideally 1.1 m high as measured from the spectator side, of sound construction (eg concrete and steel) and free from all sharp edges, surrounding the pitch on all sides that may be occupied by spectators. Existing barriers/rails not at 1.1m high may be acceptable, provided they meet the requirements set out in 1.7 of the Appendix.

The barrier, if other than solid wall type of construction may be infilled. Plastic multi-purpose hi-vis fencing is not considered suitable for infill.

GROUND GRADING REQUIREMENTS continued

There must be a minimum of 1.83 metres, ideally 2 metres, between the touchline, goal line and the pitch perimeter barrier. In the case of new stadium, the minimum must be 3 metres.

Immediately in front of an area of seated accommodation the boundary of the playing area may be indicated by means other than a permanent fixed barrier, provided the Club is able to provide assurances that no spectator be allowed to stand in this area to watch the match.

Where there is a walkway in front of a standing terrace which is itself fronted by a crush barrier that has itself been subject to an annual risk assessment and, if necessary, tested, an alternative to a fixed barrier (e.g. A-frames) may be used, provided no spectators are allowed to stand in this area to watch the match. The Club must implement a safety management system to ensure this and also to protect the integrity of the playing area.

NB where A-frames are utilised instead of a fixed barrier, they must be continuous.

(See also Appendix)

1.8 Pitch Standards

The playing surface must be grass, unless otherwise authorised by the Competition's Board of Directors, and must be of the highest possible standard. It must be level and 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. NB When a new pitch is being developed or significant improvements made to a pitch, the gradient of 1:41 would not be acceptable and the pitch must be constructed with reference to the FA Performance Quality Standard.

The playing surface must be maintained to a standard acceptable to the competition in which the club is playing or seeks to play.

3G football turf

3G football turf may only be used provided conditions (i) to (v) below have been met (the "Performance Standard"): (i) The pitch must be surfaced with 3G football turf that has laboratory type approval according to the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf (2012 & 2015 editions) – FIFA Recommended One Star/Quality level.

(ii) The 3G football turf pitch must be listed on The Association's register of 3G football turf pitches by no later than 31 July and tested annually at the Club's expense.

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(iii) Where a 3G football turf pitch is not yet listed on The Association's register (for example if it is a newly installed pitch), a Club must obtain a Performance Test Certificate or Laboratory report and submit it to The Association by no later than 31 July.

(iv) The Association reserves the right to instruct a Club to have its pitch tested at any time in order to ensure that it meets the Performance Standard. All such tests shall be at the Club's expense.

(v) The 3G football turf, including run-offs, shall be one continuous playing surface and shall be green in colour at least one metre from the outer edge of the touchline and goal line. All line markings shall be in accordance with the Laws of Association Football.

1.9 Playing Area

The playing area to be a minimum of 100 metres x 64 metres and must conform to the requirements of the Laws of the Game.

Goalposts and goal net supports must be of professional manufacture and conform to the relevant safety requirements and to the requirements of the Laws of the Game.

(See also Appendix)

1.10 Technical Area

Two covered trainers' boxes clearly marked "Home" and "Away or Visitors" must be provided unless adequate provision is made in a seated stand. They must be on the same side of the pitch ideally either side of the halfway line, ideally both equidistant from it and ideally a minimum of 3 metres apart and provide an unobstructed view of the playing area.

NB When new boxes are being constructed or installed, they must be on each side of the half way line, equidistant from it and a minimum of 3 metres apart.

GROUND GRADING REQUIREMENTS continued

Each box must accommodate at least 8 persons on fixed seats or benches. Where bench seating is provided, a minimum of 0.5 m must be allowed for each person (i.e. 8 persons require a minimum of 4 metres.).

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

A technical area must be marked out, in accordance with the guidance contained in the 'Laws of the Game' booklet.

1.11 Safe Walkway

There must be a safe, unimpeded passage for players and match officials between the dressing rooms and the pitch.

The use of protection designed products such as permanent structures or retractable tunnels to separate players and spectators is recommended.

The design of the safe walkway will inevitably differ from ground to ground and it will rarely guarantee the safe passage of players and match officials unless supplemented by stewards. A club should implement procedures appropriate to the particular structure and be ready to respond to on the field situations which might affect spectator behaviour.

1.12 Floodlighting

Floodlights must be provided to an average lux reading of at least 120. No single reading can be less than one quarter of the highest reading so as to ensure an even spread of light. NB When installing a new system, clubs are advised to check any planning restrictions for its use.

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.

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The lux values must be tested every two years in accordance with current guidelines by an approved independent contractor. Floodlights must be retested after any significant alterations. Existing certification will be accepted provided that the test was carried out within the last two years unless work has been carried out at the ground which may have affected previous readings.

It is also recommended that at the same time as testing the lights clubs also test the electrical supply within the ground to ensure that the system complies with current electrical standards and request a visual inspection of the columns for signs of corrosion, fatigue and overloading.

An example of an "approved" contractor is one which is in possession of the NICEIC (National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting) Approved Contractors Award or ISO 9000/BS 5750 (International Standards/British Standards) or is a member of the Electrical Contractors' Association. Alternatively, it can be a contractor deemed acceptable by the league.

The contractor must, when detailing the lux values, give confirmation in writing of the date when the illumination test equipment used was last calibrated.

When new or improved installations are being planned, the lighting procured must meet BS 12193 Class 2 and have an average lux reading of at least 200.

1.13 Public Address System

A public address system must be provided which is clearly audible in all those areas of the ground which can be occupied by spectators.

1.14 Entrances

There must be at least 1 fully operational turnstile (which must be of the revolving type) or a pay box where a charge for entry to the ground can be taken. In both cases a grille or similar for the payment window and a lock that can be operated from inside must be incorporated.

Electronic turnstiles with bar code readers are also acceptable but an emergency procedure must be in place in the event of a power failure. Adequate protection and security must be incorporated for the turnstile operator or, where tickets are sold from a box office, the cashier.

It must be possible to gain access to the spectator viewing areas from the turnstiles via a bound surface to a minimum width of 0.9 metre.

GROUND GRADING REQUIREMENTS continued

1.15 Exits

All exits must be clearly signed, ideally with “running man” signs, and are to be kept clear and free from obstructions. (For further information, reference should be made to the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds.)

There must be access via a bound surface to all exits from the nearest spectator viewing areas.

1.16 Lighting

(See Appendix)

1.17 Adjoining Pitches

Where deemed that they are likely to interfere with the playing of a match, ball games will not be played on adjoining pitches whilst a match is in progress.

1.18 Emergency Access

Access must be provided for the emergency services and maintained free from obstruction.

2. SPECTATOR FACILITIES

2.1 Spectator Accommodation

Covered accommodation, which should preferably be on 2 sides of the ground, must be of sound construction of timber/steel/brick/concrete or any combination of these materials. Existing timber stands are only acceptable subject to a fire risk assessment conducted by a competent person.

The minimum covered accommodation must be 200, of which at least 100 must be seated. These 100 seats, in not more than 2 stands, may be inclusive of Directors/Committee and press seating. No stand may have less than 50 seats.

Whilst individual seats are preferred, bench seating may be permitted provided that it is in good repair and that individual spaces (min 500mm) are clearly marked.

These 100 seats must afford a good view of the pitch and be clean, functional and in good condition.

There must be a minimum of 16 seats provided for Directors/Committee and guests with a minimum of 8 seats provided for the visiting club. These seats must be clearly marked “Home” and “Away Directors”.

Additional seating may be provided in other areas of the ground. However, these seats are not to be classed as being “in lieu” of the number shown above.

Standing spectators are not allowed in or near a seated spectator stand where they can obstruct views.

Areas where spectators are not permitted to stand must be clearly marked with yellow hatched markings. Alternatively, appropriate signage may be acceptable.

Hard standing to a minimum width of 0.9 metre, measured from the spectator side of the pitch perimeter barrier, must be provided on 3 sides of the ground. Existing athletics stadia may be exempt from this requirement.). The surface must be tarmac, concrete, concrete paving or other approved materials which create a bound material.

Where a club shares its ground with a cricket club which limits the amount of permanent hard standing which can be installed, a maximum of one side or end of temporary flooring made of a polypropylene material or such like may be acceptable. Precise details of the specification must be supplied to the league and The Football Association before its installation.

Spectators must not be permitted to access any end/side without hard standing.

NB Where the facility is shared with cricket, hard standing on a minimum of two and a half sides may be acceptable.

2.2 Press Seating

There is no requirement for dedicated press seating.

GROUND GRADING REQUIREMENTS continued

2.3 Terracing

Where terracing is provided, it must comply with the requirements of the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds. All terracing must be in a sound condition. Terracing that is crumbling, has grass/weeds growing through it or has broken or loose concrete will not be accepted.

Any level surface within the ground should ideally be hard standing, such as tarmac, concrete, concrete paving or other approved materials which create a bound surface. However, flat and well maintained grassed areas may be accepted.

The use of tree bark instead of grass may be acceptable, subject to prior permission being obtained from the league and The Football Association.

2.4 Toilets

Toilets must be located within the ground and must be accessible both to male and to female spectators. NB Where it is necessary to exit the ground to gain access to toilets located in an adjacent clubhouse, these may be deemed acceptable, provided no great distance is involved.

The following minimum toilet facilities must be provided:

Male: 2 urinals or equivalent and 1 WC Female: 2 WC's

In addition, wash hand basins, with running water, warm air hand driers and/or paper towels, together with a supply of toilet paper, must be provided in each toilet area. Whilst replaceable linen roller towels in a cabinet are acceptable, individual hand towels are not permitted.

The provision of toilet facilities within a clubhouse will be acceptable if these are accessible and available at all times on match days.

All toilet areas must be in working order, with a roof and operational lighting, supplied with toilet paper and maintained to a high level of cleanliness.

These facilities may be of a temporary or mobile kind but must be connected to the mains supply (ie water and power) and main drainage or an acceptable alternative drainage system.

They must be fully accessible with permanent access

Individual toilet units often known as 'porta-loos' are permissible on a temporary basis but may not be included in the minimum toilet requirements.

The location of all toilet facilities must be indicated with appropriate signage

2.5 Refreshment Facilities

2.5.1 Directors/Committee/Guests

A separate room or reserved area must be made available in which refreshments for Directors/Committee and guests can be served.

2.5.2 Ground Refreshment Facilities

Refreshment facilities must be provided at the ground or in an adjacent clubhouse (See 2.4 Toilets). These facilities may be of a temporary or mobile type.

2.6 Disabled Facilities

(See Appendix)

2.7 Segregation

When segregation is in operation, there must be adequate toilet facilities and refreshment facilities in each segregated area in addition to the appropriate means of egress and exit.

GROUND GRADING REQUIREMENTS continued

3.1 Players

Separate dressing rooms must be provided for both teams within the enclosed area of the ground. The dressing rooms must be of sound construction and be of a permanent nature. Existing dressing room dimensions will be acceptable provided they are a minimum of 12 square metres, excluding shower and toilet areas. Where clubs are planning to build new dressing rooms these must be a minimum size of 18 square metres, excluding shower and toilet areas.

NB Clubs need to be aware of the increase at grade D to a minimum size of 18 square metres, excluding shower and toilet areas, as from 31st March 2019.

Each dressing room must have the following:

A shower area comprising of at least 4 showerheads

At least 1 wash hand basin located outside the shower area

(All the above must have hot and cold running water)

At least 1 WC in a cubicle

There must be a treatment table which is clean and in good condition in each dressing room. 3.2 Match Officials

The size of the match official's dressing room must be a minimum of 4 square metres, excluding shower and toilet areas. When new dressing rooms are being constructed the match officials' room should be a minimum of 6 square metres in size, excluding shower and toilet areas.

NB Clubs need to be aware of the increase at grade D to a minimum of 6 square metres, excluding shower and toilet areas, as from 31st March 2019.

Each match officials' dressing room must have the following:

At least 1 shower

At least 1 WC in a cubicle and 1 wash hand basin

Provision should be made for separate dressing rooms for both male and female match officials.

Where new dressing rooms are being constructed or existing are being re-designed, separate purpose built facilities for both male and female match officials must be provided.

There must be an audible electronic warning device (bell or buzzer) in working order located in the match officials' dressing room, and which is linked to the players' dressing rooms. All dressing room areas must be maintained to a high standard of cleanliness and be heated, well ventilated, free from damp and secure on match days.

4. MEDICAL

A stretcher must be provided for the removal of injured players from the pitch.

NB For Grade D a dedicated medical room for the use of players and spectators is required.

(See also Appendix)

APPENDIX

1. GROUND

1.7 Pitch Perimeter Barrier

GROUND GRADING REQUIREMENTS continued

It is important to distinguish between a pitch perimeter barrier/rail which exists to separate spectators from the playing area and a crush barrier which has been constructed and tested according to the requirements of the Green Guide. Where the structure cannot be designated as a crush barrier, e.g. its height exceeds 1.1m, the maximum depth of standing behind it is limited to 1.5m and this must be borne in mind in any capacity calculations.

It is recognised that the above may not be an issue for normal attendances but, when a larger crowd is anticipated, the Club should be mindful of the associated management issues and, if necessary, take professional advice.

Whatever system is employed, a club should be mindful of its responsibility to ensure spectator safety and minimise the possibility of unauthorised incursions on to the playing area.

1.9 Playing Area

Reference should be made to the Goalpost Safety information published by The Football Association and, in particular, it should be noted that the use of metal cup hooks is prohibited.

1.16 Lighting

Whilst their installation is strongly recommended, neither working nor emergency lighting is any longer a grading requirement. Clubs are reminded that they have a responsibility to ensure the safety of spectators entering, leaving and moving about the ground and, if a ground is used in non-daylight hours, adequate artificial lighting should be provided. Further, consideration must be given by a club to its procedures in the event of a power failure.

2. SPECTATOR FACILITIES

2.5 Disabled Facilities

A club must take full account of the needs of disabled spectators and be mindful of its obligations under the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Reference made should be made to the publications / data sheets issued by both The Football Association and the Football Foundation.

No specific requirement is currently included in the ground grading criteria but The Football Association strongly recommends that access is provided to both a covered viewing area and toilet and refreshment facilities.

4. MEDICAL

All clubs must provide first aid equipment, including a stretcher, for the use of players and spectators. Its location in the ground, if other than in a dedicated treatment room, should be clearly marked by notices placed in the dressing rooms for teams and match officials.

There must be a nominated and suitably qualified person in attendance to assist with spectator problems unless the St John Ambulance Brigade, Red Cross Society or other capable agency are in attendance. The requirements of the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds are for one first aider per 1000 anticipated spectators, with a minimum of two.

If a crowd of less than 2000 is anticipated, known and practiced arrangements should be in place to summon either a doctor or NHS ambulance alternative. For crowds of over 2000, an experienced crowd doctor should be in attendance.

NB The above in no way purports to be a comprehensive list of Health and Safety issues which it is the responsibility of a club to address. Clubs are recommended to arrange regular safety audits conducted by persons with the appropriate expertise.

GUIDELINE FOR MARKING OF REFEREES BY CLUB OFFICIALS

The referee's performance will be measured in every United Counties Football League match. Each club will be required to mark the Referee out of 100 marks. These marks along with the Assessor marks will be submitted to the Football Association and will form the basis of measurement at the annual review of performance.

In an attempt to assist clubs in compiling their marks a competency based scheme will be introduced. Seven areas are to be marked with a weighting of marks to assist clubs in arriving at their final mark.

A mark should be awarded for each of the 7 sections and then added together for the final mark. A mark of 70 represents the standard expected of a United Counties Referee.

A mark of sixty or below should be accompanied by a written report on the deficiencies witnessed. [To be of any use this report should not only contain criticism but also some positive points which must have been witnessed].

It would be beneficial to the marking scheme if the same club member awarded the mark when possible for the entire season to ensure uniformity of marking is achieved.

Areas to assist when arriving at the mark.

Competency	Max. mark
1. Application of Law	25
2. Position & Work rate	10
3. Alertness & Awareness	10
4. Communication	10
Competency	Max. mark
5. Teamwork	10
6. Advantage	10
7. Match Control	25
Total Marks	100

Application of Law: (Maximum Mark 25)

- Correctly deal with foul play/violent conduct/denial of obvious goal scoring opportunity
- Deal with mass confrontation with appropriate sanctions
- Correctly deal with persistent misconduct.
- Correctly manage the occupants of the Technical Area and deal correctly with substitutions
- Differentiate between serious foul play and offences of a minor nature.
- Remain calm, courteous & confident and manage offensive, insulting, abusive language & dissent.

Positioning, Fitness & Work Rate: (Maximum Mark 10)

- Close to play and remaining with the pace of the game
- Adopt different viewing positions and utilise stoppage time to move forward for the next phase of play and/or have a quiet word with a player.
- Adjust position and movement to keep in touch with events and keep assistants in view -penetrate penalty areas and display willingness to go the extra metre.

Alertness & Awareness: (Maximum Mark 10)

- Be proactive and not reactive, intervene early to sort out problems.
- Retain visual contact with players involved in original challenge, whilst aware of the next phase of play
- Manage Injuries in accordance with law
- Display the understanding when to raise the profile to suit mood of the game

GUIDELINE FOR MARKING OF REFEREES BY CLUB OFFICIALS

Communication: (Maximum Mark 10)

- Make effective use of both voice and whistle.
- Demonstrate the use of the “stepped approach” (ie the quiet word, obvious word, public rebuke, Yellow/Red card).
- Support decisions with clear signals (for the benefit of players and spectators) to clarify and show confidence in decision making.
- Differentiate between direct & indirect free kick and restart game correctly.

Teamwork: (Maximum Mark 10)

- Encourage and support Assistant Referees
- Maintain a team approach when accepting or declining advice offered, particularly in relation to offside decisions which may not be obvious to spectators or persons in the technical areas.

Advantage: (Maximum Mark 10)

- Distinguish between advantage and mere possession of the ball.
- Position on the field of play and ability of players to make use of the advantage clause.
- Prepared to bring play back when advantage does not accrue
- “Sell” the advantage clause by use of correct visual & verbal signals.

Overall Match Control: (Maximum Mark 25)

- Identify the mood, temperature & tensions within the game & effect solutions before it escalates.
- Inspire respect through sensitive management of players
- Demonstrate and implement a flexible game plan in keeping with the changing demands of the game.
- Appear confident and at ease, approach players correctly, and deal with them in a positive manner.
- Understanding of acceptable application of law.
- Demonstrate consistency within the individual game i.e. administer the same punishment throughout for the same type of offence committed by either team.

AWARDING THE MARK

Mark	Comment
95+	This official demonstrated very accurate decision-making and controlled the game totally exceptional.
85 to 94	This official has confidence in the level of accuracy with accurate decisions & correct Law Interpretation.
75 to 84	This official has a confident approach to the decision making process with accuracy in the vast majority of those decision
70 to 74	Expected standard of performance from referees
60 to 69	This reflects the need for further development to achieve standard expected.
50 to 59	This reflects poor performance where most aspects need improvement.
49 and below	Major deficiencies witnessed. This official demonstrated shortcomings in the accuracy of decision-making and control which affected the game.

NOTES FOR REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES

1. Acceptance or otherwise of appointments MUST be notified by email to the Referee Appointments Secretary within 7 days of receipt.
2. Your open dates are appreciated at all times. A phone call may often help fill a vacancy at weekends.
3. Referees and Assistant Referees MUST acknowledge receipt of match details to the home club, to be received at least three days before the match. Officials MUST travel together when unless permission granted by the Referee Appointments Secretary. Failure to do so will affect your entitlement to receive travelling expenses.
4. The Referee Appointments Secretary shall have the power in case of emergency to appoint a Referee to officiate in a League game whose name may not be on the official lists.
5. In inclement weather when there are doubts about the game being played Referees and Assistant Referees must ensure that the home club know how to contact them and/or make contact with the home club before travelling.
6. All games in the United Counties League MUST BE OF 90 MINUTES DURATION. The half time interval will be of 10 minutes duration unless agreed by the Match Referee.
7. Where cases of misconduct arise concerning players of Clubs who are members of the FA (marked with an asterisk * in Club details) copies of the reports must be forwarded to: The Football Association, Wembley Stadium, PO Box 1966, London SW1P 9EQ. Reports of sending off offences must be sent to the County FA to which the club is affiliated. Assistant Referees officiating in games where full member clubs of the FA are taking part must also send copies of reports for sending off offences to the County FA concerned. In the event of a caution a report should be prepared and retained in case of an appeal by the player. There is no need to submit this initially.
8. Match Report Cards (to include either Assistant Referees or Club Assistant Referees marks as appropriate, a note of any cautions or sendings off and a hospitality mark out of ten) MUST be sent to the League Office WITHIN 3 DAYS OF THE MATCH. Remember that the fair play award, the hospitality award and the Club Assistant Referee award depend entirely on your co-operation.
9. Referees and Assistant Referees must report to the home club at least 60 minutes before the kick off.
10. Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report ALL rule infringements to the the League.
11. Referees and Assistant Referees must wear black kit when officiating on the UCL and should always wear the League badge.
12. Referees MUST complete the Club Misconduct Notification Form before leaving the ground after each match. A copy of this form should also be sent to the league unless the information is being provided on the match report card in paragraph 8. The provision of this information for Clubs and the League does not replace the requirements in paragraph 7 to report all misconduct to the appropriate County FA.

Pitch Inspections

Each Club must take every precaution to ensure that its ground is in a fit playing condition. Except in exceptional circumstances the following procedure will apply:

- The home Club must select a Referee listed at Level 5 or above to make the pitch inspection. If the match Referee is local to the ground then he / she should be called in to make the decision. Best practise not to have the same match official inspect in two consecutive fixtures.
- The time of any pitch inspections should take account of the travelling distance to be travelled by the opponents
- In the event of a pitch inspection being required, the home Club should advise their opponents in advance of this fact, and ensure that they have appropriate telephone numbers that can be used to contact their opponents on the day of the match
- When carrying out a pitch inspection, seek to wear suitable footwear so that you can make as accurate an assessment of the playing surface as it would be in a game... get your football boots on if you can. In addition,
- Be positive in your approach to people who are seeking your opinion and show a degree of empathy if the game cannot go ahead, especially if others disagree
- If the game can go ahead, ensure you remind all those concerned that if for some reason things do change that cause you a real concern for the safety of players and yourself... you do reserve the right to reverse your decision to preserve the safety of the players and yourself

For matches to be played on a Saturday, any pitch inspection MUST take place on the day of the game. For midweek fixtures, pitch inspections should not take place more than 24 hours before the scheduled kick off time.

The Referee who is making the inspection should consider the following:

- Whether or not the ground (playing area) is dangerous (e.g. ice / frost)
- Inspect all areas of the field of play but pay specific attention to areas of high traffic ie: goal/penalty areas, the central third of the pitch from goal to goal/penalty area to penalty area... this is where the majority of the game will be played.
- Whether or not that the spectator standing areas are dangerous (e.g. ice / frost)
- Whether or not conditions are or could turn farcical. A ball should be used to determine whether the surface is playable (for movement and bounce)
- The existing condition of the playing surface in conjunction with the prevailing weather conditions as previously confirmed with the local weather authority
- In the event of fog check with the local weather authority re possible clearance, also bearing in mind the visitors travelling arrangements if the fog is known to be widespread. If fog is the problem then the match referee should also consider whether or not the paying spectators would be able to view the whole area of play
- The views of the Home Club Groundsman in terms of local knowledge and draining capabilities in the event of standing water
- The manpower available to the Home Club to carry out any necessary work
- The time the visiting Club are due to commence their journey

If the inspecting Referee is not the match Referee, then he / she should, if possible:

NOTES FOR REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES continued

- Consult with the match Referee prior to the inspection
- Consult with the match Referee during / after the inspection to mutually agree on a decision

If the ground is declared fit and the away Club instructed to travel, the away Club must be advised that the final decision is down to the match Referee. However if the match Referee is going to call the game off it would be expected that there had been a deterioration in the weather or an expected thaw of frost had not taken place since the original decision being made. If a game has not been called off after an earlier inspection then the final decision will be made by the match Referee.

In exceptional circumstances when the regional weather conditions are known to be extreme (e.g. prolonged severe frost, clear water logging or heavy snow) then a game can be postponed at the discretion of the League following consultation with the League Secretary / Fixture Secretary. Should the League decide to agree to a postponement under such circumstances there will be no requirement for a pitch inspection.

Hospitality Award

All Referees must send a match report card to the League Office within 3 days of the match. This card should include a mark out of 10 for the hospitality award. The following provides guidance on how to determine an appropriate mark.

1. **General Treatment** 5 Points

- Overall treatment whilst at ground
- Welcomed on arrival
- Refreshments provided half time/full time
- Refreshments provided before match if requested
- Notification of appointment
- Match Fee/Expenses paid in Referees Room

2. **Provision of Equipment/Ground Condition** 1 point

- Assistant Referee flags provided
- Pitch marked properly
- Goal Nets in position
- Appropriate number of footballs provided

3. **Behaviour of Club Officials** 2 Points

- General Behaviour of Club Officials
- Compliance with Rule regarding technical areas

4. **Condition of Referees Room** 2 points

- Cleanliness of Referees Room
- Shower/bathing facilities

Total Marks 10 points

Hospitality Award

Clubs must provide a hospitality mark out of 10 for all away fixtures when submitting the result sheet to the Registration/Results Secretary. The following provides guidance on how to determine an appropriate mark.

1. **General Treatment** 4 Points

- Welcomed on arrival
- Overall treatment whilst at ground

2. **Refreshments** 4 Points

- Refreshments provided half time/full time for players
- Refreshments provided half time/full time for club officials
- Refreshments provided before match if requested
- Refreshments available for visiting spectators

3. **Facilities/Administration** 2 points

- Condition of Changing Facilities
- Notification of match details

Total Marks 10 points

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RULES

United Counties Football League Rules

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Appendix A

Regulations for Football Association Appeals

Appendix B

Additional Leagues sanctioned by the FA to operate the short-term loan transfer system

Knock-Out Competitions

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Knock Out Cup Competitions

Reserves & Under 21 Rules

Fees Tariff

Match Officials Fees and Expenses

Fines Tariff

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1 In these Rules:

RULES continued

“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 Articles of the Competition

“Appointing Authority” means the Competition

“Articles” means the Articles of Association of the Company and reference to a number of following the word “Article” is a reference to an Article so numbered in the “Articles”

Football Turf (3G) Pitch (FTP) means a field of play (as that term is defined in the Laws of the Game) that has, following installation and prior to the commencement of each subsequent Playing Season, been awarded a FIFA Recommended One Star / IATS (International Artificial Turf Standard) or Two Star Certificate and which otherwise conforms to the requirements of the Laws of the Game.

“Board” means the Board of Directors of the Company appointed in accordance with the Articles or, in the case of a Competition which is an unincorporated association, the management committee elected to manage the running of the Competition.

“Board Directive” means an order or instruction issued by the Board.

“Bond” 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 Company (including a Club which has had a transfer of membership approved under Rule 2.7 below)

“Company” means The United Counties Football League, company registration number 8012244 which administers the Competition and shall, where the Competition is an unincorporated entity, include that entity

“Competition” means the United Counties Football League

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

“Competition Office” means the registered Offices or addresses where League business is transacted

“Competition Secretary” means such person or persons appointed or elected by the Board to carry out the administration of the Competition, which in the case of this Competition is the General Secretary

“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

“Control” means the power of a natural person, legal entity or any other body to exercise, or to be able to exercise or acquire, direct or indirect control over the policies, affairs and/or management of a Club, whether that power is constituted by rights or contracts (either separately or in combination) and having regard to the considerations of fact or law involved, and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, Control shall be deemed to include:

- a) the power (whether directly or indirectly and by any means including without limitation by way of those that in the opinion of the Board are acting in concert) to appoint and/or remove all or such of the members of the board of directors of the Club as are able to cast a majority of the votes capable of being cast by the members of that board; and/or
- b) the holding and/or possession of the beneficial interest in, and/or the ability to exercise the voting rights applicable to, shares (or other equity securities) in the Club (whether directly, indirectly (by means of holding such interests in one or more other persons) or by contract including without limitation those that in the opinion of the Board are acting in concert) which confer in aggregate on the holder(s) thereof 30 per cent or more of the total voting rights exercisable at general meetings of the Club;

For the purposes of the above, any rights or powers of a nominee or of an associate (as defined in the Rules of The FA Challenge Cup) of a person shall be attributed to that person.

“Criteria Document” means the document entitled “National Ground Grading Document” issued by The FA from time to time and shall, unless stated to the contrary, mean the latest edition of the document

RULES continued

“CVA” shall mean an agreement reached by a Club under a Company Voluntary Arrangement (under the Insolvency Act 1986) or a Scheme of Arrangement (under the Companies Act 1985 or Companies Act 2006).

“Day” means any day on which the Competition Office is open for normal business but excluding, unless the Board determines otherwise, a Saturday, a Sunday or a Bank or Public Holiday

“Embargo” means a ban placed by the Board on a Club in respect of player registrations, as more fully defined in Appendix H.

“Embargoed Club” means any Club subject to an Embargo.

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

“FIFA Quality Concept” means the:

FIFA Quality Concept Handbook of Requirements for Football Turf Surfaces (January 2012 Edition); and

FIFA Quality Concept – Handbook of Test Methods for Football Turf (January 2012 Edition), and any amendment or modification thereof.

“FIFA Recommended One / IATS or Two Star Certificate” means the certificate of that name awarded by FIFA following compliance with the applicable requirements of the FIFA Quality Concept.

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

“Football Creditor” means any one of the following:

- The Football Association Limited
- Any Club affiliated with an affiliated Association
- Any League sanctioned by the Association or an affiliated Association
- Any full time or part time employee of a Club, or former full time or part time employee of a Club, in respect of sums due to such person by way of arrears of remuneration or expenses. This excludes for these purposes all and any claims for redundancy, unfair or wrongful dismissal or other claims arising out of the termination of the contract or in respect of any period after the actual date of termination
- The Professional Footballers’ Association Limited
- The Football Foundation
- Any affiliated Association
- Any pension scheme or plan administered by or on behalf of the Competition

“Football Turf (3G) Pitch (FTP)” means a field of play (as that term is defined in the Laws of the Game) that has, following installation and prior to the commencement of each subsequent Playing Season, been awarded a FIFA Recommended One Star / IATS (International Artificial Turf Standard) or Two Star Certificate and which otherwise conforms to the requirements of the Laws of the Game.

“Grass Pitch” means a field of play (as that term is defined in the Laws of the Game) that is natural grass, predominantly natural grass or intended to be predominantly natural grass and which conforms to the requirements of the Laws of the Game.

“Ground” means the ground on which the Club’s first team plays its Competition fixtures.

“Insolvency Event” means any one of the following:

- a. entering into a Company Voluntary Arrangement pursuant to Part 1 of the Insolvency Act 1986 (“the 1986 Act”) or a compromise or arrangement with its creditors under Part 26 of the Companies Act 2006 or any compromise agreement with its creditors as a whole; or

RULES continued

- b. lodging a Notice of Intention to Appoint an Administrator or Notice of Appointment of an Administrator at the Court in accordance with paragraph 26 or paragraph 29 of Schedule B1 to the 1986 Act, an application to the Court for an Administration Order under paragraph 12 of Schedule B1 to the 1986 Act (other than paragraph 12 (1)(c)) or where an Administrator is appointed or an Administration Order is made in respect of it (“Administrator” and “Administration Order” having the meanings attributed to them respectively by paragraphs 1 and 10 of Schedule B1 to the 1986 Act); or
- c. an Administrative Receiver (as defined by section 251 of the 1986 Act), a Law of Property Act Receiver (appointed under section 109 of the Law of Property Act 1925) or any Receiver appointed by the Court under the Supreme Court Act 1981 or any other Receiver is appointed over any assets which, in the opinion of the Board, are material to the Club’s ability to fulfill its obligations as a member of the League; or
- d. shareholders passing a resolution pursuant to section 84(1) of the 1986 Act to voluntarily wind up; or
- e. a meeting of creditors is convened pursuant to section 95 or section 98 of the 1986 Act; or
- f. a winding up order is made by the Court under section 122 of the 1986 Act or a provisional liquidator is appointed under section 135 of the 1986 Act; or
- g. ceasing or forming an intention to cease wholly or substantially to carry on business save for the purpose of reconstruction or amalgamation or otherwise in accordance with a scheme of proposals which have previously been submitted to and approved in writing by the Board; or
- h. being subject to any insolvency regime in any jurisdiction outside England and Wales which is analogous with the insolvency regimes detailed in (a) to (g) above; and/or
- i. have any proceeding or step taken or any court order in any jurisdiction made which has a substantially similar effect to any of the foregoing.

“Intermediary” means any natural or legal person who carries out or seeks to carry out Intermediary Activity and has registered with The Association in accordance with The FA Intermediaries Regulations;

“Intermediary Activity” means acting in any way and at any time, either directly or indirectly, for or on behalf of a Player or a Club in relation to any matter relating to a Transaction. This includes, but is not limited to, entering into a Representation Contract with a Player or a Club. For the avoidance of doubt, a Club Official is not acting as an Intermediary when he carries out any Intermediary Activity in relation to any matter relating to a Transaction for or on behalf of that Club. Similarly, a Lawyer is not acting as an Intermediary when he solely and exclusively undertakes or provides Permitted Legal Advice in relation to any matter relating to a Transaction;

“Long Term Loan” means a loan transfer in excess of 93 days of a Player who is a qualifying Player within the terms of the Rules

“Match Officials” means the referee, the assistant referees and any fourth official appointed to a Competition Match

“Membership Year” means the period in each calendar year from the holding of one annual general meeting of the Company to the holding of the next annual general meeting

“National League System” means the system of competitions controlled by the FA where promotion and relegation links exist between participating Leagues

“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 required to make an Owners’ and Directors’ Declaration by the FA

RULES continued

“Owners’ and Directors’ Declaration” means a declaration to The FA required from an Officer from time to time “Paid in Full” shall mean when a Club has either

- paid (in cleared funds) to the supervisor of its CVA or its administrator, sufficient funds to pay all its creditors in full (100p in the £) and to cover the costs of the CVA or the administration and confirmation of this fact has been received in writing from the supervisor/administrator; or
- paid (in cleared funds) sufficient to settle in full (100p in the £) any debts owed to creditors outside a CVA

“Pitch” means a Grass Pitch or Football Turf Pitch.

“Pitch Test” means the test(s) conducted by a FIFA accredited field test institute or UKAS accredited test institute in accordance with the requirements of the FIFA Quality Concept or IATS.

“Player” means any Contract Player, Non Contract Player or other Player who plays or who is eligible to play for a Club

“Players’ Agent” means a person who, for reward, represents, negotiates on behalf of, advises or otherwise acts for a Principal in the context of either the transfer of a player’s registration, the terms of a contract between a player and a Club or the terms of a contract between a manager and a Club.

“Playing Season” means the period between the date on which the first league fixture in the Competition is played each year until the date on which the last league fixture in the Competition is played. For Clubs participating in play off matches this does include the period when play off matches are played.

“Play Off Position” means the position of a Club in the table at the end of each Playing Season which is provided for in Rule 13 12 as qualifying the Club to take part in a playoff match to qualify for promotion to the next step of football for the next Playing Season

“Principal” means a Club, a manager, an official of a Club, or a player employing an Agent for one of the purposes set out in the definition of Agent above

“Rules” means these rules under which the Competition is administered

“Satisfied” shall mean that a creditor has consented, and provided evidence of such, to accept a sum in full and final settlement of its debt from a Club. For the avoidance of doubt, a vote to approve a Company Voluntary Arrangement (‘CVA’) by the creditors of a Club, held in accordance with Insolvency Law in operation from time to time, shall deem those debts admitted to the CVA as being Satisfied. The Board shall determine at its absolute discretion whether an amount is Satisfied under the Rules

“Scholar” means a player aged sixteen or over who has signed a Scholarship with a Premier League or Football League Club or licensed National League Club, and who has completed a registration form for Scholars in accordance with FA Rules and Regulations

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

“Secured” shall mean that one of the following legally recognised undertakings has been provided for the payment of the specified sum in full by the AGM at the end of the Playing Season in which the transfer of membership takes place:

(i) A solicitor’s undertaking for the full amount outstanding;

(ii) A bank guarantee is held for the full amount outstanding;

In each case to be paid and satisfied in full by no later than the AGM at the end of the Playing Season in which the transfer took place. The Board shall determine at its absolute discretion whether an amount is Secured or Satisfied under the Rules

“Short Term Loan” means a loan transfer for a period of no fewer than 28 days and no more than 93 days in any one season

“Significant Interest” means the holding and/or possession of the legal or beneficial interest in, and/or the ability to exercise the voting rights applicable to, shares or other securities in the Club which confer in

RULES continued

aggregate on the holder(s) thereof ten (10) per cent or more of the total voting rights exercisable in respect of the Shares of any class of Shares of the Club. All or part of any such interest may be held directly or indirectly or by contract including, but not limited to, by way of membership of any group that in the opinion of the Board are acting in concert, and any rights or powers held by an Associate (as defined in the Rules of The FA Challenge Cup) shall be included for the purposes of determining whether an interest or interests amounts to a "Significant Interest"

"SSAP" means a sporting sanctions appeal panel to be appointed to determine an appeal against a deduction of points under Rule 13

"Team Sheet" means a form provided by the Competition referred to in Rule 18

"The FA" means The Football Association Limited

"Transaction" means any negotiation or other related activity, including any communication relating or preparatory to the same, the intention or effect of which is to create, terminate or vary the terms of a player's contract of employment with a Club, to facilitate or effect the registration of a player with a Club, or the transfer of the registration of a player from a club to a Club (whether on a temporary or permanent basis). A completed Transaction is one that has so achieved the creation, termination or variation of the terms of the player's contract of employment with a Club, the registration of the player with a Club or the transfer of the registration from a club to a Club.

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

"Work Experience Player" means a Player whose registration is held by a competition other than the Competition and is registered under a Scholarship. The Club taking the Player on work experience will register the Player Non Contract with a league in which they take part to fulfil the football element of the Scholarship, not the educational part

"Written" or "In Writing" means the representation or reproduction of words or symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise

- 1.2 Words or expressions used in these Rules shall, if not inconsistent with the subject or context, bear the same meanings as in the Articles
- 1.3 All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a member of the Company to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Board in relation thereto, subject to the provisions of Rule 16.
- 1.4 The Competition will be known as The United Counties Football League (or such other name as the Company may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Company. 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 Company.
- 1.5 The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Company acting (save where otherwise specifically mentioned herein) through the Board in accordance with the Rules Regulations and Practices of The FA.
- 1.6 The Company shall be part of the National League System established by The FA and shall sign such documents as are required from time to time to confirm such membership[s].

2. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 Each Club shall register its Ground, and its pitch dimensions, with the Competition prior to the start of each Playing Season. It will be misconduct on the part of a Club to alter its pitch dimensions during a season unless with prior written consent of the Board. The Board may at any time require a Club, at its own cost, to submit a report from a qualified independent source certifying the pitch dimensions. Dimensions of the field of play for all Competition matches shall be: -

RULES continued

Length	Maximum 120 yards (110 metres)	Minimum 110 yards (100 metres)
Width	Maximum 80 yards (75 metres)	Minimum 70 yards (64 metres)

No Club shall remove to another Ground without first obtaining written consent of the Board; such consent not to be withheld unreasonably. In consideration whether to give such consent the Board shall have regard to all the circumstances of the case and shall not grant consent unless it is reasonably satisfied that such consent: -

- would be consistent with the objectives of the Competition as set out in the Memorandum of Association;
- would be appropriate having in mind the relationship (if any) between the locality with which by its name or otherwise the applicant Club is traditionally associated and that in which such Club proposes to establish its Ground;
- would not adversely affect such Club's Officials, Players, supporters, shareholders, sponsors and others having an interest in its activities;
- would not have an adverse effect on visiting Clubs;
- would not adversely affect Clubs having their registered Grounds in the immediate vicinity of the proposed location, and
- would enhance the reputation of the Competition and promote the game of association football generally.

The Club must disclose, as soon as practicable, plans and details of any proposed move to a new stadium. The location of the proposed new stadium must meet with the approval of the Board.

Without prejudice to the provisions of Rule 4.12 a Club shall forthwith notify the Competition of any proposed change in its circumstances relating to the occupation of its Ground. By way of example, and without limitation, a proposed change may include a sale of any freehold interest (with or without subsequent leaseback) or any surrender or variation or a lease or licence.

2.2 All Clubs shall have Grounds and headquarters situated in England the Channel Islands, Isle of Man if applicable, or Wales and the Competition Secretary shall send their names and particulars to The FA annually by the date appointed by, and in the format required by, The FA. Clubs playing in England shall be duly affiliated at all times to a recognised County Football Association. Welsh Clubs shall be affiliated to The FA of Wales. Each Club shall notify the Competition Secretary of its affiliation number each year as soon as practicable after it has received same. Each Club shall return to the General Manager a fully completed questionnaire relating to Form "D" required by The FA by the date given in the circular letter accompanying the questionnaire issued by the Competition Secretary.

2.3.1 A Club's Ground may be shared with another Club or any other club (including a club engaged in another sport) providing, where sharing with a football club the Club or club playing in the most senior competition has priority of fixtures at all times and, where sharing with a club engaged in another sport, the Club has priority of fixtures. A Club will not be permitted to ground share to gain promotion or to avoid relegation. Ground sharing may not be permitted when one of the sharers retains the use of another ground unless that club can show by means of a refused planning permission or similar that it cannot meet the requirements of the Criteria Document at that ground. Any Club wishing to share a Ground or intending to move to a new Ground must obtain the written consent of the Board. Any Ground sharing for a period exceeding thirteen (13) weeks must be in writing and a written agreement must first be approved by the Board before being entered into and (except in an emergency) must be completed by 31 March in any year to be effective for the following Playing Season. A copy of the completed signed and dated agreement must be received by the Competition within fourteen days of the approval being sent to the Club.

2.3.2 The Club as at 31 March in any year shall either:

RULES continued

- (i) Own the freehold of the Ground, or
- (ii) A lease for the Ground that extends uninterrupted for a minimum of the next Playing Season, or
- (iii) Possess an agreement for the use of the Ground that is acceptable to The Football Association following consultation with the relevant Competition.

In each case the Club must provide to the Competition of which it is a member and to The Football Association:

If the Ground is freehold either currently dated Official Copies of the freehold title at the Land Registry in the name of the entity in membership of the Competition or, if unregistered, a Certificate of Title from the Club's solicitor showing that the Ground is owned by the entity in membership of the Competition, or

If the Ground is held leasehold a copy of the signed and dated lease in the name of the entity in membership of the Competition; if the expiry date of the lease has already passed or is dated before the end of the next full Playing Season, a certificate from the Club's solicitor as to whether or not a notice has been given by the landlord to terminate the lease. In addition, the Club must provide evidence of registration at the Land Registry, or explain why the Lease is not registered.

If the Ground is subject to an acceptable agreement a copy of the signed and dated agreement for the use of the Ground together with confirmation from The Football Association following consultation with the relevant Competition that the agreement is acceptable.

The Club must disclose whether the Club's occupation of the Ground is subject to any third-party option, whether the ground is charged by way of security and whether or not any break clauses in the lease or agreement have been exercised either by the landlord or the tenant.

In all cases The Football Association and the Competition of which it is a member have the right to call for further information.

- 2.3.3 A Club's Ground must comply with the Criteria Document for the step in the National League System at which the Club is playing.
- 2.4 No club which is a "nursery" club for a football club shall be eligible for membership of the Company.
No club which is a reserve side for a football club shall be eligible for membership of the Premier Division or Division One
A club shall be deemed to be a "nursery" club if it is under obligation, written or otherwise, to another football club by reason of which it has not the sole and entire control of its own management, finance and players.
- 2.5 Clubs seeking membership or applying to retain membership of the Company must comply with the requirements provided for in the Criteria Document for the step at which the Club is playing. Only clubs which meet these criteria in full will be eligible for membership. All Clubs visited by representatives of the Competition in pursuance of the document will pay a non-returnable fee. In the absence of a procedure for application for membership being established by The FA, the Board shall establish such procedure. The Board shall establish a procedure for inspecting Clubs' grounds from time to time to ensure that the grade attained by that ground is maintained
- 2.6 The Competition and the FA shall determine a time scale whereby all Clubs in membership must attain the grade provided for in the Criteria Document. The grade applicable for each Club for the commencement of a Playing Season shall be that existing at the previous 1st April, such grading to be ascertained by an inspection carried out on or before 1st April or as soon as practicable thereafter. Any Club not maintaining the grade set for the Competition may be relegated at the end of the Playing Season to a step determined by The FA.

RULES continued

Any delay in inspection shall in no way release a Club from its obligation to have its ground ready for inspection. If for any reason a Club's existing ground, or any new ground in which it proposes to play its home matches in the season following inspection, is not available for grading by 31st March prior to commencement of the relevant season then the Club must, by the 1st April, submit to the Board in writing its proposals for a venue for its home matches in the following season ("alternative proposal"), such alternative proposal to be considered (and if appropriate) approved at the next Board Meeting after 31st March. The alternative proposal must, inter alia, contain documentary evidence in support of any ground sharing arrangements and evidence that the proposed ground is demonstrably suitable at a level which the relevant club will be competing. The alternative proposal may not be for a continuation of any ground share arrangement if the Club has had a ground sharing arrangement for the previous 2 seasons, or any part thereof, even if those arrangements have related to more than one ground.

Any approval of the alternative proposal will be subject to the issue of a grading certificate. The Board will use all reasonable endeavours to inspect the ground after receiving the alternative proposal and prior to the Board meeting, but if it is unable to do so then any approval of the alternative proposal will be subject to the issue of a satisfactory grading certificate. In the event of a Club not having received a grading certificate by 31st March and not having had its alternative proposal approved at the relevant Board Meeting, it shall be relegated forthwith at the end of the playing season to a level determined by The Football Association.

Clubs in membership of the Competition on 31st March in any season will have until 31st May in that season to meet in full the criteria of membership of the Competition.

2.7 Any Club which is incorporated must be incorporated in England and Wales. Any Club wishing to incorporate shall notify The FA, its Affiliated Association and the Company Secretary before it makes any resolutions in this regard. Any person wishing to be appointed as an Officer to a Club must comply with the requirements of the FA Owners' and Directors' Test Regulations and send to the Company Secretary a copy of the Owners' and Directors' Declaration within 5 days of sending the same to the FA

2.8 In the event that any Club which is an unincorporated association incorporates itself it shall notify the Company Secretary in writing within 14 days of the passing of the resolution to take this action and shall with such notice provide the Company Secretary with a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company. Any amendments to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of a Club must be notified to the Competition Secretary in writing within 14 days of the passing of the resolution with a copy of the change(s).

2.9 **Transfer of Membership**

Transfer as a Going Concern

2.9.1 In the event that any Club which resolves to transfer its membership of the Competition from one legal entity to a different legal entity, other than in the circumstances shown at 2.9.2 below, the Board will use the following minimum criteria in deciding whether to approve that transfer:

- (a) The shareholders or members of the Club have voted to agree to the transfer of the Club's membership to the new entity.
- (b) All Football Creditors in the Club must be paid in full or transferred in full (with each creditor's consent) to the new entity, and evidenced as such.
- (c) All other creditors in the Club must be paid in full or Secured or transferred in full (with each creditor's consent) to the new entity and evidenced as such.
- (d) The proposed new entity has provided financial forecasts to the FA and the Competition showing its ability to fund the Club for the next twelve (12) months or to the end of the Playing Season following transfer (whichever is the longer) and that evidence of funding sources has been provided.
- (e) The FA must have given approval for the transfer to take place.

Transfer from Insolvency

RULES continued

2.9.2 In the event that any Club that is subject to an Insolvency Event resolves to transfer its membership of the Competition to a new entity, the Board will use the following minimum criteria in deciding whether or not to approve that transfer:

- (a) The shareholders or members of the Club have voted to agree to the transfer of the Club's membership to the new entity_and/or a licensed insolvency practitioner(s) appointed to the Club has agreed to sell or transfer some or all of the Club's assets to the new entity;
- (b) All Football Creditors in the Club must be Paid in Full and evidenced as such;
- (c) The proposed new entity has provided financial forecasts to the FA and the Competition showing its ability to fund the Club for the next twelve (12) months or to the end of the Playing Season following transfer (whichever is the longer) and that evidence of funding sources has been provided;_
- (d) The FA must have given approval for the transfer to take place; and
- (e) All other creditors in the Club must be Satisfied and evidenced as such. (This provision to be read in conjunction with 2.9.3 below.)

In the event that requirement (a) and/or (e) is not fully complied with, and only where the Board, at its absolute discretion, deems there to have been exceptional circumstances surrounding the application for the transfer, it may approve the transfer (subject to compliance with all other provisions (a) to (d) above) and may apply such conditions as it deems appropriate including, without limitation, the deduction of points.

2.9.3. Nothing in Rule 2.9.2 above shall limit in any way the application of Rule 13B of these Rules

2.10 The Competition shall allow for up to 50 member Clubs (also see rule 29). Member clubs will be grouped in Divisions as determined by the Board, with 22 Clubs in each division where possible. The divisions will be "Premier Division"; "Division One"; plus appropriately named Reserve Division(s). The Clubs competing in each division each season will be confirmed by the Annual General Meeting of the Company each year. A Club entered into membership at the Annual General Meeting shall be subject to the application of the Rules until the date of the following Annual General Meeting. It shall be allowed for these numbers to be increased to accommodate any anomaly in the National League System.

2.11 Any Club or Club representative found guilty of serious irregularities regarding players Contract payments under The FA Rules may be expelled from the Company in accordance these Rules and, in addition, may be fined such sum as the Board shall determine.

2.12 The Company will hold a membership register of the full name of the company/unincorporated entity constituting each Club. If the Club is an incorporated entity, it must provide the Company with its company name and registration number. If the Club is an unincorporated entity, it must provide the Company with the name of an individual in whose name the membership of the Company will be vested. A Club must notify the Company of all proposed changes to the information held by the League in the membership register in respect of the Club including any proposed change of company name or the name of an individual in whose name the membership of the Company is vested. Clubs are required to submit a fully completed membership form prior to the Annual General Meeting each Season.

Any Club wishing to change its name whilst members of this competition must seek prior permission from the Board.

The Company will provide a copy of its membership register to The FA annually.

2.13 Ownership and Change of Control

Each Club shall publish its legal name, form (e.g. unincorporated association, company limited by shares or guarantee etc) and any identifier (e.g. company number). In addition, for those Clubs that are owned,

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then the Club shall also publish the identities of the ultimate owner (i.e. the name of an individual) of each Significant Interest in the Club. Such information shall as a minimum be published on the Club's official website on a page accessible directly from the home page of that official club website and / or within the Club's official matchday programme.

2.14 NEXT SECTION IS FOR NATIONAL LEAGUE ONLY

2.15 In the event that an Insolvency Event occurs in relation to any Club, that Club must inform and keep informed the League Secretary and The FA immediately.

The Board shall have the power to suspend a Club on notification of it having entered an Insolvency Event.

At the discretion of the Board, a suspension may take effect from the giving of the notice or it may be postponed subject to any conditions as the Board may think fit to impose.

In the event that a Club is suspended or its suspension is postponed, the Board shall have power to make such payments as it may think fit to the Club's Football Creditors out of any monies due to that club from the Company.

2.16 An Officer must submit an Owners' and Directors' Declaration to The FA in accordance with the Reporting Requirements set out in the FA's Owners' and Directors' Regulations that apply from time to time. The Club must provide a copy of any such Owners' and Directors' Declaration to the Competition at the time it is submitted to the FA.

No individual will be permitted to act as an Officer if they fail to meet any of the requirements of the Owners' and Directors' Declaration, as set out in the Rules of The FA.

In the event that an individual/entity is found to have either:

- Completed false or misleading statements on their Owners' and Directors' Declaration;
- acted as an Officer when in breach of the requirements of the Owners' and Directors' Declaration;
- Acted as an Officer without the FA having given written confirmation to the Club in accordance with the FA's Owners' and Directors' Regulations that the individual may so act; then the individual/entity or Club shall be subject to such fine or other sanction as may be determined by The FA.

In the event that the Competition receive a Notice from the FA issued in accordance with the FA's Owners' and Directors' Test Regulations for the suspension of that Club's Competition membership, then that Club shall be suspended from the Competition with effect from 14 days from the date of the Notice. An appeal of the effect of the Notice is to the FA and can only be made by the affected Club and in accordance with the appeal procedures set out in the FA Owners' and Directors' Test Regulations. The effect of the Notice shall be suspended pending the outcome of an appeal.

The FA shall advise the Competition and the Club in writing where it becomes satisfied that a Disqualifying Condition as defined in the FA Owners' and Directors' Test no longer applies. Upon receipt of this written notification from The FA, the Competition may remove the suspension of the Club's Competition membership.

Where a Club is suspended and that causes a match in the Competition not to be played, the Board shall determine how the outcome of that match shall be treated.

2.17 Within fourteen days of a change in a Significant Interest at a Club or the appointment or removal of any director of a Club, written notice thereof, together with such details as are required to be filed with the Registrar of Companies, shall be deposited at the Competition Office

2.18 If during the course of a season the Board decide that the organisation and management or finances of a particular Club fall below the standards appropriate to membership of the Competition, the Competition Secretary shall be instructed to warn the Club at once that it may be excluded from membership of the

RULES continued

Competition at the end of that playing season. Such a Club shall have the right to appeal to the FA within 14 days of the date of notification of the Board's decision.

- 2.19 The Competition, through the Board shall be empowered from time to time by subscription, levy or otherwise to require Clubs to contribute such sum or sums of money to the funds of the League as may be necessary for the proper conduct of the business of the League. Such contributions by Clubs may be collected by deduction from sums due to Clubs under any promotion agreement, commercial agreement or from sponsorship money due or by whatever means the Board shall think fit. There shall be added to any sums to be contributed from Clubs, if applicable, Value Added Tax at the then prevailing rate.
- 2.20 Any Club failing to be represented at an Annual General Meeting or any other General Meeting called in accordance with the Rules without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 2.21 The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination.
- 2.22 The Competition and each Club does not and must not [by its rules or regulations or] in any manner whatsoever unlawfully discriminate against any person within the meaning and scope of the Equality Act 2010 or any law, enactment, order or regulation relating to discrimination (whether by way of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability, or otherwise).
- 2.23 The Competition and each Club shall make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability, or otherwise.
- 2.24 Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate sanctioning Association for investigation.

3. MEMBERSHIP – ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

- 3.1 Any Club applying for membership of the Company shall submit to the Company a fully completed Membership application form, the application fee and non-refundable ground inspection fee set out in the Fees Tariff (also see Rule 2.5)

Clubs which have qualified for membership of the Company must confirm their acceptance of membership on the appropriate Competition form to be received by the Company at least 14 days prior to the next Annual General Meeting of the Company accompanied where appropriate by the membership fee set out in the Fees Tariff.

The Chairman, Secretary and two responsible members of each Club shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the Competition, together with the application for membership for the coming season or upon indicating that the Club intends to compete.

We, A.B.....of.....Chairman, and C.D.....of.....Secretary, and E.F.....of.....and G.H.....of.....members ofFootball Club, have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the United Counties Football League and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club to, if elected or accepted into membership, conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Board of the League, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 17.

(NB - The spaces above are intended for the inclusion of the signatures and addresses of officers and members)

The annual subscription set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club to the Company no later than 1 August in each year.

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As an FA Charter Standard League this Competition requires all its Clubs to have achieved FA Charter Standard

League status by 1st June 2015. The League Board may expel any club that has failed to achieve Charter Standard status by this date. New Member Clubs have one year to achieve the Charter Standard club award. The

League has the right to refuse membership to a Club if it fails to demonstrate commitment to achieving the award.

4. POWER OF THE BOARD

4.1 The Board shall have power to deal with all matters of management of the Competition covered by the Rules. The Board shall conduct the business of the Competition and shall meet as often as is necessary for this purpose. The Board may appoint such committees as it deems appropriate which shall be fully empowered to act on their behalf subject to ratification by the Board. The Board shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of the Football Association or affiliated Association

4.2 Save where specifically provided otherwise in these Rules, the Board shall have power to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules and shall have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Company or the Competition including any not provided for in these Rules. The Board shall also have the power to issue an order or instruction, by way of a Board Directive, in the best interest of the Competition, on any matter not provided for in these Rules, with which Clubs must comply or be subject to sanction under Rule 4.6, save where any such Directive is inconsistent with a Rule or Regulation of The FA, in which event the Directive will not create a binding obligation on Clubs.

4.3 All decisions of the Board shall be binding, subject to a right of appeal to The FA pursuant to Rule 16. Decisions of the Board must be notified, in writing, to all concerned within fourteen days of the making of such decision.

Upon becoming aware of any breaches of these Rules the Board shall write to the entity suspected of a breach formally charging the party giving at least 7 days' notice of the time, date and venue of the meeting at which the charge shall be considered.

The party charged will respond in writing to the Board within 7 days stating whether or not the charge is admitted and in default the Competition will deal with the case on the evidence it has at the time. If the charge is disputed or if the party admitting the charge wishes to present a plea in mitigation, it shall have the right to a personal hearing. The party charged also has the right to waive the 7-day requirement and allow the charge to be considered in less than 7 days after the party has been charged.

If the party charged disputes the charge or wishes to have a personal hearing to present a plea in mitigation, then it shall submit its case in writing to be received by the League Secretary at least 7 days prior to the date of the meeting set to consider the charge and in default the Board will be at liberty to proceed to hear the charge without the benefit of written submissions from the party charged.

4.4 Where the Rules provide for the imposition of a financial penalty under the Fines Tariff then the Notice of Charge given by the Board under Rule 4.3 above shall refer to the penalty provided for in the Fines Tariff.

If the Rule provides that the penalty for such a breach is in the discretion of the Board then the notice shall also state as such. If the penalty set by Rules is not a financial penalty, then such penalty must still be referred to in the Notice of Charge.

All breaches of the Laws of the Game Rules and Regulations of the Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance with FA Rules by the appropriate Association prior to any action by the Competition in accordance with FA Regulations

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- 4.5 All fines and charges imposed by the Board shall be received by the Company within twenty-eight days of the date of notification of imposition (unless otherwise ordered). Any Club or person breaking this Rule shall be liable to such penalties as the Board may impose
- 4.6 If a Club fails to comply with a Board Directive within fourteen days of notification of such order or instruction, or within fourteen days of an operative date specified in that order or instruction, it shall not be allowed to play or take part in the business of the Company until the expiry of 7 days from the day the order or instruction is complied with.
- 4.7 Except where otherwise mentioned, all communications shall be addressed to the Competition Secretary, who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.
- In an emergency, the Competition Secretary shall have power to act on behalf of the Competition.
- 4.8 A Club must at all times attend satisfactorily to the business of the Competition and/or the correspondence of the Competition or Company.
- 4.9 If a Club is asked to submit a report in relation to any violation of these Rules it may have a personal hearing, providing it notifies its intention of such within fourteen days of the date of notification from the Company, or the case will be dealt with in its absence.
- 4.10 The Board shall have the power to arrange representative matches at their discretion.
- 4.11 A match may be played each season (year) between two clubs nominated by the Board. All matters concerning the match will be decided by the Board
- 4.12 In the event of any issue concerning the membership of any Club with the Competition the Board may require a Bond 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.

5. INTERESTS IN MORE THAN ONE CLUB

Except with the prior written consent of the Board no person, company or business institution (including insolvency practitioners) may at any time be interested in more than one Club or in a Club and any other club playing in a Competition sanctioned by The FA. The definition of "interested" shall be the same as provided for by the Rules of the FA Challenge Cup Competition in force from time to time.

6. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

6.1 A Qualifying Player Registration

The Football Association's rules will apply in respect of all matters concerning players

6.1.1 A Player is one who has:

(i) signed a registration form supplied by the Competition (such signature to be witnessed by a second person) and where: -

- the form has been completed and signed by an Officer of the Club
- has been approved and registered on The FA Full Time system by the Competition and
- a registration number has been allotted or.

(ii) registered through WGS.

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A Player will only be eligible to play in a match organised by the Competition if his registration form; transfer form, or loan transfer form, has been received by the Company, or the necessary information has been submitted via WGS, not less than four hours before the scheduled kick-off of the match in which the player is required to play and found to be in order, and so registered.

It is the responsibility of all Clubs to ensure any player signing a registration form, or registering via WGS has, where necessary, the required International Clearance Certificate confirmation from The FA to be attached and in the case of Contract Players, including those on loan, must have approval from The Football Association. Clubs are also responsible for all players being correctly registered before fielding any player. Failure to do so constitutes misconduct and the Club will be charged with fielding an ineligible player.

Where a Club opts to register a Player via WGS, the Club must access WGS in order to complete the registration process.

Registration forms will be made available to Clubs by the Competition and charged in accordance with the fees tariff. The status of a player must be clearly stated on the registration form. The registration form must be received at the Competition office within five days of having been signed by the Player.

The registration of a Player will be valid from the date of registration to the end of that Playing Season only or, if in the case of a Contract or Loan Player whose contract or loan expires before the end of the Playing Season, for the term of the said contract or loan.

- 6.1.2 A Player may only play under his correct status. Any change of a Player's status during the currency of a registration must be notified to the Competition within five (5) days of the change of registration being affected.

In the event of a Player changing his status with the same Club either from Contract to Non-Contract or from Non-Contract to Contract then that Player must sign a new registration form, or submit the necessary information via WGS, and be re-registered. In default the Player re-registering will be ineligible to play in a match under the jurisdiction of the Competition and Rule 6.9 will be applied in such circumstances where a Club is found guilty of playing a Player who has changed status without re-registering.

A Player whose registration under Contract is cancelled by mutual consent and immediately re-registered by the same Club or a different Club on a non-contract basis shall not subsequently be registered as a Contract player with the Club for which his Contract was cancelled, within three months of the date of the cancellation except with the consent of the Board.

- 6.1.3 The Board shall have the power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct subject to the right of Appeal to the FA or the relevant County Football Association. Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated conduct, 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 with.

(Note: - action under this clause 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. For the purposes of this Rule, bringing the Competition into disrepute can only be considered where the Player has

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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.)

The Board shall also have the power to place an embargo on the registration, transfer or loan transfer of Players by any Club deemed to be in breach of these Rules.

- 6.1.4 The Board shall also have the power to place an Embargo on the registration, transfer or loan transfer of Players by any Club deemed to be in breach of these Rules. Where a Club has been subject to an Embargo that is ongoing (if applied by the Competition or another) then the Embargo shall continue to apply until the Club can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board that the circumstances that resulted in the Embargo no longer apply.

6.2 Registration Period

- 6.2.1 After 5.00pm on the 31st March each Playing Season new registrations, new loans, and transfer of registrations will be declined or will be approved subject to such limitations and restrictions as the Board may determine and, if so determined, the Player shall only be eligible to play in the matches for which permission is granted by the Board.

6.3 Player Status

The status of a player may be: -

- Contract Player
- Non-Contract
- Work Experience
- Scholar
- Short Term Loan
- Long Term Loan

6.4 Registrations and Registration Procedures

- 6.4.1 A Player will only be eligible to play in a match organised by the Company under these Rules if the appropriate form(s) is (are) received by the Company (including by facsimile or electronically) or the necessary information has been submitted to WGS, at least four (4) hours before the scheduled kick-off time of such match.

No Player whose registration, including Loan registrations, is received by the Company or submitted via WGS less than four (4) hours before the match organised by the Company in which he is required to play will be eligible. Any loan registration must also be approved by the Football Association before that Player can be considered eligible to play.

The registration of a Player by [facsimile or] electronic transmission or WGS is not automatically valid and it is the responsibility of the Club to ensure the player is NOT registered with any other Club. When

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the Player involved was previously registered with another Club it is necessary for that Club to complete the standard Competition transfer form or to have completed the standard Competition cancellation of registration form prior to or at the same as the registration to the new Club.

Where a Club opts to register a Player via WGS, but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information, that registration will not be processed.

Where a registration form is sent to the Company by facsimile or electronically, e.g. email, the originating form must subsequently be received by the Company within five (5) Days of the sending of the facsimile or electronic transmission. In default of this Rule the player shall not be eligible to play in the Competition unless and until a valid registration form is received. The form when received must contain the same information as that received by facsimile or email it is an offence to falsify competition form. Any Club deemed to have falsified any form will be deemed to have played an ineligible player and will be dealt with in accordance with Rule 6.9.

The registration of a Player by facsimile or electronic transmission is not automatically valid and it is the responsibility of the Club to ensure the player is NOT registered with any other Club. When the Player involved was previously registered with another Club it is necessary for that Club to complete the standard Competition transfer form or to have completed the standard Competition cancellation of registration form prior to or at the same as the registration to the new Club.

Any Club found to have been in breach of any part of Rule 6.4.1 will be deemed to have played an ineligible player and will be dealt with in accordance with Rule 6.9.

- 6.4.2 Each Team must have at least eleven (11) Players registered fourteen (14) days before the start of each Playing Season.
- 6.4.3 A registration form, when submitted to the Competition, must be accompanied by the financial details, i.e. the appropriate page of the contract for Players under written contract or the standard Competition form for Players not under written contract.
- 6.4.4 In the event of a Player signing registration forms for more than one Club, priority of registration shall decide for which Club he is entitled to play. The Club submitting the latter form shall be notified of the prior registration of the Player, and the circumstances under which the registration forms were signed shall be investigated by the Board. Any Player found to have signed registration forms for more than one Club, or any Club found to have knowingly induced a registered Player of another Club to sign a registration form, shall be dealt with by the Board in such a manner as it shall think fit.
- 6.4.5 Except when specific approval has been given by the Board a Club cannot register more than one Player, contract or non-contract, from another Club at any one time unless a period of 14 days has elapsed between each registration.
- 6.4.6 If a non-contract Player also registers for a club not in membership of the Competition, his registration for the Competition may be retained by the Club.
- 6.4.7 A Club may register any number of Work Experience players but only two (2) may play in any one match,

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in accordance with FA Rules.

- 6.4.8 A Club may name up to a maximum of five (5) players on a Team Sheet who are either Short Term Loan, Long Term Loan, or Work Experience.
- 6.4.9 The Company may, at its discretion, refuse any further registration of players, i.e. place under a registration embargo, any Club which has not completed payment of a transfer or loan arrangement made with another Club (or club) or arranged for the payment to be adequately secured. The Club (or club) which holds the Player's Contract will continue to pay the Player in accordance with his Contract.

6.5 Transfers

- 6.5.1 The transfer of a registration of a Player under written Contract from one Club to another must be in writing, on the Competition transfer form, signed by the Contract Player and the two Clubs, and the form must be forwarded to the Company for approval and registration. Such Contract Player does not become a bona-fide Player of the Club seeking his transfer until the form has been approved and registered by the Competition. The registration of a Contract Player whose Contract is cancelled by mutual consent shall be automatically cancelled upon receipt by the Competition of a copy of the relevant FA form.

Where a Club cancels the registration of a Player, Contract or Non-Contract, for any reason whatsoever, the Club must notify the Registration Secretary immediately, in writing or on the relevant Competition form. To be valid such notification must be signed by an authorised signatory of that Club.

- 6.5.2 The transfer of a registration of a Non-Contract Player from one Club to another must be in writing, on the Competition transfer form, signed by the Non-Contract Player and the two Clubs, and the form must be forwarded to the Company for approval and registration. Such Non-Contract Player does not become a bona-fide Player of the Club seeking his transfer until the form has been approved and registered by the Competition. A Non-Contract Player whose registration for a Club is cancelled or transferred for any reason whatsoever cannot, without the consent of the Board, return to his original Club until a minimum of fourteen (14) days has elapsed from the date of the cancellation or transfer.
- 6.5.3 A Club cannot register the transfer of a Contract Player or Non-Contract Player unless that Player has been registered with the transferor Club for at least 14 days, unless that Player is a goalkeeper.

6.6 Temporary Transfers (Loans)

- 6.6.1 Short Term Loans and Long Term Loans of Contract players shall be allowed to or from Clubs in membership of: -
- The Premier League
 - The Football League
 - The Football National League
 - The Isthmian Football League

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- The Northern Premier League
- The Southern Football League
- Any other Leagues which have been authorised by the FA as shown in Appendix B

on such terms and conditions as shall be mutually agreed by the two clubs and the player. For Loan Transfers between Clubs in the same Competition the transfer must be completed on the National League System Temporary Transfer Form. For Loan Transfers between Clubs in different Competitions the transfer must be completed on FA Form H3 together with a registration form applicable for the Competition of the transferee club.

The player being taken on loan must sign a Competition contract registration form which will be valid for the full period of the loan, including any extension to the loan period. The Competition's standard cancellation form must be used to prematurely end the temporary transfer period. The temporary registration for the borrowing Club will automatically be deemed to be cancelled upon maturity of the temporary transfer period.

Where a Short-Term Loan, expires, and is not renewed simultaneously, any subsequent Short Term Loan, of that Player to the same Club will be subject to a minimum duration of 28 days.

No more than four (4) Players (Short Term, Long Term) may join one Club from another Club (or club) in any Playing Season.

6.6.2 Short Term Loan Transfers

A Club can have up to a maximum of twelve (12) Short Term Loans during a Playing Season. The minimum period of a Short-Term Loan transfer must be twenty-eight (28) days with a maximum of ninety-three (93) days in any one Playing Season.

The Competition shall not approve more than two (2) Short Term Loan transfers to or from any one Club, including Premier League and Football League Clubs, at any one time.

On completing the National League System Temporary Transfer Form or FA form H3, a Club must send the original to the FA, one copy to the Company, and a third copy to the secretary of the League with which the player is registered.

To extend the period of any Short-Term Loan transfer a further National League System Temporary Transfer Form or FA form H3 must be completed and copies sent as directed above. If the Short-Term Loan transfer is extended only the Club for whom the Player was originally registered will be allowed to cancel the agreement at any time within the extension period, i.e. after 28 days. In the case of a goalkeeper Clubs may mutually agree, if they so wish, to include a recall clause in the agreement to enable the Club for who the Player was originally registered to recall the Player at any time during the loan period. Players other than goalkeepers may not be recalled within the first month, i.e. 28 days, of any loan.

RULES continued

Any Short-Term Loan transfer which may terminate after the last day for registrations may be extended for a further period provided the maximum period of 93 days is not exceeded.

Short Terms Loan Transfers which become permanent before their expiry date shall not count against a Club's quota of days or Players.

6.6.3 Long Term Loan Transfers

Clubs may have up to a maximum of four (4) Long Term Loan Transfers of any age during a Playing Season.

Long Term Loan Transfers shall be for a full Playing Season; or from any date prior to 31st August to any date between 1st and 31st January; or from any date between 1st and 31st January (the January transfer window) to the end of the Playing Season.

A Player on Long Term Loan may not be recalled, except for a goalkeeper or where the Player is to be transferred permanently by the Club (or club) holding his registered contract. A Player other than a goalkeeper so recalled cannot be permitted to play for the Club (or club) holding his registration after such recall until the end of the Playing Season. Players so recalled can only be replaced by a further Long Term Loan with permission from the Company. Long Term Loan Transfers will not count against the number of Short Term Loan Transfers.

To extend the period of any long-term loan transfer a further National League System Temporary Transfer Form or FA form H3 must be completed and copies sent as directed above.

The Competition shall not approve more than two (2) Long Term Loan transfers to or from any one club, including Premier League and Football League Clubs, at any one time.

6.6.4 Emergency Loan Transfers

This rule does not apply in this competition

6.6.5 Youth Loan Transfers

This rule does not apply in this competition

6.6.6 Emergency Loan of Goalkeepers

This rule does not apply in this competition

6.7 Club List Of Players And Transfer List

RULES continued

Clubs shall furnish the Registrations Secretary by 1st June with the following details:

- 6.7.1 a list of Contract Players whose agreements do not terminate at the end of the current season;
- 6.7.2 a list of contract Players in respect of whom the Club has exercised its option in accordance with Football Association Rule C1 (j);
- 6.7.3 a list of Contract Players in respect of whom the existing agreements do not include an option to renew but which the Club is desirous of offering further engagements, in accordance with Football Association Rule C1 (j);
- 6.7.4 a list of Contract Players in respect of whom the Club has exercised its option in accordance with Football Association Rule C1 (j) but whose registration the Club is prepared to transfer;
- 6.7.5 a list of Contract Players the Club has released;
- 6.7.6 a list of all Players whose registration the Club wishes to be cancelled;

Clubs shall also complete the standard Competition forms and return these by this date.

- 6.7.7 A Club shall keep a list of the players registered and a record of the games in which they have played and shall produce such records upon demand by the Board.
- 6.7.8 A register containing the names of all members registered for each Club, and the date of registration shall be kept by the Registration Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of any duly appointed member Club representatives at times mutually arranged with the Registration Secretary.

6.8 Substitute Players

A Club at its discretion may use three substitute Players at any time in a match. Substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission. When a Club is making a substitution in Premier Division and Division One Matches it shall use a board to show the number of the Player to be substituted and the number of the substitute Player.

A maximum of 5 SUBSTITUTES may be nominated and they must be included on the official Team Sheet handed to the Referee before the match in accordance with Rule 18. A substitute may not be used to replace a Player who has been suspended from the match by the Match Officials.

If a Player does not take part in the match for which he is a nominated substitute he shall be deemed as not having played for the Club in that match.

6.9 Playing An Ineligible Player

Any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a match or matches shall, save for exceptional circumstances, 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 Board may also order that such match or matches be replayed on such terms as are decided by the Board which may also levy penalty points against the Club in default.

The Company 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 only.

6.10 Financial Arrangements

- 6.10.1 Subject to 6.10.2 to 6.10.7 and to the Rules and Regulations of The FA, a Club may negotiate a financial arrangement with its Players.

RULES continued

- 6.10.2 All Players under a written contract must be registered with the Competition and The FA.
- 6.10.3 All payments and benefits due and/or made to the Player must be shown in the contract.
- 6.10.4 All payments made to Players must be made by the Club and fully recorded in the accounting records of the Club.
- 6.10.5 All salaried payments (whether to Contract or Non-Contract Players) must be subject to PAYE and National Insurance.
- 6.10.6 All salary payments due on written Contracts must be stated gross, before PAYE and National Insurance deductions.
- 6.10.7 Any Players paid expenses should be reimbursed via an expense claim form. The club should retain all expense records in a format acceptable to the HM Revenue and Customs.

7. CLUB COLOURS

- 7.1 On or before a date specified by the Company each year, every Club shall notify the Competition Secretary, in writing, of details of their first choice colours for outfield players and their goalkeeper (shirts, shorts and socks) and such details shall be printed in the Handbook published by the Company for the ensuing Playing Season. The colours registered by each Club shall be worn during the following season when playing at home. Shirts must be numbered between 1 and 17 such that the numbers can be clearly identified by officials and spectators. Striped, hooped or otherwise patterned shirts shall have numbers affixed to contrasting patches or numbers in a contrasting colour with bold outline. No changes to the first choice colours or combination of colours shall be permitted without the consent of the Board.

- 7.2 When playing away from home, clubs must play in colours (shirts, shorts and socks) which are clearly distinguishable from those of their opponents and the Match Officials, in particular the goalkeeper must play in kit clearly distinguishable from the colours of the shirts worn by all other Players in the match and the Match Officials.

Neck and cuff rim colours on shirts are not regarded as basic colours for the purpose of this Rule. Subject to the foregoing a Club may, if it wishes, wear colours not registered with the Competition for away matches. It is the responsibility of the visiting Club to check that their colours will not clash.

The goalkeeper may wear tracksuit trousers acceptable to the Match Referee.

- 7.3 No Club shall be permitted to register or play in shirts the colour of which is likely to cause confusion with the outfits worn by the Match Officials (i.e. black or dark blue).
- 7.4 The players' shirts must be clearly numbered in accordance with the Team Sheet handed to the match referee before a match and there must be no change of numbers during the match except for a change of goalkeeper or if permitted by the match referee because of a blood injury.
- 7.5 The Captain shall wear a distinguishing armband to indicate his status.
- 7.6 Both sleeves of the shirts of all players in matches played under the jurisdiction of the Company shall carry a Competition logo as supplied by the Competition on an annual basis if so decided by the Board. When playing in other competitions the shirts of all Players must include the Competition logo.
Shirt advertising must comply with FA Regulations.
- 7.7 The colours of clothing worn by ball boys/girls must not clash with the colours of either competing Club and the Match Officials.

8. PLAYING OF MATCHES.

ARRANGEMENT OF FIXTURES

RULES continued

- 8.1 The Board shall fix the date on which the Playing Season shall commence.
- 8.2 All matches shall be played under the Rules and Regulations of The FA and in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board.
- 8.3 All Competition matches shall be arranged as soon as practicable. The copyright in all lists of arrangements of such fixtures shall be vested in the Company.
- 8.4 All matches shall be played on the home and away principle and the Board shall determine how the fixtures shall be arranged.

Saturday fixtures in the Competition shall take precedence over all other competitions in which a Club may engage with the exception of:

- The FA Challenge Cup/Welsh Cup
- The FA Challenge Vase Competition
- The Nominated Cup Competition for which the club is eligible, of the Affiliated Association to which it was first affiliated.

Scheduled Saturday fixtures in the Competition must not be re-arranged without permission of the Competition Secretary. Clubs may be ordered to re-arrange outstanding matches, at the discretion of the Board, and where necessary their prospective opponents instructed accordingly. Clubs with open dates on Saturdays may be instructed to play any outstanding Competition fixture on such date. A minimum of 5 days' notice will be given in respect of any such arrangement.

Midweek fixtures in the Competition shall not take precedence over fixtures in the Nominated Cup Competition of the Affiliated Association to which it was first affiliated.

- 8.5 In the event of any Club being required to play an FA Cup or FA Trophy match within 48 hours of a scheduled Competition fixture it shall have the right to apply in writing as soon as practically possible (but in any event no later than 48 hours after becoming aware of the relevant Cup fixture) to have its Competition fixture postponed with or without the consent of its opponent. At the same time as it makes the application a copy shall be sent to its opponent who shall raise any objection within a further 24 hours of notification. Thereafter the Competition shall decide in its absolute discretion as soon as reasonably possible as to whether or not the application is approved.
- 8.6 The standard kick-off times shall be as follows:

Saturday matches - 3.00 pm

Midweek matches - 7.45 pm

All agreed changes to time of kick-off to be notified to the Board immediately for confirmation.

Clubs with ground sharing agreements must arrange for home matches to be played on Friday, Saturday or Sunday. If a clash of fixtures occurs with the sharing Club and for any reason a match is unable to be played on a Saturday, the match must be played on either the day before i.e. on Friday, or the day after i.e. on Sunday. If Clubs are unable to agree on the date then it will be played on the Sunday unless the Board decides otherwise. The decision of the Board shall be final and binding. Official bank holidays and Sundays – 3pm unless agreed otherwise by the two Clubs and the Board; application shall be made to the Competition Secretary by both Clubs at least 21 days before the relevant date.

To re-schedule a midweek fixture for an evening other than that on which it was scheduled by the Competition will require written agreement of both Clubs and the Competition Secretary.

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

If a Club has three or more regular players selected for a County representative side on a Saturday when they have 2 matches scheduled in any competition, then they shall be allowed to request the cancellation of their UCL reserve fixture providing a minimum of 7 days' notice is given. If a Club has three or more

RULES continued

regular players selected for a County representative side on a Saturday when they have a first team with no reserves in this competition or lower competition, then they shall be allowed to request the cancellation of their UCL fixture providing a minimum of 7 days' notice is given. If a County representative match is scheduled for midweek and a Club has three or more regular players selected, then they shall be allowed to request the cancellation of a UCL match arranged for that midweek providing a minimum of 7 days' notice is given.

- 8.7 The Board may change any Competition fixtures during the season to suit the overall interests of the Competition and shall have the power to decide whether a ground is suitable for Competition matches and to order a Club whose ground is deemed unsuitable to play its home matches at an alternative suitable ground.
- 8.8 Two weeks' notice is required from Clubs wishing to re-arrange a Saturday match to Friday evening or Sunday. A request made in less than this period of time will only be considered by the Board in exceptional circumstances and granted at their sole discretion.
- 8.9 A Club may not enter its first team in any outside competition, other than those listed in Rule 8.14, without the prior permission of the Board. The Competition Secretary must be informed of all fixtures, postponements and results of all matches played in any other competition.
- 8.10 When a Club obtains the consent of the Board to postpone a fixture because of an epidemic affecting the availability of their Players, that Club shall be liable to pay any direct expenses incurred, if any, to the opposing Club. The amount of claim will be at the discretion of the Board. Requests for the postponement of a match for any reason will not be considered more than forty-eight hours before the scheduled time of kick-off.

Medical certificates for those Players affected, signed by the Players' own doctor, must be forwarded to the Competition Secretary within [fourteen days] of the postponement, along with a full list of contract and Non-Contract Players currently registered by the Club at the date of the match which was postponed, giving full reasons against each name for the Player's unavailability.

PRE-MATCH ARRANGEMENTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

- 8.11 Each Club must take every precaution to keep its ground in good playing condition and amenities (including floodlights) in good working order and complying with the Criteria Document throughout the Playing Season.
- 8.12 All Clubs must have a mobile telephone and an email address operational at all times. These will be listed in the Competition Handbook unless a Club requests otherwise.
- 8.13 The home Club shall advise the visiting Club and the Match Officials of the date and time of kick-off of each match and the team colours, including the colour of the goalkeeper's jersey, it will be wearing, to be received at least five days prior to the match and the visiting Club and the Match Officials must acknowledge receipt to be received at least three days before the match.
The visiting Club must include in its acknowledgement the team colours, including the colour of the goalkeeper's jersey, it will be wearing.
- 8.14 The home Club is responsible for publishing a full match programme acceptable to the Board for each of its Competition matches, which must feature the League Logo and Competition Sponsor(s) logo on the front cover, include a full-page advertisement for the Competition sponsor(s) on the right hand full page side of any double page spread, for each of its Competition matches in the Premier Division. A leaflet providing the names of players will not be considered sufficient to comply with this Rule in the Premier Division. In Division One a programme or leaflet providing the names of player's sheet must be produced which must feature the League Logo and Competition Sponsor(s) logo.

The visiting Club must send in writing to the home Club details of the proposed team they plan to field together with their Club history and up-to-date pen pictures of their current Players registered with the Competition for the season at least five days before the scheduled date of the match between the two

RULES continued

Clubs.

The home Club programme must include the details sent by the visiting Club in the match day programme and a copy of each match day programme shall be sent by the home Club to the Competition Secretary within 3 days of the match with the relevant match report form unless advised of an alternative arrangement by the Competition Secretary.

Clubs will be responsible for all comments in their match day programme in respect of the Competition, the Company or other member Clubs, notwithstanding any disclaimers to the contrary. No part of a Club's programme issued for a match in any competition shall, in the opinion of the Board, bring the Competition or the Company into disrepute.

All Clubs will be responsible for their official website or similar computer related information system, which is within the public domain. Nothing shall be included on the website which in the opinion of the Board brings the Competition or the Company into disrepute.

- 8.15 The postponement of matches due to ground conditions must be carried out in accordance with Rule 14.2.
- 8.16 Where a match is re-arranged or cancelled after the officials have been appointed, it is the duty of the home Club to notify the officials of the cancellation of their appointments immediately. Clubs in default of this Rule may be subject to any action decided by the Board.
- 8.16 The Board shall determine the policy of the Competition for the issuing of match day passes.

MATCH MANAGEMENT

- 8.17 All matches shall be of ninety minutes' duration. The half time interval in all matches shall not exceed fifteen minutes. Any match which is not of ninety minutes' duration may be ordered to stand as a completed match or replayed for the full period of ninety minutes or be awarded to the Club not at fault, as the Board may decide, on such terms as the Board shall decide.
- 8.18 Each Club must hand a blank Club Misconduct Form and the Team Sheet containing name(s) of Players taking part in a match (including the name(s) and number(s) of the nominated substitute(s) to the Referee and a representative of their opponents in the presence of the Referee at least forty-five minutes before the scheduled time of kick-off. The Players' numbers (in accordance with Rule 7) and the colours of the playing strip must be clearly stated. Any Clubs in breach may be fined.
- 8.19 Any Club altering its team selection or numbering after Team Sheets have been exchanged may be fined. A Player who is named on the Team Sheet may be replaced without fine if he is injured warming up after exchange of the Team Sheet. Any subsequent changes must be notified to the referee and to a representative of the opponents before the actual kick-off.
- 8.20 Clubs taking the field of play – For all matches under the jurisdiction of the Competition, Clubs shall be required to enter the field of play together, preceded by the Match Officials, not less than 5 (five) minutes before the advertised time of kick-off.
- 8.21 Each Club shall be prepared to kick-off at the scheduled time unless a satisfactory explanation is offered. Any Club commencing a Competition match with less than 11 Players may be subject to a fine. Each team participating in a match shall represent the full available strength of each competing Club.
- 8.22 In all Competition Matches, the number of Clubs Players and officials seated on the team benches, in the designated technical area, must not exceed 8 unless the team bench facility provides more than 8 individual seats.
- 8.23 Only one person at a time has the authority to convey tactical instructions to the Players during the match from within the technical area.
- 8.24 All team officials and substitutes seated on the bench shall be listed on the official Team Sheet when it is submitted to the Match Officials. Only those persons listed on the official Team Sheet shall be permitted in the technical area.
- 8.25 The occupants of the technical area must behave in a responsible manner at all times. Misconduct by oc-

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cupants of this area will be reported by the Referee to The FA, who shall have the power to impose sanctions as deemed fit.

- 8.26 With the exception of the team manager, the team coach and any substitutes who are warming up or warming down, all other personnel are to remain seated on the trainer's bench. The team manager or team coach is allowed to move to the edge of the technical area to issue instructions to his team.
- 8.27 Not applicable
- 8.28 Not applicable

POST MATCH MANAGEMENT

- 8.29 Each Club shall enter information from the match result form by the method instructed by the Competition and shall submit the fully completed copy of the appropriate match result forms by first class post, or facsimile, or email to the Appointing Authority and the Competition within 3 days of the match. When a Club considers that the Referee has discharged his duties incompetently and awards a mark of 61 or less, a detailed report must be sent to the Appointing Authority within three days of the match by the method instructed by the Appointing Authority. Clubs in default of any provision of the Rule will be subject to a fine for each offence.
- 8.30 In the event that a match is abandoned before half time the Club playing at home will issue a voucher to each spectator valid for free admission if the match is ordered to be replayed. In the event that the match is abandoned during or after the half time interval the Club playing at home is not obliged to issue such a voucher.
- 8.31 In the event that a match is abandoned for reasons over which neither Club has control the Club playing at home shall retain the gate receipts for such uncompleted match and the Board shall determine the terms upon which any replayed match shall be played.
- 8.32 In the event of a match being abandoned due to the conduct of one Club or its members or supporters the Board has the power to order that the match is not replayed and to award either one or three points to the Club not at fault. It cannot levy a financial penalty due to the conduct of a Club.
- 8.33 In the event of the match being abandoned due to the conduct of both Clubs or their members or supporters no financial penalty can be applied by the Board to either Club and the Board shall determine whether the original match stands as a completed match or is replayed and, if replayed, the terms upon which the match is to be replayed.
- 8.34 In the event of a match having to be postponed and one Club is found to be at fault then opponents for that match shall be compensated by the Club at fault. In the case of a visiting Club where it has undertaken all or part of its journey then travelling expenses and meal allowances may be claimed based on the total mileage involved in the whole journey. In exceptional circumstances, expenses for overnight accommodation up to a maximum of 18 persons may be claimed. In some instances, compensation may also be claimed when neither of the Clubs is at fault. The Board will determine the amount of compensation payments to be made, if any.

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

POST MATCH ADMINISTRATION

- 8.35 The home Club shall be responsible for notifying the Competition immediately following the conclusion of each home Competition match the result of that match together with the attendance, the times of all goals scored in the match and the scorer of each goal, via the Full-Time SMS system. In any FA or AFFILIATED ASSOCIATION Competition the home Club if two Clubs are playing the tie, or the Club if the match involves a team outside of the Competition, must also follow this procedure.
- 8.36 In the event of the match being postponed, not completed or abandoned, the home Club must immedi-

RULES continued

ately telephone the Fixture Director, the Competition Secretary and, in the case of a match postponement, the Appointing Authority, the visiting Club and the Match Officials. When a postponement occurs in any FA or County Cup competition, the home Club, if two Clubs are playing the tie, or the Club if the match involves a team outside of the Competition, must also follow this procedure.

8.37 Where a match has been postponed for any reason, the Fixture Director shall determine the new date.

Any Club without just cause failing to fulfil an engagement to play a Competition match on the appointed date shall for each offence be liable to expulsion from the Competition and/ or such other disciplinary action the Board may determine, including the deduction of up to a maximum of three points from the offending Club's record, any expenses incurred by their opponents, and a fine.

In the event of a Club being in breach of the previous paragraph of this Rule then the Board may award points to the Club not at fault as if the match had been played and the League table shall reflect the position as if the match had been played with the result awarded by the Board.

9. PLAYERS' AGENTS

9.1 An Intermediary cannot have an involvement in any Club in an official capacity (as defined by the Board) nor may he hold office with the Competition.

9.2 All Clubs must comply with The FA Regulations concerning Intermediaries.

10. FINANCIAL RECORDS

10.1 All Clubs shall keep their accounting records for recording the fact and nature of all receipts and payments so as to disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position including the assets and liabilities of the Club.

10.2 The home Club shall take gate receipts for all its home League matches and shall retain all gate receipts. Where a match is declared all ticket the Away Club shall be entitled to 10% of the total number of tickets available or a minimum of 600, whichever is the greater, subject to any stipulation by the relevant safety authority affecting these figures. A reasonable allocation of the total disabled spectator accommodation where appropriate shall be made available to disabled supporters of the Away Club.

Clubs must ensure that all gate receipts are fully and properly recorded and accounted for in the accounting records of the club.

Clubs should have a system in operation for home games that enables them to accurately report on the following;

- A record of all tickets sold in advance
- A reconciliation of cash received by category of entrant through each turnstile
- The number of entrants through each turnstile
- A schedule of the numbers admitted to parts of the stadium that do not pass through a turnstile
- A list of complimentary tickets authorised
- This documentation should be reconciled to the overall takings and declared attendance for each home game.

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

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- 10.4 In the event of a transfer of a player where a consideration is agreed, the consideration can only be paid between the two clubs (the transferor and transferee clubs).

The full name of each contracting club should be stated in the transfer agreement. The full consideration involved must be recorded in the accounting records of both clubs.

Temporary transfer of a player's registration:

Any Club temporarily transferring a player's registration to another club should invoice the receiving club in accordance with the terms of the loan agreement. The player concerned should remain on the payroll of the Club holding his permanent registration for the period of the loan.

Documentation supporting loans:

All loans extended to a Club must be documented in full in the accounting records of the Club.

Within nine months of its accounting reference date, each Club shall submit to the Company a copy of its full financial statements as presented to its members/shareholders with confirmation that the accounts have been approved at a duly convened general meeting.

11. FOOTBALL CREDITORS

Where a Club defaults in making any payments to any Football Creditor, the Club shall be subject to such penalty as the Board of Directors may decide including, but not limited to, an Embargo; a points deduction; a Bond; a suspension; or any combination thereof.

12. CHAMPION, RELEGATION

- 12.1 Three points will be awarded for a win at home or away and one point for a drawn match at home or away.

- 12.2 At the end of the Playing Season of each competition a table will be compiled showing the playing record of each Club in each division of the Competition. The playing record of each Club must include any points deduction made by the Competition or by the FA and in any situation where points per game are calculated the calculation will be made after taking into account the deduction of any such points.

The position of each Club in the table so compiled shall be determined in the order with the Club being awarded the highest number of points being first and the Club being awarded the second highest number of points being placed second and so on. In the event of two or more Clubs being awarded the same number of points, the highest placed Club shall be decided as follows:

Goal difference – The goals scored against by each Club shall be deducted from the goals scored by that Club and the largest positive and smallest negative difference shall be placed the highest.

- 12.2.2 In the event of the goal difference being equal the highest placed Club shall be the Club which has scored the most goals

- 12.2.3 In the event that two or more Clubs have the same goal difference and have scored the same number of goals, then the highest placed Club shall be the Club which has won the most matches.

- 12.2.4 In the event of the two Clubs still being equal the Club which has the better playing record against the other Club in their head to head Competition matches during the Season will be the highest placed Club

- 12.2.5 If the records of two or more Clubs are still equal and it is necessary for any reason to determine the position of each the Clubs concerned shall play off a deciding match or matches on a neutral ground or grounds with the net gate money after deducting the usual match(es) expenses being divided equally between the two competing Clubs.

12.3 Promotion to / Relegation from Step 4

Promotion, relegation and lateral movement of Clubs shall be in accordance with the principles established by the Leagues Committee of The FA.

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If no Clubs are eligible or wish promotion, the number of Clubs to be relegated will be reduced.

In the event of a Club, not being placed in a relegation position at the end of the season, wishing to resign from the Competition at the end of the season, or having been removed from membership under the Rules the number of Clubs to be relegated shall be reduced accordingly

In the event of a Club opting to be relegated or being removed from membership under the Rules such Club or Clubs will replace the Club or Clubs otherwise due for relegation. In accordance with Regulation 5.4 in the Regulations for the Establishment and Operation of the National League System.

12.4 Promotion and Relegation between Premier Division and Division One.

Promotion and relegation between the Premier Division and Division One may be applied to the bottom two teams in the Premier Division and the top two teams in Division One, subject to the ground facilities and administration of any Club eligible for promotion being approved by the Board by 1 April each year. Should one of the top two clubs in Division One not be eligible then consideration will be given to the third placed side if they wish to be promoted.

If no Clubs are eligible or wish promotion, the number of Clubs to be relegated will be reduced.

In the event of a Club, not being placed in a relegation position at the end of the season, wishing to resign from the Competition at the end of the season, or having been removed from membership under the Rules the number of Clubs to be relegated shall be reduced accordingly.

In the event of a Club opting to be relegated or being removed from membership under the Rules such Club or Clubs will replace the Club or Clubs otherwise due for relegation.

12.5 Relegation to Feeder Leagues/Re-election to Division One

The last two Clubs in Division One may be relegated to a Feeder League. Should there be no eligible Feeder League Clubs wishing promotion, relegation from Division One will be at the discretion of the Board. Clubs re-elected to Division One must pay a re-election fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff.

12.6 No further wording applies for this sub section

12.7 No further wording applies for this sub section

12.8 All Divisions

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

12.9 A Club which for any reason ceases to operate at any time during the Playing Season may have its playing record expunged, and any monies due to them from the Company shall be forfeited. From the date of the withdrawal no further payment shall become due to them. From the date of the withdrawal, that Club shall cease to be a member of the Company.

13. INSOLVENCY PROVISIONS

13A SPORTING SANCTIONS

13.A.1 If an Insolvency Event shall occur in relation to any Club that Club shall be deducted 10 (ten) points. The deduction shall be made forthwith on the happening of the first Insolvency Event.

13.A.2 Where the Club takes or suffers an Insolvency Event:

13.A.2.1 during the Normal Playing Season but prior to 5:00 p.m. on the fourth Thursday in March, the points deduction shall apply immediately;

13.A.2.2 during the Normal Playing Season but after 5:00 p.m. on the fourth Thursday in March then Rule 14.3

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shall apply; and

13.A.2.3 outside the Normal Playing Season, the points deduction shall apply in respect of the following Playing Season such that the Club starts that Playing Season on minus 10 points (including a Club or Clubs Relegated to the United Counties Football League, where such Club shall be subject to Rule 14 of their previous Leagues Rules) or where it has been necessary under the National League System Regulations for a Club or Clubs to be moved from one league to another and such Club would have been subject to Rule 14.

13.A.3 Where the circumstances set out in Rule 14.2.2 apply and at the end of that Playing Season, having regard to the number of Competition points awarded (ignoring any potential deduction): -

- a) the Club would be relegated in accordance with The United Counties Football League Rules, the points deduction will apply in the next following Season; or
- b) the Club would not be relegated as aforesaid, the points deduction will apply in that Playing Season and United Counties League Rules will then apply (if appropriate) following the imposition of the points deduction.

13.A.4 For the purposes of this Rule 13

- a) where any Insolvency Event is taken, or suffered other than on a Business Day (as defined by the Insolvency Rules 1986 as amended from time to time) then for the purposes of determining the timing of any points deduction only the action taken or suffered will be deemed to have been taken or suffered on the immediately preceding Business Day; and
- b) if a Company Voluntary Arrangement is approved, then approval of that Company Voluntary Arrangement shall be deemed to have been given at the date of the first meeting of creditors called to consider that Company Voluntary Arrangement, and not the date of any adjourned meeting of the creditors or the meeting of shareholders

13.A.5 For the avoidance of doubt, where a Club is subject to more than Insolvency Event (for example Administration followed by a Company Voluntary Arrangement), the Club shall only be deducted one set of 10 points, such deduction to apply with effect from the first Insolvency Event.

13.A.6 The Competition shall serve the Club with written notice of the points deduction (the 'Notice').

13.A.7 A Club may appeal against such a points deduction. Any such appeal will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for Football Association Appeals, save that the following paragraphs of those Regulations will not apply – 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 3.3 and 3.5. In place of those Regulations, the following Rules 13.A.8 to 13.A.12 will apply.

13.A.8 The Notice of Appeal shall be lodged with the FA within 7 days of the date of the Notice.

13.A.9 A Club may appeal against an automatic deduction of points solely on the ground that the insolvency proceedings arose solely as a result of a Force Majeure event (the 'Appeal'). For the purposes of this Rule 13, a 'Force Majeure' event shall be an event that, having regard to all of the circumstances, is reasonably considered to have been unforeseeable and unavoidable.

13.A.10 The Appeal Board shall have the power to: -

13.A.10.1 Confirm the deduction of ten points; or

13.A.10.2 Set aside the deduction of ten points and substitute a deduction of such lower number of points as it shall deem appropriate; or

13.A.10.3 Order that there shall be no sanction at all.

13.A.11 The decision of the Appeal Board shall be final and binding. Any costs incurred by any party in appeal pro-

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ceedings brought before the Appeal Board shall be met by the Club in any event and shall be considered as a sum due to the Company.

13.A.12 Any sanctions imposed pursuant to these provisions shall not be taken into account in respect of any other sanctions, penalties or fines that may be imposed by the Competition in respect of any breaches of its Rules, Regulations or Articles of Association by the Club.

13B GENERAL INSOLVENCY

13.B.1 In the event of a Club entering an Insolvency Event between the end of the AGM and start of the AGM immediately following thereafter ('the next AGM') then it shall automatically be relegated by one Step at the next AGM, unless one of the following requirements has been met, namely

- i) Prior to the next AGM it has Paid in Full all its creditors (including but not limited to Football Creditors); or
- ii) Prior to the next AGM it has Paid in Full its Football Creditors and entered a compliant CVA.

For the purposes of this Rule, a CVA shall be considered compliant if it provides for the following:

- That all Creditors will be paid in Full;
- The first payment under the terms of the CVA shall be made within 28 days of the approval of the CVA and shall constitute a minimum of 10% of the total sum payable;
- The balance shall be paid in equal amounts over the remaining period of the CVA;
- The period of the CVA shall not extend beyond three years from the date of approval.

Notwithstanding the above, in the event of a Club being subject to an Insolvency Event at the date of the AGM, then the Club may be subject to such sanction as the Board may determine, (including expulsion from membership of the Competition) unless the Board is satisfied that by no later than 5pm on 31 July (or, if the 31 July falls on a weekend, 5pm on the immediately preceding Business Day) that the Club (or any new entity to which its membership is subsequently transferred under 2.9.2 above) is in a financial position to complete all of its fixtures for the immediate following Playing Season.

This sanction shall apply in addition to any Club being relegated pursuant to its playing record in the same period namely that in the event of the Club having already been relegated by one Step it shall be relegated two Steps.

This provision is subject to Rule 2.9.1 in respect of Clubs which have transferred their membership pursuant to an Insolvency Event and in that case where there is any conflict between any provision of Clause 14 and 2.9.1 then this Clause 14 shall prevail.

13.B.2 A Club shall not be eligible for promotion or to compete in the Play Offs at the end of a Playing Season if at 5pm on the date on which the last scheduled League fixture is due to be played that Club:

has entered an Insolvency Event between the date of the AGM and 5pm on the date on which the last scheduled League fixture is played and has not Paid in Full all its creditors to which the Insolvency Event applies (including but not limited to Football Creditors) or Paid in Full all its Football Creditors and entered a CVA to have Paid in Full all other creditors over an agreed period not extending more than three years following the date of approval of the CVA: or

- (i) has not complied with the terms of a CVA by which it is bound or is to seek to extend the period of the CVA.

13.B.3 The sanctions contained herein shall be in addition to and not in substitution for any other sanctions contained within the Rules and, in particular, the sanctions set out in Rule 13.A. For the avoidance of doubt,

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where a Club is subject to more than one connected Insolvency Event, for example Administration followed by a Company Voluntary Arrangement, any sanction applied to it in accordance with Rule 13.B.1 shall be applied in one Playing Season only except as provided for in Rule 13.B.1.

Clubs Relegated from the Football League

13.B.4 Compliance With/Extension of CVA's

13.B.4 Any Club must inform the Competition in writing (and provide supporting evidence) within seven (7) days of the Club:

- i) making a payment under the terms of a CVA and provide evidence of that payment;
- ii) becoming aware of any failure to comply with the terms of any CVA entered into by it (including the failure to make a payment by the due date) or
- iii) making an application to extend or vary the terms of the CVA entered into by it and provide a copy of the application, or
- iv) completing all its obligations under an Insolvency Event and receiving confirmation of such from the relevant Insolvency Practitioner.
- v) becoming aware of any consent by creditors to compromise the whole or part of the debt admitted into the CVA.

13.B.5 Following the approval of a CVA, if creditors subsequently consent to compromise the whole or part of the debt admitted to the CVA or if any Club makes a successful application to vary the terms of its CVA so that the CVA is not compliant as provided for in Rule 14.B.1 then that Club shall be automatically relegated by one Step at the end of the Playing Season in which the event takes place. If the Club has already been relegated due to its position in the final table of the Division in which it is competing, then it shall be relegated two Steps.

13.B.6 In the event of any Club

- (i) Failing to comply with the terms of any CVA entered into it (whether securing Payment in Full of all of its creditors or not) including the failure to make a payment by the due date; and/or
- (ii) Breaching any of the provisions of Rule 14.B.4 or failing to notify the Competition of any consent by creditors to compromise the whole or part of the debt admitted thereby rendering the CVA as non-compliant as required in Rule 13.B.1.

Then the Board shall have the power to impose such sanction as it deems appropriate, including, but without limitation to expulsion of that Club, the relegation of that Club, the deduction of points and an Embargo.

13.B.7 Where a Club has transferred its membership under Rule 2.9.2 the provisions of Rule 13.B in relation to a CVA shall be applied to the former entity that was subject to the Insolvency Event and/or the new entity

14. MATCH OFFICIALS

14.1 Referees for all Competition matches shall be appointed by the Appointing Authority.

Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by the Football Association, award a mark out of 100 to the Referee for each match and the name of the Referee and the mark awarded shall be submitted to the League on the Result Report Form provided (see Rule 8.29).

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The League shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided, and by the prescribed date each season, shall submit a summary to the Football Association, County Football Associations and Contributory Leagues.

Assistant Referees shall be appointed for Premier Division matches and Division One Matches where possible.

Club Assistant Referees for the remaining Division One matches MUST be provided by the competing Clubs. Club Assistant Referees must be 16 years old or over. Any Club failing to provide an Assistant Referee shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Club Assistant Referees must report to the Referee's room at least 15 minutes prior to kick-off and must remain in the Officials changing room during half time. Clubs must ensure that Club Assistant Referees wear distinctive clothing and fully understand the basic rules of football. A named substitute shall not act as a Club Assistant Referee.

The list of Referees and Assistant Referees shall be compiled by the Board in accordance with FA Instructions. All Referees and Assistant Referees must be in possession of a League Badge.

All Referees and Assistant Referees shall be unconnected with opposing teams.

The General Secretary shall have the power in case of emergency to appoint an Official to act in a Competition fixture whose name is not on the Official or Supplementary List.

Officials not keeping their engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may have their name removed from the list of Referees and have this fact reported to the Association with which they are registered.

- 14.2 No Club shall postpone a Competition match on account of the apparent state of the ground. In the event that such circumstances prevail, Clubs should comply with procedures provided for by this rule and in the document published by The FA "Recommended procedure for the guidance of Clubs and Referees in determining the suitability of grounds in adverse weather conditions". Should the ground be declared unfit it is the responsibility of the home Club to immediately advise the Competition, the Appointing Authority, the visiting Club and the Match Officials. Failure to notify the appointed Match Officials at the earliest possible moment may leave the Home Club liable for their fees and expenses.

If a match is regarded as doubtful because of ground conditions, any pitch inspection undertaken other than by the appointed Match Referee must be undertaken by a Referee classified at, or above, Level 5. For Saturday matches any inspection must be made on the morning of the match at an appropriate time, which should take into account the departure time of the opposing team and the Match Official(s). For midweek games any decision to cancel a match must not be made more than 24 hours before the scheduled kick off time.

The Referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and his decision shall be final.

On occasions when the weather is likely to make a match doubtful, Match Officials should ensure that the Home Club know how to contact them on match days and/or ensure that they contact the Home Club before travelling.

Premier Division and KOC Matches (and Division One if Assistant Referees Appointed)

- 14.3 In the event of any of the Match Officials appointed for a match not being in attendance at the match or becoming unable to complete the match it shall be completed under the control of the remaining Match Officials unless the competing Clubs are able to agree upon a substitute who is acceptable to the Match Referee; should the appointed Match Referee fail to appear then the senior Assistant Referee must take charge. Any substitute agreed for a match shall be considered a Match Official for the purposes of that match.

In the event that a Club causes a match to be abandoned in relation to the operation of this Rule then that Club shall be charged with failing to fulfil a fixture (Rule 8.6 refers).

Division One (if no appointed Assistant Referees),

In the event of the non-appearance or incapacity (before or during the game) of the appointed Referee, or if there is no appointed Referee, Clubs must agree a substitute Referee to take charge of the game and

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it will be the home Clubs responsibility to ensure that a substitute Referee is found. Such substitute Referee shall for that game have the full authority and status of a registered Referee

In the event that a Club, notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph causes a match to be abandoned by failing to find or agree on a substitute Match official then that Club shall be charged with failing to fulfil a fixture (Rule 8.37 refers)

14.4 Match Officials should be present at the appointment at least 60 minutes prior to the scheduled time of kick-off. The appointed Referee may be required to visit the ground earlier if requested to do so by the home Club.

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

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

14.7.1 The home Club will be responsible for paying the Match Officials the fees and match expenses set by the Appointing Authority on the day of the match in their dressing room, within a reasonable time after the conclusion of the match (including matches abandoned for any reason).

In the case of a postponed match over which the Clubs have no control, whether or not gate money is taken, any Match Official who has travelled to the match will be entitled to claim travelling expenses and half their match fee from the home Club. Where provided by the home Club, each Match Official must complete and submit a claim form for expenses.

Where a match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall pay the Officials, if they reasonably attend the ground, their full fee and expenses.

Fees and travelling expenses for Match Officials will be paid in accordance with the amounts identified in the Fees Tariff. Each Match Official may claim the total mileage travelled based on the shortest return route from home to the ground using AA Route Finder, providing that the total claimed by all Match Officials does not exceed an average of 100 miles per Match Official appointed. In cases where more than an average of 100 miles per Match Official is travelled, each Match Official will be reimbursed up to a maximum of 100 miles and the balance of their travelling expenses shall be met by the League on receipt of the necessary details from the Match Official.

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

The home Club shall be responsible for ensuring that goal nets are in position.

14.9 Three match balls proposed to be used in the match and, if applicable, supplied by the Company under a ball sponsorship agreement must be submitted to and approved by the Referee before the commencement of the match in his/her dressing room. It is the responsibility of the Club playing at home in each match played under the jurisdiction of the Competition to provide match balls in accordance with any match ball agreement signed by the Company

14.10 This rule does not apply

14.11 Referees must report all breaches of Rule to the Competition Secretary in writing within three days of the match on the appropriate form by first class post or electronically.

15. WITHDRAWAL OF CLUBS

A Club must notify the Company not later than 31st March each year of its intention to withdraw any or all of its teams from the Competition at the end of that Playing Season. Failure to do so will make a Club liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Clubs withdrawing from the Competition shall be liable for its share of any call which may be made under Rule 2.17.

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Clubs not sustaining their resignation shall inform the Competition by 14 April, and shall be charged a re-admission fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff.

This Rule shall not operate so as to preclude promotion, relegation or lateral movement of any Club to another competition in accordance with Rule 12.

16. PROTESTS, APPEALS

- 16.1.1 All protests, claims or complaints relating to these Rules and appeals arising from a player's contract shall be heard and determined by the Board, or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Board. The Clubs or players protesting, appealing, claiming or complaining must send two copies 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 Board.

No objection relative to the dimensions of the ground, goal posts, bars or other appurtenances of the game shall be entertained by the Board unless a protest is lodged in writing with the Referee before the commencement of the match. Any Club lodging such protests with the Referee and not proceeding with it shall be deemed guilty of serious misconduct and shall be dealt with by the Board.

No objection or protest shall be withdrawn except by permission of the Board.

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

Parties to a protest or complaint shall be afforded an opportunity of making a statement when the protest is being heard and where possible, shall receive 7 days notice of the meeting, together with a copy of the protest. The Board shall take into consideration when dealing with the protest, the possession by the protesting Club of any information which, if properly used, might have avoided the protest.

- 16.3 The Board shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Board shall direct.

- 16.4 Any appeal against a decision of the Board must be lodged with The FA within fourteen 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 Competition Secretary.

All appeals to The FA must be lodged in accordance with the appeals procedure detailed in the Appendix to these Rules or that in force at any one time.

- 16.5 A Club, on giving fourteen days' notice to a player to terminate his player's contract, must state in the notice his right of appeal to the Board and also the address of the Competition Secretary to whom he must appeal. The notice must advise the player of the necessity of forwarding two copies of his appeal with the deposit fee specified in the Fees Tariff, to the Competition Secretary within seven days of the receipt of the notice from the Club. A copy of such notice must be received by the Competition Secretary within seven days of the sending of the notice in order to be valid.

- 16.6 A player on giving fourteen days' notice to his Club to terminate his player's contract must also notify the Company and The FA of the reasons for the termination of the agreement. . A copy of such notice must be received by the Competition Secretary within seven days of the sending of the notice in order to be valid.

- 16.7 If the recipient of a notice referred to in Rules 16.5 and 16.6 above wishes to do so, he may appeal against the relevant notice within seven days of the date of sending of the notice in writing in duplicate to the Competition Secretary with an appeal fee.

- 16.8 The Club or the player as the case may be shall have further right of appeal as set out in Rule 16.4 above.

- 16.9 An appeal by a contract player against a fine or suspension imposed by his Club under Football Association Rule C1m must be made within seven days to the Competition Secretary.

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16.10 If so requested the Board may arbitrate on any disputes, protests, appeals, claims or complaints between two member 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.

A member of the Board being a member of either Club shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such objection or protest is being considered and decided.

17. MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS

- a) Undertakings to be given by Club Employees
- b) All Clubs must incorporate in any contracts of employment with their employees, including Player, an undertaking on the part of the employee not to bring The Competition or any Club into disrepute and an undertaking on the part of the employee not knowingly to do anything or omit to do anything which will cause the Club to be in breach of the Laws of the Game, the Rules of the Football Association or the Rules of the Competition
- c) Without prejudice to the generality of this rule, all Clubs must ensure they, and where appropriate any Officers of the Club, comply with the obligations of the Football Association's Owners' and Directors' Test.
- d) Misconduct in pre-arranging the result of matches.
- e) Any Club, Official or Player offering or receiving a payment or any form of inducement to or from any Club or the Official or Player of any Club; or any Club, Official or Player receiving or seeking to receive any payment or other form of inducement from any other person or organisation to win, lose, or draw a Match under the jurisdiction of the Competition or in which the Club participates by reason of membership of the Competition shall be deemed guilty of misconduct.
- f) Any person charged and found guilty of bringing the Competition into disrepute and any Club, Officer or Member charged and found guilty of misconduct as defined by the Board or of inducing or attempting to induce a player of another Club to join his own Club shall be liable to such penalty as the Board shall deem appropriate.

18. TROPHY

The Company shall present to the Winners and Runners Up of all divisions in the Competition eighteen souvenirs.

In addition, a Competition championship trophy and Flag will be presented as and when the Board determine.

The Clubs concerned will also receive a permanent souvenir.

The trophies and Flags are the property of the Company and may never be won outright. A trophy presented to the Competition shall be vested in the Association sanctioning the Competition as Trustees. If a trophy is not required for any cause, it shall be returned to the Donor if the conditions attach for it so provide, or held in trust, or otherwise dealt with as the Association may decide.

The recipient Club shall be responsible for engraving their details on the trophy before returning same.

The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the trophies and Flag:

"We, A.B. the ofFootball Club, C.D. and E.F members of and representing the said Club, having been declared winners of the [] Trophy and Flag and the same having been delivered to us by the said Competition, do hereby on behalf of the said Club, jointly and severally agree to return the same to the Competition Secretary, on or before 1st February next in good order and condition, suitably inscribed, in accordance with the Rules of the Competition and if the said Trophy or Flag is lost or damaged whilst under our care, we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair."

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Any Club not returning the Competition trophy or Flag by the due date, returning them in poor condition or without being engraved will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

19. ALTERATIONS TO RULES

No alteration to the Rules shall be made until they have been approved by The FA. Alterations to Rules shall be approved at a general meeting of the Company.

Proposals for alterations to Rules, together with the name of their proposers and seconders, shall be received by the League Secretary not later than 31st January prior to the date fixed for the annual general meeting of the Company in each year or not later than eight weeks before the holding of an extraordinary general meeting called for the purpose of amending the Rules.

20. ADMISSION CHARGES

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

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

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

21. LONG SERVICE

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

22. CENTENARY AWARDS

A Club celebrating its centenary whilst in membership of the Competition shall be presented with a commemorative award by the Board

23. PLAYING SURFACES

23.1 The Pitch

With effect from the commencement of Season 2016/17 Competition Matches may be played on:

(a) Grass Pitch; or

(b) Football Turf Pitch in Steps 21 to 6

23.2 Ground Maintenance

The Club is to be responsible for the maintenance of the Pitch and for the general maintenance of the ground. The Club must ensure that adequate arrangements are in place to maintain its Pitch in good order, as required under these Rules.

23.3 Pitch Standards

All Pitches must be flat and free from surface depressions and excessive undulations. The maximum slopes allowable shall not exceed an even gradient of vertical to horizontal 1:41 in any direction.

The Competition may require a Club to take such steps as the Board shall specify if not satisfied that an adequate standard of the Pitch is being maintained, including but not limited to the Board commissioning an independent report (including a Pitch Test) on the state of the Pitch, the cost of such independent report to be borne by the Club concerned.

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23.4 Where a Club proposes to install a Football Turf Pitch (or replace an existing Football Turf Pitch) the following shall apply:

For matches played under the auspices of The National League at Step 1 & 2 of the National League System:

-

(a) the Club shall disclose to the Competition, as soon as reasonably practicable but in any event not later than 7 days following the Club's final match of the Playing Season preceding the scheduled commencement of installation, full details of the proposed contractor installing the Football Turf Pitch and the timescales for installation. The proposed Football Turf Pitch must have a design and specification that is capable of attaining the FIFA Recommended One / IATS or Two Star Certificate following installation;

(b) no installation works shall commence until such time as the Competition has approved the proposed installation and the timetable thereof. Installation may only take place outside the Playing Season;

(c) installation must be scheduled to be completed in sufficient time to enable the completion of a Pitch Test and for confirmation of the results thereof to be supplied to the Competition no later than 14 days prior to the commencement of the following Playing Season;

(d) the Club shall procure that:

(i) a Pitch Test is carried out on the newly installed Football Turf Pitch; and

(ii) the FIFA accredited field test institute provides the Competition with a copy of their official reports to FIFA immediately following completion of the Pitch Test; and

(e) the Club shall provide a copy of the FIFA Recommended Two Star Certificate within 7 days of receipt to the Competition.

For matches played at Step 3 and below of the National League System: -

(f) the Club shall disclose to the Competition, as soon as reasonably practicable full details of the proposed contractor installing the Football Turf Pitch and the timescales for installation. The proposed Football Turf Pitch must have a design and specification that is capable of attaining the FIFA Recommended One Star Certificate / IATS (International Artificial Turf Standard) or Two Star Certificate following installation;

(g) no installation works shall commence until such time as the Competition has approved the proposed installation and the timetable thereof;

(h) the Club shall procure that:

(i) a Pitch Test is carried out on the newly installed Football Turf Pitch; and

(ii) the FIFA accredited field test institute provides the Competition with a copy of their official reports to FIFA immediately following completion of the Pitch Test; and

(i) the Club shall provide a copy of the FIFA Recommended One Star / IATS or Two Star Certificate within 7 days of receipt to the Competition in which it is in membership.

23.5 Only Clubs with FIFA Recommended Two Star certified Football Turf Pitches will be eligible to take part in matches under the auspices of the National League at Step 1 & 2 of the National League System SAVE THAT a Club which has a ground with the recommended FIFA One Star / IATS Certificate installed by 31 July 2016 can be promoted to Step Two of the National league System providing that it undertakes that upon renewal

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of the Pitch the Club will install a Pitch with a FIFA Recommended Two Star Certificate or be relegated to the appropriate Step.

23.6 Without prejudice to the obligations set out in Paragraph 23.3 above, Clubs that have a Football Turf Pitch shall: -

(a) take such steps and/or refrain from such actions as are necessary to ensure that the Football Turf Pitch continues to meet the requirements for a FIFA Recommended One / IATS or Two Star Certificate at all times during each Playing Season including, without limitation, complying with all requirements of the FIFA Quality Standard;

(b) where required to undertake Pitch Tests:

(i) procure that the FIFA accredited field test institute undertaking any Pitch Test provides to The Competition a copy of their official reports to FIFA immediately following completion of the Pitch Test;

(ii) provide a copy of the FIFA Recommended One / IATS or Two Star Certificate by 31st May prior to the commencement of each Playing Season; and

(c) co-operate with all reasonable requests made by the Competition, the Association or FIFA for the performance of the Football Turf Pitch to be measured.

23.7 Where the Board is aware, by whatever reason, a Football Turf Pitch fails to meet the requirements of the FIFA Recommended One / IATS or Two Star Certificate, including following any Pitch Test, the Club shall forthwith, at its cost, take such steps as the Board shall specify to ensure the Football Turf Pitch is restored to the requirements of the FIFA Recommended One / IATS or Two Star Certificate.

23.8 The Competition shall have the right to order the postponement of a match where the Football Turf Pitch fails to meet the requirements of the FIFA Recommended One / IATS or Two Star Certificate.

23.9 Where a Club has a Football Turf Pitch, any visiting Club is allowed to train, at no cost to that Club, on the Football Turf Pitch on the day before the relevant match or at a mutually agreed time. The length of this training session may not exceed one hour, unless agreed otherwise with the home Club. The visiting Club must notify the home Club of its intention to exercise this right no later than 2 weeks prior to the scheduled match (or within 48 hours of the arrangement of the fixture, if later).

23.10 A breach of any of the requirements of Rule 23 which results in the postponement or abandonment of a match shall be dealt with in accordance with Rule 8.37.

23.11 Pitch Protection

In order to protect any Pitch, unless otherwise mutually agreed between both participating Clubs, the following procedures shall be adopted by Players and Officials in the periods immediately before and after a Match and at half time:

(a) the Pitch shall only be used for warming up or warming down by Players named on the Team Sheet;

(b) pre-match warming up by either team shall not commence until 45 minutes before the kick-off time at the earliest, shall not last for more than 30 minutes, and shall end no later than 10 minutes before the kick-off time;

(c) if portable goals are provided they shall be used for all goalkeeping drills other than crossing practice;

(d) the goalmouth area shall be used by goalkeepers only if portable goals are not provided or for crossing practice and then only for not more than 20 minutes;

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(e) for the purposes of warming up and warming down each team shall use only part of the Pitch between the edge of a penalty area and the half way line or as otherwise directed by the groundsman;

(f) all speed and stamina work shall be undertaken off the Pitch parallel to the touchline opposite the side to be patrolled by the assistant referee or, in the absence of sufficient space, in that part of the Pitch described in paragraph (e) above or as otherwise directed by the groundsman;

(g) Players using the Pitch at half time as aforesaid shall give due consideration to any other activity or entertainment taking place on the Pitch at the same time;

(h) the Home Club may water the Pitch at half time provided it gives reasonable notice to the referee and the other Club that it intends to do so and that any such watering is carried out evenly over the entire length and width of the Pitch; and

(i) any warming down after the conclusion of the Match shall last for no longer than 15 minutes and for that purpose neither penalty area shall be used].

23.12 Promotion and Relegation to and from The National League

As a pre-condition of entry into The National League (Step 1) any Club proposing to enter with a Football Turf Pitch must by no later than 31st May in its proposed year of entry provide the Competition with an irrevocable undertaking that in the event of it gaining promotion to The Football League at any time that it will comply in full with the applicable criteria, policies and regulations of The Football League in relation to the playing surface and together with such undertaking will provide credible and acceptable evidence as to how it would do so. In the event of the undertaking being breached at the relevant time and as a result the Club not being eligible to be admitted as a member of The Football League then the Club shall not retain its place in The National League and instead shall automatically be relegated to National League North or South and may have levied upon it a fine as determined by the Board in its sole discretion. Such Club shall not be accepted into membership of The National League (Step 1) until such time as it installs a Grass Pitch so that it complies in full with the playing surface regulation of The Football League. This provision shall cease to apply in the event of The Football League accepting clubs with a Football Turf Pitch.

24. INSURANCE

24.1 PLAYERS

All Clubs shall be members of a player's personal accident insurance scheme. The policy cover shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time to time by The Football Association.

Each Club shall submit to the board a copy of the insurance policy document together with the last premium payment receipt 14 (fourteen) days prior to the start of the Playing Season.

PUBLIC LIABILITY

All Clubs must have Public Liability cover of at least ten million pounds (£10,000,000)

Each Club shall submit to the Board a copy of the insurance policy document together with the last premium payment receipt fourteen days prior to the start of the Playing Season.

25. MEDICAL PERSONNEL

A Club MUST comply with the "Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds" document, which requires a Club to have a minimum of two suitably qualified people in attendance on match days, or to make other appropriate provision.

RULES continued

Clubs shall ensure their medical practitioner or physiotherapist or equivalent keeps detailed up-to-date medical records for all Contract Players in the form and in accordance with the requirements and guidelines published by the Football Association from time to time.

When a Player's registration is about to be transferred the Transferor Club must make such records available to the medical practitioner or physiotherapist of the Transferee Club. This procedure shall also apply to all Players whose registrations are temporarily transferred under the provisions for Long, Short, Emergency and Youth Loans.

- a) Each Club must have a suitably qualified person (Minimum FA Emergency Aid Certificate ideally FA Basic First Aid for Sport) in attendance for every match day, failure to observe this Rule will be fined in accordance with the Fees Tariff
- b) Clubs must have a Medical Emergency Action Plan in place and be reviewed by the Club to ensure it's current.

Medical Emergency Action Plans - Assessment of Your Environment

Questions/Responses (Please tick box)	Yes	No	Don't Know	Sometimes
Is there a Medical Emergency Action Plan in place at your training and match grounds?				
Is there an MEAP when you are at unfamiliar venues - away grounds / sports/community centres etc?				
Do you always know the address of the venue you are at?				
Is a phone always immediately available for contacting the Emergency Medical Services?				
Is there an appropriately trained/competent first-aider at the pitchside whenever activity is taking place?				
Is there anyone to help the first-aider?				
Is an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) immediately accessible?				
Is there an appropriately stocked first aid kit which is accessible at all times?				
Do any of your players have a pre-existing medical condition?				
Do your players complete a Medical Declaration Form?				
Have the players always got immediate access to their medication?				
Do you know where the nearest hospital is with an Emergency Department /Neurology/Chest Unit?				
Is there vehicle access to your playing areas?				
Is there a list of contact details for the players' parents/guardians/NOK?				
Do your players complete a Medical Consent Form?				

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RULES continued

FA Medical Emergency Action Plan Form

Club name:
Club address:
Name(s) and telephone numbers of First Aider(s): 1. 2. 3
Names and telephone numbers of Facility Manager / Safety Officer:
Location of Club first aid room:
Location of defibrillator:
Location of first aid kit:
Location of stretcher:
Access routes: For ambulance into Club: From pitch to ambulance: From Club's first aid room to ambulance:
Nearest Hospital Emergency Department: Directions: Distance / Journey time:
Nearest Hospital Neurological Unit (for head Injuries): Directions: Distance / Journey time:
Nearest Minor Injuries Unit / Walk In Centre: Directions:
Distance / Journey time:

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* A map of the site identifying location of medical facilities and ambulance route attached.

26. PLAYER TRANSFERS BETWEEN CLUBS - PAYMENT SCHEDULES

When Players are transferred (Contract, Non-Contract, Scholars or loan on temporary transfer) between member Clubs (or between member Clubs and clubs) it is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that the Competition receives copies of all relevant documents pertaining to the transfer including full details of any payment schedules agreed in writing or otherwise between the two Clubs. Should a Club fail to meet the payment schedules lodged with the Competition on receipt of notification an embargo on further Players registrations will be placed upon the defaulting Club together with a 1% levy per day on the outstanding payments.

27. PROVISION FOR MEMBERSHIP FORM TO BE SIGNED BY EACH CLUB EACH PLAYING SEASON

This rule is not applicable in this Competition

28. PROVISION FOR FULL & ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

The 50 Clubs permitted under Rule 2.8 shall comprise not more than 44 Clubs who shall be Full Member Clubs and not more than 6 Clubs who shall be Associate Member Clubs.

RULE Continued

29. PROMOTION AGREEMENTS

This rule is not applicable in this Competition

30. GENERAL MEETINGS

The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 30 June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted:

- The minutes of the proceeding Annual General Meeting confirmed, and business arising therefrom dealt with
- Adoption of Standing Orders
- Presentation and adoption of the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts
- Election of Directors, Board vacancies and Auditors
- Alterations of Rules, if any (of which notice has been given)
- Confirm the dates for commencement and conclusion of the playing season
- Other business of which due notice has been given

A copy of the duly verified Balance sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 14 days prior to the meeting

A signed copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Football Association within 7 days of its adoption at the Annual General Meeting

Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send delegates to all General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to One vote only.

Associate Member Clubs shall be represented at all General Meetings in the proportion of one representative for the six associate Member Clubs and such representatives shall exercise the powers and rights of full members at such meetings.

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.

All voting shall be conducted by a show of hands unless a ballot be demanded by at least one third of the delegates present or the Chairman so decides.

Directors and Board members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all General Meetings.

Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the Clubs, the Competition Secretary shall call a General Meeting. The Board may call a General Meeting at any time it considers necessary. At least 7 days' notice shall be given of all meetings under this rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meetings.

31. BOARD

The Competition shall be governed in accordance with the Rules, Regulations, Bye-Laws and Practices of

RULES Continued

the Football Association by a Board comprising the Directors (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Company Secretary/Finance Director, Commercial Director, Fixtures Director, Development Director and Disciplinary Director) and 9 members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting on a 2-year cycle. Year one cycle will comprise of Chairman, Commercial Director, Disciplinary Director and Development Director plus those Board members due for re-election. Year 2 cycle will contain Vice Chairman, Secretary and Fixture Director plus those Board members due for re-election. Any member of the Board who does not attend three consecutive Board meetings shall be removed from office unless good reasons are provided to, and accepted by, the remainder of the Board.

Members of the Board shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting to serve for two years, on a two-year cycle and shall be eligible for re-election without previous nomination. New members shall be elected for one year and be eligible for re-election for two years. In the first year, this new term of office operates, the Board members to be up for re-election will be those newly elected in the previous year, and those who have served at least 2 years of their previous three-year cycle.

Casual vacancies may be filled by the Board for the remainder of the season, each member to be nominated for re-election at the Annual General Meeting for one year.

With the exception of retiring members, nominations for the Board must be made by Clubs in membership of the League on or before 1 May. All nominations should be made in writing to the Competition Secretary, be signed by the Club Chairman and Secretary and state the full name and address of the Candidate. No Club may have more than one representative on the Board at the same time.

A list of persons duly nominated for election to the Board shall be sent to the Clubs at least 14 days previous to the Annual General Meeting. Election shall be by postal ballot.

Each Member of the Board shall attend all Board Meetings and have one vote thereat, but no member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to himself, or any Club he is connected with. This principle shall apply to the procedure of any Committee. In the event of the voting being equal in any matter, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

The Board may appoint an Emergency Committee and/or such other sub-committees as they may consider necessary and may delegate all or any of their powers to such committees. The decisions of all such committees shall be reported to the Board.

Five members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and three members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by any sub-committee of the League.

A Member appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or match may have his expenses refunded by the Competition. Approved travelling expenses for members of the Board undertaking official League business will be paid in accordance with the rate in the Fees Tariff paid to match officials

32. COMPETITION OFFICERS

The Directors of the Competition shall be the Patron, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Company Secretary/

RULES Continued

Finance Director, Commercial Director, Fixture Director, Disciplinary Director and Development Director, all to be elected on a 2-year cycle at the Annual General Meeting.

Nominations for all the above posts must be received before 31 March. Nominations may be by

- a) Board minute
- b) A Club in membership duly signed by the Club Chairman and Secretary stating the full name and address of the candidate.

COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS

33 Each Club shall at all times comply with all reasonable requests by the Competition to ensure due compliance by the Competition with its commercial agreements and shall not enter into any new agreements with any direct competitor to the Competition's title sponsor or any third party with whom the Competition has entered into a commercial agreement.

34 This rule does not apply in this competition

35 This rule does not apply in this competition

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

37 CLUB FINANCE RECORDS

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

38 CENTRAL FUNDING

This rule does not apply in this competition

39 FINANCIAL REPORTING INITIATIVE

This rule does not apply in this competition

40 REFRESHMENTS FOR MATCH OFFICIALS / PLAYERS / VISITING OFFICIALS

All Clubs must provide liquid refreshments at half time and full time for players. Such refreshments should also be made available prior to the match on request. In addition sandwiches and tea/coffee, or other similar light refreshments, must be provided for players at the end of all matches involving Premier Division and Division One teams. Post-match hospitality for players and match officials must be provided within the immediate area of the clubhouse and NOT at a separate location.

In matches involving Premier Division/Division One teams, Clubs must provide sandwiches and tea/coffee, or other similar light refreshments, at half time for Club Officials. All Clubs must provide liquid refresh-

RULES Continued

ments for match officials at half time and full time, and prior to the match on request. In addition sandwiches and tea/coffee, or other similar light refreshments, must be provided at the end of all matches.

APPENDIX A

Regulations for Football Association Appeals

Commencement of Appeal

- 1.1 An appeal shall be commenced by lodging a notice of appeal (“the Notice of Appeal”) with The Association.
- 1.2 The Notice of Appeal shall be lodged within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision appealed against. In the case of an appeal from a decision of a Disciplinary Commission, the date of notification of the decision shall be the date of the written decision, or, if applicable, the date of the written reasons for the decision. In relation to any other decision, the relevant date shall be the date on which it was first announced.
- 1.3 The Notice of Appeal must:
 - (1) identify the specific decision(s) being appealed;
 - (2) set out the ground(s) of the appeal and the reasons why it would be substantially unfair not to alter the original decision;
 - (3) set out a statement of the facts upon which the appeal is based;
 - (4) be accompanied by any deposit prescribed by the relevant Rules or Regulations. Where an appeal is lodged by fax, the deposit must be received not later than the third day following the day of despatch of the fax (including both the day of despatch and receipt). A deposit of £75 is required for appeals against decisions of F.A. Disciplinary Commissions and £35 for appeals against decisions of Commissions of Affiliated Associations;
 - (5) where appropriate, apply for leave to present new evidence under 2.6 below.
- 1.4 The grounds of appeal shall be that the body whose decision is appealed against:
 - (1) misinterpreted or failed to comply with the rules or regulations relevant to its decision; and/or
 - (2) came to a decision to which no reasonable such body could have come; and/or
 - (3) imposed a penalty, award, order or sanction which is excessive
- 1.5
 - (1) Only where a decision made by a league is being appealed, within 7 days of the lodging of the Notice of Appeal, the league (the Respondent) may submit in writing an application for the Appeal Board to require a bond to be lodged by the Appellant before the appeal may progress.
 - (2) Whilst such a bond application is being processed in accordance with this regulation, no Response to the Notice of Appeal will be due from the Respondent in accordance with regulation 2.4.
 - (3) Any bond application must be copied to the Appellant, and –

RULES Continued

- i) State the grounds for the application; and
- ii) State the amount applied for.

(4) The Appellant may provide a response to the bond application within 7 days of its submission.

(5) Whether or not the Appellant has provided any response to it, the Appeal Board shall consider the bond application as soon as practicable after the seventh day following its submission. The Appeal Board may, in its discretion, consider the bond application on papers alone, or require the parties to attend a personal hearing. Any such personal hearing shall be conducted according to such timings and procedure as the Appeal Board may determine at its discretion.

(6) Notwithstanding the terms of 3.5 below, only following a bond application by the Respondent submitted pursuant to this regulation, the Appeal Board may order the Appellant to lodge a bond with The Association on such date and in such amount as it considers appropriate, where it is satisfied that –

The Respondent will incur legal costs [in excess of XX] in responding to the Notice of Appeal; and

There is a real risk that the Appellant will not pursue the Appeal to a final determination by the Appeal Board.

The Appeal Board's decision in this respect shall be final and binding with no further right of appeal.

(7) Where an Appeal Board orders a bond to be lodged with The Association, the Appeal may not proceed until the bond is duly lodged. In any such appeal, notwithstanding the terms of 2.4 below, the Respondent shall serve its response to the Notice of Appeal within 14 days from the date that the bond is lodged with The Association.

(8) Where an Appeal Board decides not to order a bond to be lodged with The Association, notwithstanding the terms of 2.4 below, the Respondent shall serve its response to the Notice of Appeal within 14 days from the date of the Appeal Board's decision.

(9) Any bond lodged with The Association pursuant to (6) above will be held by The Association until the final determination of the appeal by an Appeal Board. Following such final determination, the bond shall in all cases be returned to the Appellant in full.

(10) Notwithstanding the terms of 3.5 below, in any case where a bond has been lodged with The Association, and the appeal is not pursued by the Appellant to a final determination by the Appeal Board, the Appeal Board shall have a discretion to order the forfeiture of any part or all of the bond, such amount to be paid in full to the Respondent to cover any costs it has so far incurred in responding to the appeal.

- 1.6 Once an appeal has been commenced, it shall not be withdrawn except by leave of the Appeal Board, with such order for costs, or such order in respect of any bond lodged pursuant to 1.6 above, as the Appeal Board may consider appropriate."

Appeal Proceedings

2.1 An Appeal Board shall proceed as set out below.

2.2 Reference to a party or parties means:

RULES Continued

- (1) the appellant (the “Appellant”); and
 - (2) The Association in the case of an appeal against a decision of the Disciplinary Commission, or the Affiliated Association or Competition whose decision is appealed against (the “Respondent”).
- 2.3 The Respondent shall nominate an individual or individuals to represent it before the Appeal Board.
- 2.4 The Respondent shall serve a written reply to the Notice of Appeal (the “Reply”) on an Appellant and the Appeal Board within 21 days of the lodging of the Notice of Appeal. Where appropriate, the Reply must include any application for leave to present new evidence under 2.6 below.
- 2.5 The parties shall be entitled to make oral submissions to the Appeal Board but an appeal shall be by way of a review on documents only, without oral evidence, except where the Appeal Board gives leave to present new evidence under 2.6 below.
- 2.6 The Appeal Board shall hear new evidence only where it has given leave that it may be presented. An application for leave to present new evidence must be made in the Notice of Appeal or the Reply, setting out the nature and the relevance of the new evidence, and why it was not presented at the original hearing. Save in exceptional circumstances, the Appeal Board shall not grant leave to present new evidence unless satisfied with the reason given as to why it was not, or could not have been presented at the original hearing and that such evidence is relevant. The Appeal Board’s decision shall be final.
- 2.7 The Chairman of an Appeal Board may upon the application of a party or otherwise, give any instructions considered necessary for the proper conduct of the proceedings, including but not limited to:
- (1) extending or abridging any time limit;
 - (2) amending or dispensing with any procedural steps set out in these Regulations;
 - (3) instructing that a transcript be made of the proceedings;
 - (4) ordering parties to attend a preliminary hearing;
 - (5) ordering a party to provide written submissions.

The decision of the Chairman of the Appeal Board shall be final.

- 2.8 The Appeal Board may adjourn a hearing for such period and upon such terms (including an order which shall be provided to the Appeal Board and Respondent at least seven days before the hearing and which shall comprise the following (or their equivalent):
- (1) the Charge;
 - (2) the Answer;

RULES Continued

- (3) any documents or other evidence referred to at the original hearing relevant to the appeal;
- (4) any transcript of the original hearing;
- (5) the notification of decision appealed against and where they have been given the reasons for the decision;
- (6) any new evidence;
- (7) The Notice of Appeal;
- (8) The Reply.

2.9 Where the Disciplinary Commission or other body appealed against has not stated the reasons for its decision, either:

- (i) the Appellant shall request written reasons from that body which shall be provided to the Appeal Board, or
- (ii) the Appeal Board shall require that a member of the body that made the decision shall attend (in which case, questions may be put by the Appeal Board at a hearing to satisfy itself as to the reasons for the decision. Cross-examination by the Appellant or Respondent shall not be permitted. Representations may be made by the parties to the Appeal Board who may then put questions to the member of the body that made the decision).

2.10 Appeal hearings shall be conducted how, when and where the Appeal Board considers appropriate. Reasonable notice shall be given by the Appeal Board of the date, time and venue of the appeal. Where an application to present new evidence has been made, the party making the application shall address the Appeal Board in support of the application and the other party may respond; the Appeal Board shall then determine whether or not it will receive the new evidence. The following procedures shall be followed at an appeal hearing unless the Appeal Board thinks it appropriate to amend them:

- (1) The Appellant to address the Appeal Board, summarising its case;
- (2) Any new evidence to be presented by the Appellant;
- (3) The Respondent to address the Appeal Board, summarising its case;
- (4) Any new evidence to be presented by the Respondent;
- (5) Each party to be able to put questions to any witness giving new evidence;
- (6) The Appeal Board may put questions to the parties and any witness giving new evidence at any stage;
- (7) The Respondent to make closing submissions;
- (8) The Appellant to make closing submissions.

2.11 The Appeal Board shall proceed in the absence of any party, unless it is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for the failure of the party to attend, and shall do so in such manner as it considers appropriate.

RULES Continued

2.12 The Appeal Board may, in the event of a party failing to comply with an order, requirement or instruction of the Appeal Board, take any action it considers appropriate, including an award of costs against the offending party.

Appeal Board Decisions

3.1 A decision, order, requirement or instruction of the Appeal Board shall (save where to be made under the Rules by the Chairman of the Appeal Board alone) be determined by a majority. Each member of the Appeal Board shall have one vote, save that the Chairman shall have a second and casting vote in the event of a deadlock.

3.2 A decision of the Appeal Board shall be final and binding and there shall be no right of further challenge.

3.3 The Appeal Board shall have the power to:

- (1) allow or dismiss the appeal;
- (2) exercise any power which the body against whose decision the appeal was made could have exercised, whether the effect is to increase or decrease any penalty award, order or sanction originally imposed;
- (3) remit the matter for re-hearing;
- (4) order that any deposit be forfeited or returned as it considers appropriate;
- (5) make such further or other order as it considers appropriate, generally or for the purpose of giving effect to its decision.

Costs

3.4 Any costs incurred in bringing, or responding to, an appeal shall be borne by the party incurring the costs. Any costs incurred in relation to the Appeal Board, including travel, accommodation and room hire, may be ordered by the Appeal Board to be paid by either party.

Announcement of Decision

3.5 The Appeal Board shall announce its decision to the parties as soon as practicable in such a manner as it considers appropriate; and unless it directs otherwise, its decision shall come into effect immediately.

Written Decision

3.6 As soon as practicable after the hearing, the Appeal Board shall publish a written statement of its decision, which shall state:

- (1) the names of the parties, the decision(s) appealed against and the grounds of the appeal;
- (2) whether or not the appeal is allowed; and
- (3) the order(s) of the Appeal Board.

RULES Continued

The written statement shall be signed and dated by the Chairman of the Appeal Board and be the conclusive record of the decision.

- 3.7 The Appeal Board shall, upon the request of the Appellant (such request to be received at The Association within 5 days of the date of the announcement of the decision), give written reasons for the decision.

APPENDIX B

Additional Leagues sanctioned by the FA to operate the short term and long term loan transfer system

see Rule 6.6.1, 6.6.2 and 6.6.3.

Eastern Counties Football League

Essex Senior League

Hellenic Football League

Kent League

Midland Football Alliance

Northern League

Sussex County League

United Counties Football League

Western League

KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION RULES

1 Title of Competitions

The Competitions shall be called the United Counties Football League Cup Competitions. The League KO Cup will be competed for by all first teams

2 Management of the Competition

The entire management and control of the Competitions shall be vested in the Board, who shall have the power to deal with any matter for which no specific provision is made.

Any other matter not provided for in these Rules shall be determined by the Board.

The Board may divide the competing Clubs into convenient geographical divisions up to the Final.

The matches shall be arranged by the Fixture Director.

Clubs shall be drawn in couples, first Club drawn to have choice of ground, with byes where necessary. The first team to receive a bye will be the winners of the competition from the previous season, the second team to receive a bye will be the runners-up of the competition from the previous season. Final Ties will be played on a neutral venue to be determined by the Board

All arrangements for the Final Ties shall be made by the Board.

The Competitions shall observe the Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the Football Association, and all matches shall be played according to the Laws of the Game, as settled by the international Football Association Board.

Where the Competition is arranged in to geographical divisions the Board will determine which Clubs shall progress to the knock out stage of the competition, and Clubs will be informed of the rules that will operate prior to the start of the Competition.

3 Requirements on Winning Clubs

The winning Clubs shall comply with League Rule 18.

4 Gate Receipts/Proceeds of Matches

A gate MUST be taken at all KO Cup matches

The proceeds of all matches (except replayed matches in consequences of a breach of Rule, matches played during the geographical division's stage of the competition and Final Ties) shall be equally divided between the competing Clubs after the expenses have been deducted.

The only charge to be allowed on the gate shall be Match Officials Fees and Expenses and, if applicable, floodlighting to a maximum cost of up to £40. In exceptional circumstances where the cost of stewarding/policing is expected to be excessive, application may be made to the League in advance of the match for the amount to be charged against the gate to be increased. Should the request be agreed, both Clubs will be notified in advance of the match the additional amount that has been agreed. Should the receipts not be sufficient to cover the expenses then the Home Club will be responsible for meeting these expenses.

All cash must be paid within 14 days of the match and a copy of the statement forwarded to the Competition Secretary and the visiting Club. Failure to do so will result in an automatic fine in accordance with the Fine Tariff.

There is no requirement to send financial statements to the Competition Secretary or the visiting Club for matches played during the geographical division's stage of the competition.

The League shall take the proceeds of the Final Ties and shall be responsible for meeting the expenses of the ties.

5 Player Eligibility

All players must be registered with the Registration Secretary as per Section 6 of the League rules.

KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION RULES CONTINUED

If the Competition(s) are arranged on a knock out basis then no player shall play for more than one Club in the same KO Competition during the same season. No player who has played two or more rounds in the League KO Cup will be eligible to play in either of the Reserve Sections Competition thereafter in the season. This includes playing as substitute.

If the Competition is initially arranged in geographical divisions then a player may play for more than one Club in the group stages of the Competition, providing he is transferred in accordance with League Rule 6.4. Once the Competition has advanced to the knock out stages then no player shall play for a Club unless he has already played in the group stages for that Club, or unless he has not previously played at any stage of the Competition for any Club in that season. No player who has played two or more rounds in the League KO Cup will be eligible to play in either of the Reserve Sections Competitions thereafter in the season. This includes playing as substitute.

Substitutes may be used, as provided for in League Rule 6.7

6 Ineligible Players

Any Club playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff and at the discretion of the Board may also be removed from the Competition.

In addition, for matches played during the geographical divisions stage of the Competition, the Board may deduct any points gained by the Club playing the ineligible player and/or order the match in which an ineligible player competes to be replayed on such terms as the Board decide

7 Kick Off Times

Unless special arrangement is made with the Competition Secretary, kick off time for all Saturday matches shall be 3.00 p.m.

Kick off time for midweek matches under floodlight will be 7.45 p.m. unless mutually agreed by the two Clubs and notified to the Fixture Director 14 days in advance of the match.

If a Club does not have a valid floodlight grid they will be required to find an alternate ground or play on their opponents ground so that the competition is not delayed

8 Duration of Matches/Extra time and Penalties

If the Competition is arranged in to geographical divisions as allowed for under Rule 2 then all group matches will be played over 90 minutes. No extra time will be played in group matches and penalty kicks will not be taken to determine the winners of a drawn match. In matches played after the group stage has concluded the duration of matches will be the same as shown below for the Knock Out Competition

If the Competition is arranged on a Knock Out basis then in all matches played, including the final tie, extra time shall be played where a draw results after 90 minutes play. If scores are still level after extra time then penalty kicks will be taken to determine the winners.

9 Result of Matches

League Rules 8.20 and 12 apply.

10 Abandonment's/Broken Fixtures

If a game is abandoned due to the misconduct of either or both teams and/or their Club members and/or their supporters the Board shall be empowered to "take such action as they consider appropriate".

Any Club breaking a Knock-Out Cup Competition fixture will be dealt with under League Rule 8.6 and at the discretion of the Board may also be removed from the Competition.

11 Match Fees and Expenses

Fees and expenses will be paid in accordance with the Fees Tariff.

KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION RULES CONTINUED

12 Appointment of Assistant Referees

Assistant Referees shall be appointed to League Cup games, when deemed necessary by the Board.

13 Mementoes

The Board will provide a suitable memento for up to 16 players from each side that competes in the final of the Competitions and for the Match Officials.

14 Protests and Appeals

Protests and Appeals shall be lodged as provided by League Rule 17.

Any Appeals Committee will be as appointed by the Football Association.

Fees Tariff

Rule	Subject Matter	Amount (£)
2.5 & 3.1	Grading	£100.00
2.5 & 3.1	Application for Membership	£100.00
3.2	Membership	N/A
3.2	Annual Subscription	
	➤ Premier Division/Division 1	£290.00
	➤ Non-Charter Standard Club will be charged an additional fee per Team.	£100.00
6.1.1	Registration Forms	£4.00 per form
6.1.1	Additional forms	£4.00 per form
6.5	Transfer Fee	£15.00
8.34	Travel Reimbursement	£1.75 per mile
8.18	Team Sheet or Referee Misconduct Pads	£7.00 plus postage
12.5	Re-election Fee	£30.00
13.A.7	Sporting sanctions appeal	£50.00
14.7 & KOC 11	Match Officials Fees and Expenses	See below
15	Re-admission Fee	£50.00
16.1	Appeal to Board	£50.00
16.6	Appeal by player	£50.00
16.4	Appeal to The FA	£50.00
16.5	Appeal by Club	£50.00
16.10	Arbitration	£50.00
KOC 4	Charge for Floodlights	up to £40.00

Match Officials Fees and Expenses

Competition	Referee Fee	Assistant Referee Fee	Travel Per Mile
Premier Division	£30	£25	35p
Division One	£27	£25	35p
League Cup	£30	£25	35p

FINES TARIFF

Fines Tariff

Rule	Offence	Maximum Fine (£)
2.2	Failure to complete Form D	£40.00
2.2	Failure to provide affiliation number	£25.00
2.2	Failure to return Form D questionnaire	£40.00
2.8	Failure to notify change in Memorandum and Articles within 14 days	£50.00
2.14	Failure to notify occurrence of an Insolvency Event	£200.00
2.2	Failing to attend any General Meeting	£75.00
3.2	Failure to pay Annual Subscription by 1 August	£75.00
4.5	Failure to pay amount due within 28 days	£50
4.8	Failure to attend satisfactorily to the business and/or correspondence of League	£50.00
6.4.2	Failure to register 11 players fourteen days prior to start of season	£100.00
6.8	Failure to use substitute boards	£50.00
6.9 & KOC 6	Playing ineligible player	£125.00 each count
	First Team Matches	
7.1	Failure to have numbers on striped etc shirts on contrasting patch	£25.00
7.1	Failure to number all shirts	£25.00
7.1	Failure to provide details of colours by due date	£25.00
7.1	Failure to wear registered colours at home without permission	£25.00
7.2	Failure to change relevant item in event of clash	£25.00
7.2	Goalkeeper not wearing kit different to all other players	£25.00
7.4	Failure of player to wear number in accordance with team sheet	£25.00
7.5	Captain not wearing armband	£25.00
8.6	Failure to play County Cup match midweek	£25.00
8.9	Failure to notify postponement/ result of match in an outside competition	£25.00
8.9	Playing in competition without permission	£25.00
8.11	Failure to have an approved floodlight grid within previous two calendar years (Premier Division & Division One Clubs (except newly promoted Step 7 Clubs with an agreed FA extension to 30 th September))	£100.00 and then £25.00 per week until rectified
8.12	Failure to have mobile phone or email operational at all times	£25.00
8.13	Failure / Lateness notifying details of match to Match Officials	£25.00
8.13	Failure / Lateness notifying details of match to visiting Club	£25.00
8.13	Visiting Club Failing to acknowledge details of match	£25.00
8.14	Failure to provide acceptable match programme	£25.00
8.14	Failure to provide programme information to hosts when playing away	£25.00
8.14	Failure to send programme to League Secretary	N/A
8.15	Failure to notify postponement or abandonment	£50.00
	First Team Matches	
8.16	Failure to notify cancellation or rearrangement to Match Officials	£25.00
8.18	Failure of home Club to provide misconduct form to Match Official	£10.00
8.18	Incomplete team sheet	£25.00

FINES TARIFF CONTINUED

8.18	Late / no team sheet		£25.00
8.19	Altering team sheet after exchange (except for player injured in warm up)		£25.00
8.21	Failure to play full strength team		£50.00
8.21	Failure to start with Eleven players		£50.00
8.21	Late kick off		£25.00
8.22 - 8.26	Benches		£50.00
8.29	Failure to send result form within 3 days		£25.00
8.32/33	Causing Abandonment of fixture		£200.00
8.34	Failure to agree new date of postponed match in time set		N/A
8.34	Failure to fulfil fixture	First Team Matches	£500.00
8.35	Failure to provide details of match immediately following end of match		£25.00
8.36	Failure to carry out inspection procedure in accordance with 15.2		£25.00
10.7	Failure to submit accounts within nine months of accounting reference date		£25.00
14.1	Failure to provide a Club Assistant Referee		£30.00
14.7	Failure to pay Match Officials on day of match in dressing room		£25.00
14.8	Failure to provide flags		£25.00
14.9	Failure to play with Match balls required by The Competition		£25.00
15	Leaving during a Playing Season or giving notice of resignation after AGM to leave before start of season		£750.00
	Failure to give notice of resignation by 31 March to leave at end of current Playing Season		£350.00
18	Failure to return trophy by due date		£50.00
18	Failure to return trophy engraved		£50.00
18	Failure to return trophy in good condition		£50.00
24.1	Failure to insure players		£50.00
24.2	Failure to implement public liability insurance to required level		£50.00
25	Failure to have medical personnel as stated		£25.00
40	Failure to Provide Adequate Refreshments for Match Officials / Club Officers		£25.00
KOC 3	Failure to Engrave Trophy		£25.00
KOC 4	No/Late Financial Statement		£25.00

Reserve Division(s) and Under 21 Division(s) Rules

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 United Counties 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 Board 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 Board for any breach of the Rules.

“Ground” means the ground on which the Club’s team(s) plays its Competition Matches.

“Board” means in the case of a Competition which is an unincorporated association, the Board elected to manage the running of the Competition and where the Competition is incorporated it means the Board of Directors appointed in accordance with the articles of association of that company.

“Match Officials” means the referee, the assistant referees and any fourth official appointed to a Competition Match.

“Non-Contract Player” means any Player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play for a Club but has not entered into a written contract of employment.

“Officer” means an individual who is appointed or elected to a position in a Club or Competition which requires that individual to make day to day decisions.

“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

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

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

“The FA” means The Football Association Limited.

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

Reserve Division(s) and Under 21 Division(s) Rules

from time to time.

“written” or “in writing” means the representation or reproduction of words or symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.

(B) The Rules are taken from the Standard Code of Rules (the “Standard Code”) determined by The FA from time to time. In the event of any omissions from the Standard Code then the requirements of the Standard Code shall be deemed to apply to the Competition.

(C) All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a member of the Competition to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Board in relation thereto, subject to the provisions of Rule 16.

(D) The Competition will be known as “United Counties League” (or such other name as the Competition may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A Club which ceases to 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.

(E) The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Competition acting (save where otherwise specifically mentioned herein) through the Board in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of The FA.

2. NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

(A) This Competition shall consist of not more than 64 Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority

(B) All Clubs must be affiliated to an affiliated County Football Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on the Form “D” to the Football Association and must have a constitution approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Football Association and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions, as the Board deem necessary.

A club making application for its Reserve team to enter the Reserve Divisions shall be a member of the Competition or a

League at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System within the geographical catchment area of the Competition (at the discretion of the Board).

A Club with both its First and Reserve teams in the Competition whose First team is relegated to another competition in

accordance with Rule 13 shall only be allowed to maintain its Reserve team in the Reserve Section for the season following the relegation season. Extension to this one season shall be at the discretion of the Board.

(C) Only one team shall be permitted from any Club to participate in the same division as another team from the same

Reserve Division(s) and Under 21 Division(s) Rules

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 the Competition or the entry of an additional team(s) from the same Club must be made in writing to the Secretary and must be accompanied by the Entry Fee as set out in the Fees Tariff per team which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

At the discretion of a majority of the accredited voting members present applications, of which due notice has been given, may be received at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting. 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 in accordance with the Fees Tariff. Team Sheet and Referee Misconduct Pads charge in accordance with the Fee Tariff.

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

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

Reserve Division(s) and Under 21 Division(s) Rules

(E) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 1st July of its County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming Season, failing which they shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its Headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition.

(F) RESIGNATIONS: - Resignations of existing members of the Reserve and Under 21 Division(s) must be made in writing to the Company Secretary by the 31st March. Any Team resigning after this date shall be liable to a fine of in accordance with Fines Tariff.

4. MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

The Management, Nomination and Election of the Competition shall be determined under Rule 32 of the United Counties League Rules.

5. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

(A) Determined under Rule 32 of the United Counties League Rules.

(B) Determined under Rule 2.18 of the United Counties League Rules.

(C) Determined under Rule 32 of the United Counties League Rules.

(D) The Board shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition. Any action by the Competition must be taken within 28 days of the Competition being notified.

With the exception of Rules 5(I) and 19, for all breaches of Rule a formal written charge must be issued to the Club Concerned. The Club charged shall be given seven days from the date of notification 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 at a personal hearing.

All breaches of the Laws of the Game, Rules and Regulations of The Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance with F.A. 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.

With the exception of Clubs playing at Step 7 of the Football Pyramid and the FA Women's Premier League, the maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Competition 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.

Reserve Division(s) and Under 21 Division(s) Rules

(E) All decisions of the Board shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16. Decisions of the Board must be notified in writing to those concerned within ten days.

Decisions of the Board must be notified in writing to those concerned within 21 days.

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

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

(H) A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Board and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Board.

(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.

(J) A member of the Board appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition in accordance with the Fees Tariff

(K) Determined under Rule 32 of the United Counties League Rules.

(L) The business of the Competition as determined by the Board shall be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Determined under Rule 31 of the United Counties League Rules.

7. AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

Determined under Rule 3.2 of the United Counties League Rules.

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 registered to the Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate, confirmation from The FA to be attached. Clearance is required for any Player aged 10 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

ii) Each Club must have at least 11 players per team registered fourteen (14) days before the start of each Playing Season or be liable to fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(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 who has been registered with the League Office on the FA Full Time system not less than four hours before the scheduled kick-off of the match in which the player is required to play and found to be in order, and so registered.

(ii) The qualification dates for the Under 21 Division(s) shall be that the player must not have reached the age of 21, as at midnight on the 31st August in the playing season but must have achieved the age of 16 (Sixteen).

(iii) Teams in the Under 21 Division(s) may register as many players over the age of 21 as they desire. They can only include a maximum of 3 players in any match day squad.

Reserve Division(s) and Under 21 Division(s) Rules

(iv) registered through WGS.

Any registration form which is sent by either of the means set out at Rules 8(B) (i) or (ii) above that is not fully and correctly completed will be returned to the Club unprocessed. If a Club which to register a player via WGS but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via WGS, the registration will not be processed. For clubs registering players under Rules 8(B) (i) or (ii) registration forms will be provided in a format to be determined by the Competition. For Clubs registering players via WGS (under Rule 8 (B) (iii)) Clubs must access WGS in order to complete the registration process.

(C) This rule is not applicable in this Competition

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

(E) A fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff shall be paid for each player registered. Registration forms shall be obtained from the FA Full Time system.

(F) The Board shall decide all registration disputes.

In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club priority of registration shall decide for which Club the player shall be registered. The Registrations Director 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 United Counties League in the same season without first being transferred.

(ii) Having registered for one Club in the United Counties League, register for another Club in the Competition in that season except for the purpose of a transfer.

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

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

(ii) The Board shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player or may fine any player, at their discretion who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities. (Subject to Rule 16).

(iii) The Board shall have power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 16) subject to the right of appeal to the FA or the relevant County Football Association. Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a participant from being involved in this Competition. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the player is registered or intending to be registered with.

(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

Reserve Division(s) and Under 21 Division(s) Rules

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)

(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 (in a format as determined by the Competition) to the Competition accompanied by a fee as set out in the Fines 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 Board, transfer the Player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date. The approaching Club may not approach another Player at the same Club within 28 days of an earlier notice of approach or acknowledgment.

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

(i) All Transfer forms must be with the Registrations Director, not less than four hours before the scheduled kick-off of the match in which the player is required to play and found to be in order, and so registered on the FA Full Time System.

(ii) Transfer forms can be photocopied, emailed and faxed to the Registrations Director.

(J) A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the United Counties League after 31st March except by special permission of the Board.

(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 Board.

(L) A register containing the names of all players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Registrations Director and shall be open to the inspection of any duly appointed Member Club representative at all Board 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)

(M) This rule is not applicable in this Competition.

(N) This rule is not applicable in this Competition.

(O)(i) 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 Board may also order that such match or matches be replayed on such terms as are decided by the Board which may also levy penalty points against the Club in default. The Board 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 Board 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

(ii) In addition the team may have up to 3 points deducted from its total at the discretion of the Board and may be dealt with in any further manner which is thought to be fit.

(iii) The Board 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.

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

(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. (Sixteen)

(Q) If a Club has three or more regular players selected for a County representative side on a Saturday when they have 2 or more matches scheduled in any Competition then they shall be allowed to request the cancellation of their UCL 21 (or Reserve if they do not have an U21 Team in Membership) fixture providing a minimum of 7 days' notice is given.

9. CLUB COLOURS, CLUB NAME

(A) Determined under Rule 7 of United Counties League Rules.

(B) Any team wishing to change its name must obtain permission from its affiliated County Association and from the Board. Any Club wishing to change its colours during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the Board.

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 in accordance with Football Association Rules.

(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 Board. If through any fault of the home team a match has to be re-played, the Board shall have power to order the venue to be changed.

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

Football Turf pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition providing they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA's Register of Football Turf pitches. For clubs playing at Step 7 and below a pitch must be tested (by a FIFA accredited test institute) every three years and the results passed to the FA. The FA will give a decision on the suitability for use and add the pitch to the Register.

The home Club is also responsible for advising participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements in accordance with Rule 10(D).

Within the National League System ("NLS") all matches shall have a duration of 90 minutes. All matches outside of the NLS shall have a duration 90 minutes unless a shorter time (not less than 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 in the Reserve Division(s) for Saturday fixtures shall be either 2pm or 3pm as determined by the home team 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

Midweek fixtures shall be 7.45pm.

Reserve Division(s) and Under 21 Division(s) Rules

The default times of kick-off in the Under 21 Division(s) for Saturday fixtures shall be either 11 am or 2pm as decided by the home team and indicated on their membership form prior to the commencement of the season. Clubs may mutually agree to change the kick off time providing the League is given at least 5 days' clear notice of this agreement. Kick off times for midweek fixtures, if required, will be determined by the Fixture Director

In a dispute, the Board will determine the kick off time.

Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time shall be fined a sum in accordance with the Fines Tariff or be otherwise dealt with as the Board may determine

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

The home team must provide goal nets and at least three footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable.

(C) Except by permission of the Board all matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The Football Association and parent County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of the (Fixtures) Secretary.

In the case of a revised fixture date, the Clubs must be given by the Competition 5 clear days' notice of the match (unless otherwise mutually agreed).

(D) The home Club shall advise the visiting Club and the Match Officials of the date and time of kick-off of each match, and of directions to the ground, to be received at least five days prior to the match and the visiting Club and the Match Officials must acknowledge receipt to be received at least three days before the match. If not so provided, the away club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the competition.

If a Match Official does not comply, the Referee Appointments Secretary shall have the power to appoint another Official.

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

(E) A minimum of 7 (seven) players will constitute a team for a Competition match. Failure to start with 11 players will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(F) (i) Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Board shall have power to inflict a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff, deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the match in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals. Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Board shall have power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent's ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

(ii) Any club with more than one team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixture, within the competition in the following order of precedence: - Reserve Team, Under 21 Team. Clubs in breach of this requirement shall be fined in accordance with the Fees Tariff or otherwise dealt with by the Board.

(iii) Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a fixture has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the Fixture Director, the Referee Director, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the match officials. Any Club failing to comply shall be dealt with by the Board who may inflict a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(iv) In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Board. Failing such agreement and notification to the (Fixtures) Director within two days the Board shall have power to order the match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competi-

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tion and the Clubs involved agree, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand. Providing gate money is taken and retained, the home Club shall be liable to pay any direct expenses incurred, if any, to the opposing Club. 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 Board 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 Board shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Board 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 and deduct points from the offending side. In cases where a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams or their Club member(s), the Board shall rule all points for the match as void. No fine(s) can be applied by the Board for an abandoned match.

(vi) The Board 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.

(G) (i) Reserve Division Clubs may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use use 5 (Five) substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from 5 (five) players.

(ii) Under 21 Division Clubs 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 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 30 minutes before the start of the match and a Player not so named may not take part in that match.

The referee and opponents must receive Club Misconduct notification forms and team sheets together with the names of the substitutes not later than 30 (thirty) minutes before the start of the match. Failure to comply with this Rule will make the Club liable to a minimum fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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.

(H) The half time interval in all matches shall not exceed fifteen minutes' duration.

(I) The Clubs taking part in fixture Competition Match shall identify a team captain who has a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his/her team mates.

(J) Reserve Division(s) fixtures must be played at a Ground that meets Grade H. Under 21 Division(s) fixtures must be played at a Ground that meets the FA Minimum Ground Grading Requirements.

(K) In all Competition Matches, the number of Clubs players and officials seated on the team benches, in the designated technical area, must not exceed 11 unless the team bench facility provides more than 11 individual seats. The Home Club must ensure that a technical area is marked around each designated seating area.

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

Reserve Division(s) and Under 21 Division(s) Rules

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

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

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

(L) In matches involving Reserve and Under 21 Teams, Clubs must provide tea/coffee at half time for Clubs Officials (there is no requirement to provide sandwiches or other similar light refreshments unless the visitors have informed the Home club at least 5 days before the game of the numbers of officials for whom the home club need to cater)

All Clubs must provide liquid refreshments for match officials at half time and full time, and prior to the match on request. In addition, sandwiches and tea/coffee, or other similar light refreshments, must be provided at the end of all matches. Failure to Provide Adequate Refreshments for Match Officials / Club Officers will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff

(M) There is no requirement to produce a programme or team sheet for Reserve Division or U21's matches.

11. REPORTING RESULTS

(A) The Registration Secretary must receive within 3 days of the date played, the result sheet of each Competition match and any outside competition match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the team players (in block letters) and also the Referee markings required by Rule 13, or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to do so will incur a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff and/or the Club being dealt with as the Board decide.

(B) All Reserve Division(s) and Under 21 Division(s) Clubs playing in League, League KO Cup, FA/County Cup Competitions, and the UCL Club if away to non UCL opposition, must submit match results by SMS text message to the FA Full-Time system, within 30 minutes from the end of the match.

(C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of the Club.

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.

Reserve Division(s) and Under 21 Division(s) Rules

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 Board.

(B) Automatic promotion shall be applied for the first two teams and automatic relegation shall be applied for the last two teams in each Division except as provided for hereunder, subject to the provisions of Rule 1(b).

(i) At the end of each season and depending on the geographical location of Clubs gaining promotion to or being relegated from any division in the Competition, it may be necessary for the Competition either (a) to accept a Club from the Competition, or (b) have a Club transferred to the same Competition.

(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) In the event of a team withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting team shall be expunged from the Competition table. For the purposes of this Rule 12(C) a completed fixture shall include any Competition Match which has been awarded by the Management Committee.

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 Board and by the sanctioning Authority

(B) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed Referee the appointed senior Assistant Referee shall take charge and a substitute Assistant Referee appointed by the competing Teams. In cases where there are no officially appointed Assistant Referees, the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a Referee or Assistant Referee in any open age Competition.

(C) Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee. Failure to do so will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff being imposed on the defaulting Team.

(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.

(E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the sanctioning Association Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff and travel expenses of 35p per mile of travel expenses.

The Home Club shall pay the Officials their fees and/or expenses match in their dressing room, within a reasonable time after the conclusion of the match (including matches abandoned for any reason). Failure to do so will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff

(F) In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to half fee plus expenses. Where a match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Officials, if they attend the ground, their full fee and expenses.

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

(H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The Football Association, award marks out of 100 to the Referee for each match and the name of the Referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed Form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined or dealt with as the Board shall determine.

Reserve Division(s) and Under 21 Division(s) Rules

(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 and County Football Associations.

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

(K) Referees and Assistant Referees shall be able to download, each season, a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.

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

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.

(B) The Board 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 Board 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 Board.

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

(B) Except in cases where the Board decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged in duplicate with the Secretary within 14 (fourteen) days (excluding Sundays) of the match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Board. A Member of the Board who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

(C) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Board unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the 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 7 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.

Reserve Division(s) and Under 21 Division(s) Rules

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 Board, or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Board. The Clubs or Players protesting, appealing, claiming or complaining must send a copy of such protest, appeal, claim or complaint and deposit a fee which shall be forfeited in the event of the protest, appeal, claim or complaint not being upheld, and the party not succeeding may, in addition, be ordered to pay the costs at the direction of the Board.

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

(D) Any appeal against a decision of the Board 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 Board 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.

(F) No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

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.

(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 (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

(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 Board may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Clauses (A) and (B) of this Rule.

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

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

"We (A) (name) and (B) (name), the Chairman and Secretary of FC (Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of Cup or Trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the Cup or Trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before 31st January. If the Cup or Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair." Clubs returning trophies after January 31st each year shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fees Tariff.

Reserve Division(s) and Under 21 Division(s) Rules

(B) At the close of each Competition awards shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

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 Board 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 Board.

Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Officers and Board members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all Special General Meetings.

20. ALTERATION TO RULES

Alterations for which consent has been given by the sanctioning Association 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 shall not take effect until the following Playing Season.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary by 31st January in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Board, shall be circulated to the Clubs prior to the date fixed for the annual general meeting of the Company in each year or not later than eight weeks before the holding of an extraordinary general meeting called for the purpose of amending the Rules and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by March 1st. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if 2/3 [a majority] of those present and entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

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

21. FINANCE

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

(B) All expenditure in excess of £500 shall be approved by the Board. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Board.

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

(D) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be verified annually by some suitable person(s) who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

22. INSURANCE

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

All Clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Players' personal accident cover must be in place prior to the Club taking part in any Competition match and shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time to time by the sanctioning Association. In instances where The Football Association is the sanctioning Association, the minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which a Club affiliates.

Reserve Division(s) and Under 21 Division(s) Rules

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 Board are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.

(C) The Board shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:

(i) Any surplus assets, save for a Trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or Affiliated Association or The Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the sanctioning 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 Association may decide.

24 MEDICAL

A. Each Club must have a suitably qualified person (Minimum FA Emergency Aid Certificate ideally FA Basic First Aid for Sport) in attendance for every match day, failure to observe this Rule will be fined in accordance with the Fees Tariff

B. Clubs must have a Medical Emergency Action Plan in place and be reviewed by the Club to ensure it's current.

Medical Emergency Action Plans - Assessment of Your Environment

Questions/Responses (Please tick box)	Yes	No	Don't Know	Sometimes
Is there a Medical Emergency Action Plan in place at your training and match grounds?				
Is there an MEAP when you are at unfamiliar venues - away grounds / sports/community centres etc.?				
Do you always know the address of the venue you are at?				
Is a phone always immediately available for contacting the Emergency Medical Services?				
Is there an appropriately trained/competent first-aider at the pitchside whenever activity is taking place?				
Is there anyone to help the first-aider?				
Is an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) immediately accessible?				
Is there an appropriately stocked first aid kit which is accessible at all times?				
Do any of your players have a pre-existing medical condition?				
Do your players complete a Medical Declaration Form?				
Have the players always got immediate access to their medication?				
Do you know where the nearest hospital is with an Emergency Department /Neurology/Chest Unit?				
Is there vehicle access to your playing areas?				
Is there a list of contact details for the players' parents/guardians/NOK?				
Do your players complete a Medical Consent Form?				

Reserve Division(s) and Under 21 Division(s) Rules

FA Medical Emergency Action Plan Form

Club name:
Club address:
Name(s) and telephone numbers of First Aider(s): 1. 2. 3. Names and telephone numbers of Facility Manager / Safety Officer:
Location of Club first aid room:
Location of defibrillator:
Location of first aid kit:
Location of stretcher:
Access routes: For ambulance into Club: From pitch to ambulance: From Club's first aid room to ambulance:
Nearest Hospital Emergency Department: Directions: Distance / Journey time:
Nearest Hospital Neurological Unit (for head Injuries): Directions: Distance / Journey time:
Nearest Minor Injuries Unit / Walk In Centre: Directions: Distance / Journey time:

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* A map of the site identifying location of medical facilities and ambulance route attached.

RESERVE KNOCK-OUT COMPETITIONS

1 Title of Competitions

The Competitions shall be called the United Counties Football League Under 21 KO Cup and will be competed for by all Under 21 teams.

2 Management of the Competition

The entire management and control of the Competitions shall be vested in the Board, who shall have the power to deal with any matter for which no specific provision is made.

Any other matter not provided for in these Rules shall be determined by the Board.

The Board may divide the competing Clubs into convenient geographical divisions up to the Final.

The matches shall be arranged by the Fixture Director.

Clubs shall be drawn in couples, first Club drawn to have choice of ground, with byes where necessary. The first team to receive a bye will be the winners of the competition from the previous season, the second team to receive a bye will be the runners-up of the competition from the previous season. Final Ties will be played on a neutral venue to be determined by the Board

All arrangements for the Final Ties shall be made by the Board.

The Competitions shall observe the Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the Football Association, and all matches shall be played according to the Laws of the Game, as settled by the international Football Association Board.

Where the Competition is arranged in to geographical divisions the Board will determine which Clubs shall progress to the knock out stage of the competition, and Clubs will be informed of the rules that will operate prior to the start of the Competition.

OR

The Board will split teams into an appropriate number of groups.

Each team to play the other team within the group home and away in matches of 90 minutes' duration.

A player may play for more than one Club in the group stages of the Competition, providing he is transferred in accordance with League Rule 8

Once the Competition has advanced to the knock out stages then no player shall play for a Club unless he has either (a) already played in the group stages for that Club or (b) not previously played at any stage of the Competition for any Club this season.

Winners of each group will proceed to the knock out stage of the competition. If more teams are to progress to the knock out stage than the group winners this will be communicated to Clubs prior to the start of the competition, along with confirmation of how such teams will be determined.

If Clubs are level on points, goal difference will be used to decide the final group positions. In the event of the goal difference being equal the final group positions shall be determined by the Club which has scored the most goals. In the event of this not determining the final group positions, the Club which has the better playing record against the other Club(s) in their head to head Competition matches will determine the final group positions. If this does not determine the final group positions, and impacts on the team(s) eligible to progress to the knock out stage of the competition, a play-off game will be arranged, with extra time and penalties if necessary.

The draw for the knock out stage of the competition will be made by the Board.

Games in the knock out stage other than the final to be played on the ground of the team drawn first. If scores in these games are level after 90 minutes, extra time will be played. If scores still level, then the match will be decided by penalties.

RESERVE KNOCK-OUT COMPETITIONS

Final to be staged on neutral ground with extra time and penalties to decide the winners if required.

3 Requirements on Winning Clubs

The winning Clubs shall comply with League Reserve/Under 21 Rule 18.

4 Gate Receipts/Proceeds of Matches

A gate may be taken at all KO Cup matches if the club wish.

The League shall take the proceeds of the Final Ties and shall be responsible for meeting the expenses of the ties.

5 Player Eligibility

All players must be registered with the Registration Secretary as per Rule 8 of the League Reserve/Under 21 rules.

If the Competition(s) are arranged on a knock out basis, then no player shall play for more than one Club in the same KO Competition during the same season. No player who has played two or more rounds in the League KO Cup will be eligible to play in either of the Reserve/Under 21 Sections Competition thereafter in the season. This includes playing as substitute.

If the Competition is initially arranged in geographical divisions then a player may play for more than one Club in the group stages of the Competition, providing he is transferred in accordance with League Reserve Rule. Once the Competition has advanced to the knock out stages then no player shall play for a Club unless he has already played in the group stages for that Club, or unless he has not previously played at any stage of the Competition for any Club in that season. No player who has played two or more rounds in the League KO Cup will be eligible to play in either of the Reserve/Under 21 Sections Competitions thereafter in the season. This includes playing as substitute.

Substitutes may be used, as provided for in League Reserve/Under 21 Rule 10G

6 Ineligible Players

Any Club playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players shall be liable to a fine in accordance with League Reserve/Under 21 Rule 8 and at the discretion of the Board may also be removed from the Competition.

In addition, for matches played during the geographical division's stage of the Competition, the Board may deduct any points gained by the Club playing the ineligible player and/or order the match in which an ineligible player competes to be replayed on such terms as the Board decide

7 Kick Off Times

Unless special arrangement is made with the Competition Secretary. The default times of kick-off in the Under 21 Division(s) for Saturday fixtures shall be either 11 am or 2pm as decided by the home team and indicated on their membership form prior to the commencement of the season. Clubs may mutually agree to change the kick off time providing the League is given at least 5 days' clear notice of this agreement. Kick off times for midweek fixtures, if required, will be determined by the Fixture Director

In a dispute, the Board will determine the kick off time.

8 Duration of Matches/Extra time and Penalties

If the Competition is arranged in to geographical divisions as allowed for under Rule 2 then all group matches will be played over 90 minutes. No extra time will be played in group matches and penalty kicks will not be taken to determine the winners of a drawn match. In matches played after the group stage has concluded the duration of matches will be the same as shown below for the Knock Out Competition

If the Competition is arranged on a Knock Out basis then in all matches played, including the final tie, extra time

RESERVE KNOCK-OUT COMPETITIONS

shall be played where a draw results after 90 minutes play. If scores are still level after extra time, then penalty kicks will be taken to determine the winners.

9 Result of Matches

League Reserve/Under 21 Rule 11.

10 Abandonment's/Broken Fixtures

If a game is abandoned due to the misconduct of either or both teams and/or their Club members and/or their supporters the Board shall be empowered to "take such action as they consider appropriate".

Any Club breaking a Knock-Out Cup Competition fixture will be dealt with under League Reserve/Under 21 Rule 10 and at the discretion of the Board may also be removed from the Competition.

11 Match Fees and Expenses

Fees and expenses will be paid as per League Reserve/Under 21 Rule 13.

12 Appointment of Assistant Referees

Assistant Referees shall be appointed to Reserve/Under 21 KO Cup games when deemed necessary by the Board.

13 Mementoes

The Board will provide a suitable memento for up to 16 players from each side that competes in the final of the Competitions and for the Match Officials.

14 Protests and Appeals

Protests and Appeals shall be lodged as provided by League Reserve/Under 21 Rules 15 & 16.

Any Appeals Committee will be as appointed by the Football Association.

Rule	Fees Tariff		Amount
3:A	New Club Application Fee		£50.00
3:B	Annual Subscription	Reserves	£50.00
		Under 21s	£50.00
3:B	Non-Charter Standard Clubs, additional fee per team		£20.00
3:B	1 Book of Team Sheet/Referee Misconduct Pads		£7.00
3:C	Deposits	Under 21s	£75.00
5:J	Board Traveling Expenses	Per mile	35p
8:E	Registration Fee Per Player		£4.00
10:E	Playing match with less than the required number of players		£25.00
13:E	Match Official		£25.00 Plus 35p mileage
15:C	Protesting		£50.00
16	Football Association Appeal		£50.00

RESERVE KNOCK-OUT COMPETITIONS

	Fines Tariff		
3:E	Failure to Supply Affiliation Number by 1st July		£25.00
3:F	Resignations		£250.00
5:H	Failure to attend to the business of the league		£50.00
5:I	Failure to clear debts within 21 days		£50.00
8:A(iii)	Failure to Register 11 players per team 14 days before start each divisional season		£100.00
8:O(i)	Playing an ineligible player		£50.00
10:B	Failure to Kick-Off on time	Not exceeding	£25.00
10:D	Failure to give notice of match	Not less than	£25.00
10:E	Failure to give reason of short team	Liable to	£50.00
10:F(i)	Failure to fulfil a fixture		£100.00
10:F (ii)	Failure to fulfil fixture in order of precedence		£150.00
10:F(iii)	Failure to give notice to the Fixture Director, the Referee Director, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the match officials where a fixture has been postponed	Liable to	£25.00
10:G(ii)	Failure to provide Referee with Referee Match Report form	Minimum	£10.00
10:L	Failure to provide adequate hospitality		£25.00
11:A	Incomplete form or incomplete information	Minimum	£25.00
11:B	Late/Incorrect/No SMS Text Received within 30 minutes of the end of the match	Liable to	£25.00
13:C	Failure to provide Assistant Referee	Not less than	£15.00
13:E	Failure to pay match officials within a reasonable time after the game will result in a fee of		£25.00
14:A	Withdrawal after 31 st March	Not exceeding	£250.00
14:B	Withdrawing after the A.G.M.	Not less than	£250.00
18:A	Clubs returning trophies after January 31 st		£50.00
19	Non Attendance at Special General Meeting	Maximum Fine	£75.00
Res KO 4	Failure to pay receipt within 14 days		£25.00

CODE OF CONDUCT/EXPECTATIONS

1. The home Club is responsible for publishing a full match programme acceptable to the Board, which must feature the Competition Sponsor(s) logo on the front cover, include a full page advertisement for the Competition sponsor(s), for each of its Competition matches. A team sheet will not be considered sufficient to comply with this requirement in the Premier Division, but will suffice for matches in Division One. In Division One, if a team sheet is produced, this must feature the Competition Sponsor(s) logo. There is no requirement to produce a programme or team sheet for Reserve Division or U21's matches. Clubs should make a match day programme/team sheet available to any match official(s) appointed by the League. Clubs must adhere to any requirement that promotes and/or advertises the League, including purchasing a maximum of five League Reviews (or equivalent publication) and must also display all posters and other advertising material provided by the Board for the Competition Sponsor(s).
2. Match Officials must be informed of match details as laid down.
3. A welcome must be extended to match officials upon their arrival at the ground, who should be shown to their dressing room.
4. Clubs are only permitted to use match balls in League and League Cup fixtures authorised and supplied through a supplier approved by the Board. Clubs must purchase a minimum of twelve match balls each season (to comply with Rule 15.9) prior to the season at such time and cost as the Board indicates. Three match balls proposed to be used in the match must be submitted to and approved by the Referee before the commencement of the match in his dressing room. In inclement weather, they must be cleaned at half time by the home club.
5. The home club must provide suitable flags for Assistant Referees
6. Dressing rooms for match officials and the visiting team must be in a clean and tidy condition
7. Clubs must ensure toilet and shower facilities are in good working order
8. Visiting teams must leave their dressing room in a clean and tidy condition
9. The welfare and well being of match officials is the responsibility of the home club from their arrival at the ground until their departure
10. Players must remove their rings (or at the discretion of the match referee, cover them with tape). Bracelets, necklaces and ear rings must be removed.
11. Club Officers, Committee Members and Players must refrain from public criticism of the League, League Officers and Committee, Match Officials, and Opposition (ie in the media, club programmes, newsletters, internet etc). Failure to comply with this instruction will result in action being taken by the Board
12. Clubs must ensure that dissent by players, management and coaching staff is eliminated
13. Team sheets must be handed to the match referee by a senior official of each Club at the same time when match instructions, if any, may be issued and conveyed to managers and players.
14. It is each club's responsibility to ensure that their management and playing staff are aware of the laws of the game
15. Clubs must be aware of the League rules relating to fees and expenses for match officials
16. Clubs must comply with Rule 41 regarding the provision of refreshments to Match Officials, Players and Officials from Visiting Clubs.

CODE OF CONDUCT/EXPECTATIONS continued

17. Each Club shall be supplied with 10 Complimentary passes for each Club's use for access to the ground, the visiting Directors' Box (where appropriate) and the Boardroom. Each Club must keep a record of the Officers to whom they allocate the complimentary passes. In addition, each home Club will ensure that the players/management of the visiting Club receive complimentary access to the ground.

18. Clubs must adhere to their licensing terms regarding the sale and consumption of alcohol during the match. If their licence allows the sale and consumption of alcohol during the game, then Clubs must ensure that no alcohol is consumed from glasses or glass bottles outside of the bar area whilst a match is in progress or during half time. In FA Competitions, no alcohol may be brought in to the ground or consumed outside the club house. Clubs who breach the code of conduct will be dealt with as the Board deem appropriate.

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. A code of conduct for the League and Member Clubs

All those involved with the game and the league at every level and whether as a player, match official, coach, parent of administrator, have a responsibility, above and beyond compliance with the law, to act accordingly to the highest standards of integrity, and to ensure that the reputation of the game and the league is, and remains high. This Code applies to all those involved in football under the auspices of The Football Association.

Community

The league and its member Clubs at all levels, and vital part of a community. The League will take into account community feeling when making decisions.

Equality

The league and member Clubs are opposed to discrimination of any form and will promote measures to prevent it, in whatever form, from being expressed.

Participants

The league and member Clubs recognize the sense of ownership felt by those who participate at all levels of the game. This includes those who coach or help in any way, and those who participate at all levels of the game. This includes those who coach or help in any way, and those officiate, as well as administrators, parents and supporters. The League is committed to appropriate consultation.

Young People

The League and member clubs acknowledge the extent of the influence of the game over young people and all connected with the League and club pledge to set positive influence.

Propriety

The League and its member clubs acknowledge that public confidence demands of financial and administrative behaviour within the league, and will not tolerate corruption or improper practices.

Trust and Respect.

The league and members club will uphold a relationship of all involved in the game, whether they are individuals, clubs or other organizations.

Violence

The league and members club reject the use of violence by anyone involved in the game.

Fairness

The League and member clubs are committed to fairness in its dealings with all involved in the game.

Integrity and Fair Play

The League and members clubs are committed to the principle of playing to win and fair play.

CODE OF CONDUCT continued

2. A Code of Conduct for Coaches

- i) Coaches must respect the rights, dignity and worth of each and every person and treat each within the context of the sport.
- ii) Coaches must place the well-being and safety of other player above all other considerations, including the development of performance.
- iii) Coaches must adhere to all guidelines laid down by governing bodies.
- iv) Coaches must develop an appropriate working relationship with each player based on mutual trust and respect.
- v) Coaches must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- vi) Coaches must encourage and guide players to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
- vii) Coaches must ensure that the activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of players.
- viii) Coaches should, at the outset, clarify with players (and, where appropriate the parent) exactly what is expected of them and also what they are entitled to expect from their coach.
- ix) Coaches must co-operate fully with other specialists (e.g. other coaches, officials, sports scientists, doctors, and physiotherapists) in the best interests of the player.
- x) Coaches must always promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play) and never condone violations of the Laws of the Game or behaviour contrary to the spirit of the laws of the Game or relevant rules and regulations or use of prohibited substances or techniques.
- xi) Coaches must consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance.
- xii) Not to use or tolerate inappropriate language.

3. A Code of Conduct for Players.

A player's obligations towards the game are:

- i) To make every effort to develop their own sporting abilities, in terms of technique, tactics and stamina.
- ii) To give maximum effort and strive for the best possible performance during a game even if his/her team is in a position where the desired result has already been achieved.
- iii) To set a positive example for others, particularly young players and supporters.
- iv) To avoid all forms of gamesmanship, and time wasting.
- v) To always have regard to the best interests of the game.
- vi) Not to use inappropriate language.

CODE OF CONDUCT continued

A players obligations towards one's own team are:

- i) Make every effort consistent with fair play and the Laws of the Game to help his team win.
- ii) Resist any influence which might be seen, to bring in to question his commitment to the team winning.

A players obligations as regards respect for the Laws of the Game and the competition are:

- i) To know and abide by the Laws of the Game and the spirit of the game and the competition rules.
- ii) To accept success and failure, victory and defeat, equally.
- iii) Resist any temptation to take banned substances or use banned techniques.

A player should respect towards opponents:

- i) Treat opponents with due respect at all times, irrespective of the result of the game.
- ii) Safeguard the physical fitness of the opponents, avoid violence and rough play, and help injured opponents.

A player should show respect towards match officials:

- i) Accept the decision of the match official without protest.
- ii) Avoid words or actions which may miss a match official.
- iii) Show due respect to match officials.

A player should show respect towards team officials:

- i) Abide by the instructions of coach and team officials provided they do not contradict the spirit of the game.
- ii) Show due respect towards the team officials of the opposition.

A player should show respect towards supporters.

- i) Show due respect to the interests of all supporters.

4. A Code of Conduct for Team Officials

This code applies to all team/club officials:

Obligations to the games:

Set a positive example for other particularly young players and supporters.

Promote and develop your own team having regard to the interests of the player, supporters and

Reputation of the national game.

ii) Share knowledge and experience when invited to do so, taking into account the interests of the body that has requested this rather than personal interests.

iv) Avoid all forms of gamesmanship.

CODE OF CONDUCT continued

v) Show due respect to match officials and others involved in the game.

vi) Always have regard to the best interests in the game, including where publicly expressing an opinion of the game and any particular aspect of it including other involved in the game.

vii) Not use or tolerate inappropriate language.

Obligations towards the team:

i) Make every effort to develop the sporting, technical and tactical levels of the team/club, and to obtain the best result by the team, using all permitted means.

ii) Give priority to the interests of the team over individual interests.

iii) Resist all illegal or unsporting influences, including banned substances and technique.

iv) Promote ethical principles.

v) Show due respect to the interests of players, coaches and other officials, at their own club/team and others.

Obligations towards supporters:

i) Show due respect to the interest and supporters.

Respect towards match officials:

i) Accept the decisions of match officials without protest.

ii) Avoid words or actions which may mislead an official.

iii) Show due respect to match officials.

5. A Code of Conduct for Parents and Spectators.

The League acknowledges that parents and spectators have a great influence on children's enjoyment

And success in football.

Children play football because they first and foremost love the game-its fun. It is important to remember however that parents and spectators should reinforce this message by giving positive encouragement to all. This will also contribute to a child's sense of personal achievement and self esteem and assistant in improving skills and techniques.

A parents/spectators expectations and attitudes have a significant bearing on the child's attitude

Towards:

* Other players

* Officials

* Managers

* Spectators

CODE OF CONDUCT continued

Ensure that parents/spectators within your club are always positive and encouragement towards all of the children not just their own. Parents and spectators are encouraged to:

- * Applaud the opposition as well as your own team.
- * Avoid coaching the child during the game.
- * Not to shout and scream.
- * Respect the referee's decision
- * Give attention involved not just the most talented.

6. A Code of Conduct to ensure Anti-Discrimination.

The League is responsible for setting standards and values to apply throughout the league at all levels. Football belongs to and should be enjoyed by everyone, equally. The League is to confront and eliminate discrimination whether by reasons of sex, sexual orientation, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or disability. Equality of opportunity within the league means that in all activities no-one will discriminate or in any way treat anyone less favourably on grounds of sex, sexual orientation, race nationality. This includes:

- * The advertisement for volunteers.
- * The selection of candidates for volunteers.
- * Courses.
- * External coaching and education activates and awards.
- * Football development activates
- * Selection for teams
- * Appointments to honorary positions.

The League will not tolerate sexually or racially based harassment or other discrimination behaviour, whether physical or verbal and will work to ensure that such behaviour is met with appropriate action in whatever context it occurs. The League is committed to the development of ongoing training and awareness raising events and in order to promote the eradication of discrimination within its own organization and in the wider context, within football as a whole.

7. Code of Conduct to ensure Equal Opportunities

The League is committed to a policy of equal treatment of all members and requires all members of whatever level of authority, to abide and adhere to this general principal and the requirements of the Code of practice issued by the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Commission for Racial Equality. All members are expected to abide by the regulations of the Race Relations Act 1976, Sex Discrimination Act 1986 and Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Specifically discrimination is prohibited In:

CODE OF CONDUCT continued

* Treating any individual on grounds of gender, colour, marital status, race, nationality or ethnic or National origin, religion, sexual orientated or disability less favourable than others.

* expecting an individual solely on the grounds above to comply with requirement(s) for any reason whatsoever related to their membership, which are different to the requirements for others.

* Imposing on an individual requirements which are in effect more onerous on that individual than they are on others. For example this would include applying a condition (which is not warranted by requirements of the position) which makes it more difficult for members of a particular race or sex to comply than others not of that race or sex.

* Victimization of an individual.

* Harassment of an individual (for which purposes of this policy and the actions and sanction applicable thereto is regarded as discrimination).

* Any other act or omission of an act, which has its effect the disadvantage of a member against another, or other, purely on the above grounds.

The league commits itself to the immediate investigation of any claims of discrimination on the above grounds and where such is found to be the case, a requirement that the practice cease forthwith, restitution of damage or loss (if necessary) and to the investigation of any member accused of discrimination.

Any member found guilty of discrimination will be instructed to desist forthwith. Since discrimination in its many forms is against the League policy, any members offending will be dealt with under the Leagues disciplinary procedure. The League commits itself to the disabled person whenever possible and will treat such members in aspects of their recruitment and membership in exactly the same manner of other members. The difficulties of their disablement permitting assistance will be given, wherever possible to ensure that disabled members are helped in gaining access.

League Complaints Procedure

In the event that the League feels that any member club or person of a member club has in any way broken League policies, Rules or Code of Conduct the following procedure shall take place:

The League's Board will sit for any hearings requested.

The League's Board will have the power to:

Warn to future conduct.

Suspend from membership or participation with the League.

Remove from membership or participation with the League.

Any persons found to have broken the League's Policies or Codes of conduct.

CONSTITUTION

Season 2017/18

Premier Division (22)

Boston Town FC
Cogenhoe United FC
Daventry Town FC
Deeping Rangers FC
Desborough Town FC
Eynesbury Rovers FC
Harborough Town FC
Holbeach United FC
Kirby Muxloe FC
Leicester Nirvana FC
Newport Pagnell Town FC
Northampton ON Chenecks FC
Northampton Sileby Rangers FC
Oadby Town FC
Peterborough Northern Star FC
Rothwell Corinthians FC
Sleaford Town FC
St Andrews FC
Wellingborough Town FC
Wellingborough Whitworth FC
Wisbech Town FC

Division One (20)

Blackstones FC
Bourne Town FC
Buckingham Town FC
Bugbrooke St Michaels FC
Burton Park Wanderers FC
Harrowby United FC
Huntingdon Town FC
Irchester United FC
Long Buckby AFC
Lutterworth Athletic FC
Lutterworth Town FC
Melton Town FC
Oakham United FC
Olney Town FC
Pinchbeck United FC
Potton United FC
Raunds Town FC
Rushden & Higham United FC
Stewarts & Lloyds FC
Thrapston Town FC

Reserve Division (19)

Bourne Town Reserves
Bugbrooke St Michaels Reserves
Cogenhoe United Reserves
Desborough Town Reserves
Eynesbury Rovers Reserves
Harborough Town Reserves
Irchester United Reserves
Lutterworth Athletic Reserves
Newport Pagnell Reserves
Northampton ON Chenecks Reserves
Oadby Town Reserves
Olney Town Reserves
Peterborough Northern Star Reserves
Potton United Reserves
Raunds Town Reserves
Rothwell Corinthians Reserves
Stewarts & Lloyds Reserves
Wellingborough Whitworth Reserves
Yaxley Reserves

FOOTBALL ASSOCIATIONS

The Football Association

Wembley Stadium, PO Box 1966, London, SW1P 9EQ Telephone: 08001 691863 Email: info@TheFA.com

Bedfordshire Football Association

Century House, Skimpot Road, Dunstable, LU5 4JU

Chief Executive: Daniel Robathan Telephone: 01582 565111 Fax: 01582 562222

Email: Daniel.robathan@bedfordshirefa.com Email caution/misconduct reports to: Discipline@bedfordshirefa.com

Berks & Bucks Football Association

County Office, Stratton Court, Kimber Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1BZ

Chief Executive: Liz Verrall Telephone: 01235 558457

Email: Liz.Verrall@berks-bucksfa.com Email caution/misconduct reports to: Discipline@Berks-BucksFA.com

Cambridgeshire Football Association

Bridge Road, Impington, Cambridgeshire, CB24 9PH

Chief Executive: Chris Pringle Telephone: 01223 209020 Fax: 01223 209030

Email: chris.pringle@CambridgeshireFA.com Email caution/misconduct reports to: discipline@cambridgeshirefa.com

Huntingdonshire Football Association

Ambury House, 4 Sovereign Court, Lancaster Way, Ermine Business Park, Huntingdon, PE29 6XU

Secretary: Mark Frost Tele: 01480 414422

Fax: 01480 447 489 Email: Mark.Frost@HuntsFA.com Email caution/misconduct reports to: discipline@huntsfa.com

Leicestershire & Rutland Football Association

Holmes Park, Dog and Gun Lane, Whetstone, Leicester, LE8 6FA

Chief Executive: Keith Murdoch Telephone: 01162 867828 Fax: 01162 864858

Email: keith.murdoch@leicestershirefa.com Email caution/misconduct reports to: discipline@leicestershirefa.com

Lincolnshire Football Association

Deepdale Executive Park, Deepdale Lane, Nettleham Lincolnshire, LN2 2LL

Chief Executive: Phil Hough Telephone: 08449 670708 Fax: 08449 670709

Email: philip.hough@lincolnshirefa.com Email caution/misconduct reports to: discipline@lincolnshirefa.com

Northamptonshire FA

9 Duncan Close, Red House Square, Moulton Park, Northampton, NN3 6WL

Chief Executive: Gary Biddulph Telephone: 01604 670741 Fax: 01604 670742

Email: gary.biddulph@northantsfa.com Email caution/misconduct reports to: discipline@northantsfa.com

REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM

REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM

1. 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.

“The Association” means The Football Association Limited.

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

“Competition” in these Regulations means a League in the NLS.

“Conditional Licence” means a Licence with conditions attached to be met by a Club within a period determined by the Competition in which the Club holding the Licence is allocated by the Leagues Committee. Such period is not to exceed 1 March in the Membership Year to which the Licence relates. Save in exceptional circumstances a Conditional Licence cannot be granted to a Club for successive Membership Years in respect of the same Criterion.

“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.

“Licence” means an annual licence required to be held by a Club to be a member of a Competition that may be either an Unconditional Licence or Conditional Licence.

“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 Match(es)” 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 qualifies that 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 Association’s Standardised Rules or The Association’s Standard Code of Rules under which a League is administered.

“Step” means the level at which a Club participates in the NLS.

“Unconditional Licence” means a Licence without any conditions attached.

2. The NLS shall be operated in accordance with the Regulations.

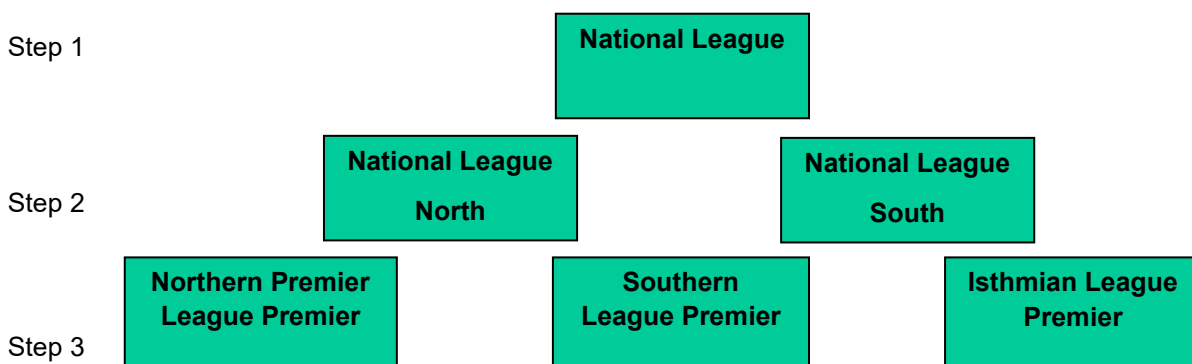
The aims and objectives of the NLS are to provide:

- 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.
- 2.4 A co-ordinated approach between Leagues regarding the final date of the Playing Season

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.

All Clubs are required to hold a Licence to be a member of a Competition at Steps 1 to 4 of the NLS.3.

3.1 The current structure of the NLS is set out below: :

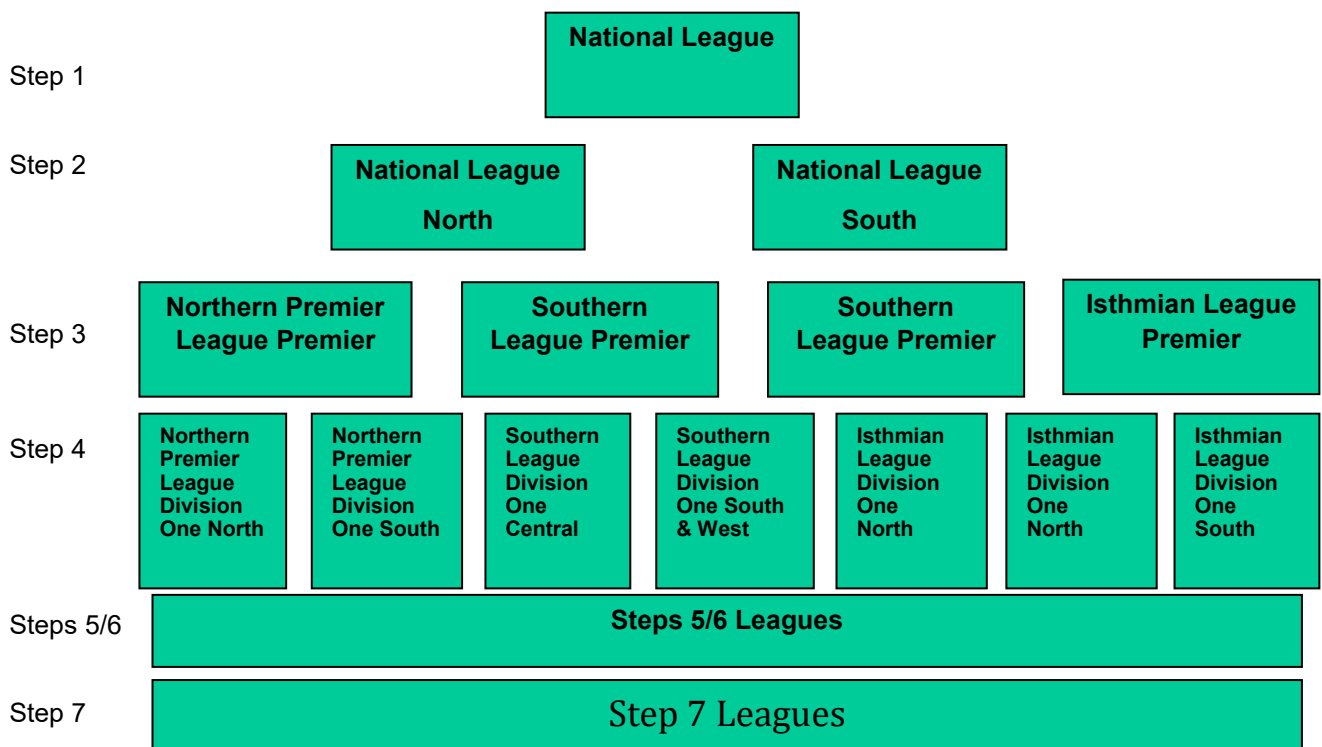


REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM continued



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

3.2 With effect from the commencement of the 2018/19 season the structure of the NLS will be as set out below:



Divisions at Steps 3 to 5 shall have the following number of Clubs: Step 3 – 22, Step 4 – 20, Step 5 – 20. At Steps 6 and 7 the number of Clubs in each division will be decided by the LC taking into account all relevant factors. Notwithstanding this, at Step 6 each division shall have no more than 20 Clubs and at Step 7 each division shall have no more than 16 Clubs.

- 3.2 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 compete.
- 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

These regulations do not deal with 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. The Clubs finishing in 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th positions shall be eligible to take part in the Play Off Matches. The Play Off Matches shall be played so that in each Step 2 division there is a qualifying round, semi-finals and a promotion final with all ties being played over a single leg at the ground of the higher placed Club. The winner of the promotion final in each Step 2 division will be promoted. If a Club is not eligible to enter Step 1 then it shall not take part in any Play Off Matches. In that event, such Club shall not be replaced and the Play Off Matches structure and draw shall be adjusted as necessary by the Competition on the basis of the remaining Clubs' final league positions.

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 Step 2, the Club finishing in 2nd position shall be promoted. The Clubs finishing in 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th positions in each Step 3 division shall be eligible to take part in the Play Off Matches. Where one or more of the Clubs finishing in 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th positions does not meet the criteria for participation at Step 2, the next eligible Club shall take part in the Play Off Matches, save that no Club finishing below 7th position shall be eligible to 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 in semi-final matches over a single leg at the grounds of the higher placed Clubs. The winners of each semi-final match will play each other in a promotion final over a single leg at the ground of the higher placed Club 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 promotion final where it will play the winner of the other semi-final match and the winner of that promotion final match will be promoted.

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 finishing in last place 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. Nineteen Clubs will be promoted from Step 4 comprising of the twelve Clubs finishing in 1st and 2nd position in each division, together with the highest ranked 3rd place Club on the basis of points per game during the Playing Season plus six further Clubs determined by a series of Play Off Matches. Where a Club finishes in 1st or 2nd position but does not meet the criteria for participation at Step 3, the Club finishing in 3rd position shall be promoted. If neither the 1st or 2nd place Club meets the criteria for participation at Step 3 then the 3rd and 4th placed Clubs shall be promoted. The Clubs finishing in 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th position in each Step 4 division shall be eligible to take part in the Play Off Matches. Where a Club finishing in 3rd, 4th, 5th or 6th position does not meet the criteria for participation at Step 3, the next eligible Club shall take part in the Play Off Matches, save that no Club finishing below 8th position will be eligible to take part in 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 in semi-final matches over a single leg at the grounds of the higher placed Clubs. The winners of each semi-final match will play each other in a promotion final over a single leg at the ground of the higher placed Club 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 the promotion final match where it will play the winner of the other semi-final match and the winner of that promotion final match will be promoted.

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

In the event of vacancies arising at Step 3 on completion of the season, the losing Step 4 Play Off finalists shall be ranked on a points per game basis during the regular Playing Season, with vacancies being filled by the highest ranked Club(s).

Step 4 and Step 5

At the end of the Playing Season the Clubs finishing in last place in each of the six divisions at Step 4 administered by the Northern Premier League, Southern League and Isthmian League will be relegated and placed in the most geographically appropriate League at Step 5. These relegated Clubs will be replaced by the highest placed Club in each Step 5 division which is eligible to enter Step 4 together with the twelve highest ranking 2nd placed Clubs on the basis of points per game during the Playing Season. The Clubs to be promoted from Step 5 will be allocated to the most geographically appropriate division at Step 4.

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. In order to be eligible for promotion Clubs must finish in 1st position in their Step 6 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 for promotion from each League. 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.

All promotions and relegations between Steps 5, 6 and 7 must be authorised by the LC. All proposed Club movements must be submitted to the LC by no later than 8 May 2018.

5.3 Where a vacancy occurs within the NLS either before, during or after the Playing Season, the LC shall decide how such vacancy shall be filled at its sole discretion.

5.3.1 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.

5.3.2 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.

5.4 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 31st 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 D by 31st March 2019.

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 For 2017/18, the following applies only to Steps 1 to 4: 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 NLS 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. **A Club may appeal the decision of the LC to an Appeal Board and such appeal shall be conducted in accordance with the Appeal Regulations.**

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.

- 6.2 Any Club wishing 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, 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 Premier League or English 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.

- (ii) If a Club is removed from its League and wishes to remain in the NLS it shall apply to the LC within five 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.
- 6.4 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;

REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM *continued*

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 Regulation shall be determined by the LC at its absolute discretion.

7. Placement of a Club into a League

7.1 Usually a club can only enter the NLS at Step 7. However 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) exceptional circumstances, (b) a vacancy within its constitution, (c) the club meets the entry criteria and (d) promotion and relegation issues have been satisfied. Such request must be received from the league by no later than 1st February. Any decision shall only be capable of Appeal to The Association by the affected League.

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 certification 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 2. 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.

(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.

(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 Association's Judicial Services Department within seven days from the date of the written decision outlining the Grounds of Appeal, with a copy to The Association's 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.

8.3 The LC may, at its discretion, delegate the resolution of any matter, dispute or difference arising under these Regulations to anybody 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 NLS and the Rules, the Regulations take precedence.

REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM continued

LEAGUES/DIVISIONS AT STEPS 5, 6 & 7 OF THE NLS (Season 2017/2018)

Step 5

Combined Counties League Premier Div
Eastern Counties League Premier Div
Essex Senior League
Hellenic League Premier Div
Midland League Premier Div
North West Counties League Premier Div
Northern League Div 1
Northern Counties East League Premier Div
Southern Counties East League Premier Div
Spartan South Midlands League Premier Div
Southern Combination Football League Premier Div
United Counties League Premier Div
Wessex League Premier Div
Western League Premier Div

Step 6

Combined Counties League Div 1
East Midlands Counties League
Eastern Counties League Div 1
Hellenic League Div 1 East
Hellenic League Div 1 West
Midland League Div 1
Northern Counties East Div 1
North West Counties League Div 1
Northern League Div 2
South West Peninsula League Premier Div
Spartan South Midlands League Div 1
Southern Combination Football League Div 1
Southern Counties East League Div 1
United Counties League Div 1
Wessex League Div 1
West Midlands (Regional) League Premier Div
Western League Div 1

Step 7

Anglian Combination Premier Div
Bedfordshire County League Premier Div
Cambridgeshire County League Premier Div
Central Midlands League Div North
Central Midlands League Div South
Cheshire League Premier Div
Dorset Premier League
Essex & Suffolk Border League Premier Div
Essex Olympian League Premier Div
Gloucestershire County League Premier Div
Hampshire Premier League Senior Div
Herts Senior County League Premier Div
Humber Premier League Premier Div
Kent County League Premier Div
Leicestershire Senior League Premier Div
Lincolnshire Football League
Liverpool County Premier League Premier Div
Manchester Football League Premier Div
Middlesex County League Premier Div

REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM continued

Midland League Div 2
Mid-Sussex Football League
Northamptonshire Combination Premier Div
Northern Football Alliance Premier Div
Nottinghamshire Senior League Senior Div
Oxfordshire Senior League Premier Div
Peterborough & District League Premier Div
Sheffield & Hallamshire County Senior League Premier Div
Somerset County League Premier Div
Southern Combination Football League
South West Peninsula League Div 1 East
South West Peninsula League Div 1 West
Spartan South Midlands League Div 2
Staffordshire County Senior League Premier Div
Suffolk & Ipswich League Senior Div
Surrey Elite Intermediate League Intermediate Div
Teesside League Div 1
Thames Valley Premier League Premier Div
Wearside League
West Cheshire League Div 1
West Lancashire League Premier Div
West Midlands (Regional) League Div 1
West Riding County Amateur League Premier Div
West Yorkshire League Premier Div
Wiltshire Football League Premier Div
York Football League Premier Div

LEAGUES/DIVISIONS AT STEPS 5, 6 & 7 OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM

Step 5	Step 6	Step 7
Combined Counties League Premier Div	Combined Counties League Div 1	Anglian Combination Premier Div
Eastern Counties League Premier Div	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 Premier Div	Midland League Div 1	Dorset Premier League
Northern Counties East League Premier Div	North West Counties League Div 1	Essex Olympian League Premier Div
Northern League Div 1	Northern Counties East Div 1	Essex & Suffolk Border League Premier Div
Southern Counties East League	Northern League Div 2	Gloucestershire County League Premier Div
Spartan South Midlands League Premier Div	South West Peninsula League Premier Div	Hampshire Premier League Senior Div
Southern Combination Football League Premier Div	Spartan South Midlands League Div 1	Herts Senior County League Premier Div
United Counties League Premier Div	Southern Combination Football League Div 1	Humber Premier League Premier Div
Wessex League Premier Div	Southern Counties East	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 Premier Div	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
		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

REGULATIONS RELATING TO ADVERTISING ON THE CLOTHING OF PLAYERS, CLUB OFFICIALS AND MATCH OFFICIALS

Introduction

These Regulations are made pursuant to FA Rule J2 and The Football Association's Regulation's for the Registration and Control of Referees.

All references to a club or clubs in these Regulations include any team, whether or not part of a club.

Clubs participating in International competitions must also comply with all relevant regulations of FIFA, UEFA and other Confederations.

It is recommended that clubs and football boot and clothing manufacturers seeking clarification of any of the regulations do so by referring to the specific competition rules and The Football Association.

We would encourage clubs and football boot and clothing manufacturers to seek feedback at the earliest possible time, in relation to designs and advertising from The Football Association and their specific competition. Clubs and manufacturers are reminded to obtain the necessary permissions before manufacture.

The Football Association have produced an on-line version of these regulations providing a practical guide on how to apply these formal regulations. This can be found at www.TheFA.com/football-rulesgovernance/more/kitadvertising

Definitions and Interpretation

"Advertising" means any designation, message, logo, trademark, name or emblem of any nature.

"Clothing" means the Match clothing of a Player, Club or Match Official and shall include without limitation shirts, shorts, socks, undershorts, t-shirts (or any other item of clothing worn under the shirt), sweat-bands, headbands, caps, tracksuits, gloves, waterproofs, sweat tops, sock tie-ups. Also, any outer garments worn by substitutes and Club Officials in the Technical Area at any time. Save where stated to the contrary, football boots are not considered as clothing. "Clothing manufacturer" means any undertaking that carries out the business of the manufacture or licensing of football clothing and has been appointed by the Club concerned to supply the clothing.

"Club Officials" in these Regulations includes any Club Official as defined in the Rules who has team duties such as managers, coaches, physiotherapists, and doctors and includes any person who takes up a position in the Technical Area at any time during a Match

"Football boots" means any footwear worn during the period of a Match by a Player or Match Official.

[Note: In calculating the area of any advertising referred to in these Regulations, the usual mathematical formula will be used, and any outlines or box surrounds of the relevant designation, message, name, logo, emblem or mark, and all included space, shall be considered as part of the area of advertising. Please see the examples set out at the back of the Kit and Advertising regulations booklet. If any further guidance is needed, or a copy of the booklet, please email sanctioning@thefa.com]

A. GENERAL

1. Save as set out in these Regulations, advertising on clothing and football boots is prohibited during the period of a Match. This applies to Players, including substitutes, any others in the Technical Area, including Club Officials and to Match Officials. The rules of an Affiliated Association or Competition may provide that for matches under their jurisdiction a Club is obliged to obtain permission for any of the advertising listed in Section C below, subject always to these Regulations. Clubs must seek the permission of the Competition organiser in order to wear any items of clothing during any pre-match warm-up bearing a slogan or message not otherwise covered by these regulations eg a message of support regarding an ill team-mate.
2. Where the rules of an Affiliated Association or Competition require a Club to obtain permission under A(1), a new application for permission must be made to the appropriate body each time it is proposed to amend the advertising. Subject to the provisions of Section B2 and Section C(5) below, or any relevant provisions of the appropriate Competition, there is no restriction on the number of such applications that may be made during the course of each season.
3. Disciplinary action in accordance with the Rules may be taken against a Club, Player, Club Official or Match Official

REGULATIONS RELATING TO ADVERTISING ON THE CLOTHING OF PLAYERS, CLUB OFFICIALS AND MATCH OFFICIALS

for any breach of these Regulations.

4. The appearance on, or incorporation in, any item of clothing (including football boots) of any distasteful, threatening, abusive, indecent, insulting, discriminatory or otherwise ethically or morally offensive message, or any political message, is prohibited. The advertising of tobacco products is prohibited.
5. A Club shall observe all recognised advertising standards and in particular those of the Advertising Standards Authority.
6. Advertising entailing the use of numerals is permitted only if such numerals clearly form part of the advertising and cannot in any way be confused with Players' shirt numbers.
7. No colour or design may be used in advertising that might create problems of identification for Match Officials and/or opponents. The colour and design of the clothing of opponents, goalkeepers and match officials must be taken into account.
8. Without limiting the effect of the above, in the case of a team comprising players all under the age of 18 years on 31 August in the current season, the appearance on or incorporation in any item of clothing of any reference whatsoever to a product, service or other activity which is considered by The Football Association as detrimental to the welfare, health or general interest of young persons, or is otherwise considered inappropriate, having regard to the age of the players, is prohibited. It is the view of The Football Association that examples of such products, services or related activities would include, but are not limited to, alcohol and gambling. Generally, reference to a public house or restaurant may be permissible, unless the establishment primarily or exclusively exists for the supply and consumption of alcohol (which is likely to be reflected in its alcohol licensing conditions). Alcoholic drinks, breweries and products, services or activities related to gambling are unlikely to be permissible under any circumstances. Prior to entering into any contractual agreement with a product, activity or service that may be considered to be detrimental or inappropriate to young persons, clubs should contact The Football Association to seek approval.
9. Any issues arising in relation to the interpretation or effect of these Regulations shall be referred to The Football Association for its determination, which shall be final and binding (subject to provisions relating to Match Officials).
10. A Club shall supply on demand to The Football Association any item of clothing for consideration as to whether it complies with these Regulations.

B. PERMITTED ADVERTISING (not relating to sponsors)

The following advertising is permitted:

1. Club emblem and name
 - (i) On football boots The officially designated Club emblem (or part thereof), name, initials, nickname or a trademark registered by the Club, or a combination of such, may appear without restriction.
 - (ii) On all other Clothing

The officially designated Club emblem (or part thereof), name, initials, nickname or a trademark by the Club, or a combination of such, may appear:

 - (a) once only on the front of the shirt, providing it does not exceed an area of 100 square centimetres; and
 - (b) once only anywhere on the shorts providing it does not exceed an area of 50 square centimetres; and
 - (c) once only on each sock providing it does not exceed an area of 50 square centimetres. An additional officially designated Club emblem (or part thereof), name, initials, nickname or a trademark registered by the Club, or a combination of such, may appear on each sock or on any cap worn by a goalkeeper providing it does not exceed an area of 50 square centimetres and, where it appears on a sock, is covered when a football boot is worn.

REGULATIONS RELATING TO ADVERTISING ON THE CLOTHING OF PLAYERS, CLUB OFFICIALS AND MATCH OFFICIALS

- (d) once only on each sock tie-up providing it does not exceed an area of 100 square centimetres. The sock tie-up may show the Player's name, Player's squad number, Competition name, sponsor designation and date of match or any combination of the same. Clubs must receive the approval of the Competition for the use of sock tie-ups. The officially designated Club emblem (or part thereof), name, initials, nickname, a trademark registered by the Club or web site address, may appear once only on the collar or collar zone of a shirt and/or tracksuit, provided such does not exceed an area of 12 square centimetres.
- (e) The club may incorporate one of its types of club identification or parts thereof, in jacquard weave form, as tonal print or by embossing the shirt and/or shorts. There is no limitation as to the number, size and positioning of the type of club identification chosen. The design of such jacquard weave may also be the names of individuals (eg club supporter) providing each is limited to 20 square centimetres, with unlimited repeats being acceptable. Clubs must receive the approval of the Competition to apply the names of individuals into a jacquard weave or similar technique. The jacquard weave must be incorporated in the main colour and/or in one of the minor colours. It must not dominate, contain a contrasting colour, or affect the distinctiveness of the kit.

2. Clothing Manufacturer

(i) On football boots

The established mark, logo, name or model/style of football boots or their manufacturer, or a combination of the same, may appear without restriction.

(ii) On all other Clothing

The established mark, logo or name of a clothing manufacturer, or a combination of the same, may appear once only:

(a) on the shirt and on the shorts provided it is an area no greater than 20 square centimetres:

(b) on each of a goalkeeper's gloves, and on a goalkeeper's cap, provided such does not exceed an area of 25 square centimetres.

(c) on each of an outfield player's gloves provided such does not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres.

(d) on the front and back of any t-shirt or any other item of clothing worn under the shirt provided such does not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres and this is not visible outside the playing shirts during the period of the Match.

(e) on undershorts worn under playing shorts provided such does not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres and this is not visible outside the playing shorts during the period of the Match.

(f) (i) The established mark, logo or name of a clothing manufacturer, or a combination of the same, may also appear up to twice on each sock between the top edge and the ankle, provided that it is an area no greater than 20 square centimetres for such mark, logo or name (or combination thereof) where it appears once on each sock or 10 square centimetres where it appears twice on each sock. It may be incorporated into the design of the socks, but must be limited to 10 square centimetres repeats and must be restricted to any turn-over on the socks.

(ii) An additional established mark, logo or name of a clothing manufacturer, or a combination of the same, may appear once only on each sock providing it does not exceed an area of 50 square centimetres and it is not visible when wearing a football boot.

(g) (i) An additional established mark, logo or name of the clothing manufacturer may be used once or repeatedly on either/or both sleeves as part of the design on the trim or taping of shirts, shorts and socks. Such trim or taping shall be limited to down the outer seam of the shirt (armhole to the bottom of the shirt), or the length of the sleeve (neck to cuff), or across the bottom of each sleeve (cuffs) and to the bottom edge of the shorts or

REGULATIONS RELATING TO ADVERTISING ON THE CLOTHING OF PLAYERS, CLUB OFFICIALS AND MATCH OFFICIALS

down the outer seam of the shorts and across the top edge of the socks.

(ii) The mark, logo or name of the clothing manufacturer which appears once or repeatedly, as part of the design on the trim or taping of the shirts, shorts and socks shall be restricted to a maximum width of 10cm on the shirts and shorts and to a maximum width of 5cm on brand-new (unworn) socks.

(h) The same established mark, logo or name or combination must appear on all clothing of all Players and Club Officials wherever such advertising appears. Once submitted to and approved by a Competition, the established mark, logo or name or combination on players' and club officials' clothing may not be modified during the course of that season, without the approval of the Competition.

(i) In addition to the club identification, the manufacturer may incorporate one of its types of identification in jacquard weave form or by embossing in the shirt and/or shorts. The type of manufacturer identification chosen must not exceed 20 square centimetres. There is no limitation as to the number and positioning of the type of manufacturer identification chosen. The jacquard weave must be incorporated in the main colour and/ or one of the minor colours. It must neither dominate nor affect the distinctiveness of the kit.

3. Product marks and seals of quality

(i) On football boots

The official licensing product mark or seal of quality is permitted on the outside of football boots without restriction.

(ii) On all other Clothing

An official licensing product mark or seal of quality is permitted on the outside of the clothing only if Competition rules so allow. When placed on a shirt, such mark or seal may not exceed 10 square centimetres in size and shall be placed on an area which is hidden when the shirt is tucked inside the shorts.

A second, smaller licensing mark or seal of quality is allowed on the shirt which must not exceed 5 square centimetres and must be placed along the torso outer seam. In addition to any licensing product mark(s) or seal(s) of quality which may appear on the shirt, such a mark or seal is permitted on the shorts. It may not exceed 5 square centimetres.

4. Numbers

(i) On football boots

A Player's shirt number may appear on his boots without restriction.

(ii) On all other Clothing

Where the Competition rules require a number on the back of the shirt, it should be clearly legible and positioned in the centre of the back of the shirt.

The number should be between 20 cm and 35 cm in height with provision for each competition to set specific criteria.

A number may also appear on the front of the shorts which must correspond with the number on the shirt.

The number should be between 10 cm and 15 cm in height with provision for each competition to set specific criteria.

The officially designated logo or name of the Competition or combination of the same may appear once only on each of the player's shirt numbers providing the logo, name or combination does not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres. The officially designated logo or name of the Competition's designated charity or combination of the same may also appear once only on each of the player's shirt numbers providing the logo, name or combination does not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres. No other advertising or any other marking is allowed on players' shirt numbers.

REGULATIONS RELATING TO ADVERTISING ON THE CLOTHING OF PLAYERS, CLUB OFFICIALS AND MATCH OFFICIALS

5. Players Names and Personalisation

(i) On football boots

A Player's name, including any appropriate nickname or initials, may appear on that Player's boots without restriction. Other names, places, appropriate nicknames or numbers of personal significance to that Player (e.g. the name or birthday of a family member, or the number of playing appearances made) may also appear on that Player's boots without restriction.

(ii) On all other Clothing

The name of a player may appear on the back of shirts or tracksuits only if Competition rules so permit. The height of the lettering must not be greater than 7.5 centimetres.

6. Other Logos

(i) On football boots

Except as permitted by paragraphs 1 – 5 above, the appearance of any logo of any description on a Player's football boots is prohibited.

(ii) On goalkeeper gloves

A goalkeeper's name, including any appropriate nickname or initials, may appear on the goalkeeper's gloves providing such name etc does not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres.

(iii) On all other Clothing

(a) The officially designated logo or name of an Affiliated Association or Competition may appear once only on each sleeve of shirts, provided Affiliated Associations or Competition rules so permit. Such mark must appear between the shoulder seam and the elbow and must not exceed 100 square centimetres.

(b) The officially designated logo, name of any awards or titles won in previous seasons or commemorative occasions (which may include any match details eg date, venue, opponents) may appear on shirts, provided such does not exceed an area of 100 square centimetres and permission has been granted from the Competition in which the kit is to be worn.

(c) The national flag may appear once only on each sleeve of the playing shirt provided that Affiliated Associations and competition rules so permit and that it does not exceed an area of 25 square centimetres.

(d) The officially designated name, logo or emblem of a registered charity may appear once only on shirts, provided that such name, logo or emblem does not exceed an area of 100 square centimetres. Alternatively, such a charity name, logo or emblem may appear on shirts in the space reserved for the main club sponsor, either alone or in combination with a club sponsor logo, provided that a total area of 200 square centimetres is not exceeded. Before any such charity name, logo or emblem is used on a kit, permission must be granted from the Competition in which the kit is to be worn. Such permission may only be granted on a maximum of three occasions in any one season.

C. SPONSOR DESIGNATIONS

(i) On football boots

Except as permitted by paragraphs 1 – 5 above, the appearance of any advertising of any description, including sponsors' designations, on a Player's football boots is prohibited.

(ii) On all other Clothing

No sponsor advertising is permitted anywhere on the clothing of a Player on the field of play during a match except as provided for in this part C.

The following advertising is permitted:

1. Playing kit

REGULATIONS RELATING TO ADVERTISING ON THE CLOTHING OF PLAYERS, CLUB OFFICIALS AND MATCH OFFICIALS

(a) On the clothing of a Player on the field of play, the following areas shall be permitted to be used for advertising

- One single area not exceeding 200 square centimetres on the front of the shirt
- One single area not exceeding 100 square centimetres on the back of the shirt; and
- One single area not exceeding 100 square centimetres on the back of the shorts.
- Once only on each sock tie-up providing it does not exceed an area of 100 square centimetres.

In the event that a Club or Competition elects to have an area of sponsor advertising only on the front of the shirt, and on no other item of playing kit, that area may be increased to a maximum of 250 square centimetres if approved by the Competition. One or more company may be advertised and, in respect of any one company, one or more of its products. The same advertising must appear in the same form on the clothing of all Players and Club Officials, wherever such advertising appears, throughout the entirety of the match.

(b) Any advertising under C(1) must be clearly separated from the items described in B above.

2. Tracksuits and other clothing in the Technical Area

(a) Advertising may appear on tracksuits, and other items of clothing other than the clothing of a Player, on the field of play during a match in accordance with the size and locations set out in C1.

The advertising carried on the tracksuits and other clothing worn by Players and Club Officials in the Technical Area can be either:

- (i) the same sponsor(s) as worn on the playing kit (home or away strips)
- (ii) be additional to the sponsors as worn on the playing kit
- (iii) a single sponsor that is an official partner of the relevant competition

3. Clubs may conclude sponsorship arrangements with different companies in respect of advertising permitted under C(1) above for both their 'home' and 'away' strips. Where Competition rules allow for a third strip to be worn, this may carry advertising as worn on either the "home" or "away" shirt. The third strip may carry an alternative sponsor advertisement with the permission of the Competition. The advertising must appear in the same form on the clothing of all Players and Club Officials wherever such advertising appears, throughout the entirety of the match.

4. Where a non-member Club wishes to include the name of a sponsor in its Club title, consent must be received in advance from the relevant Affiliated Association and where such consent is given, advertising on behalf of one company only shall be carried on the Club's match shirts, irrespective of the provisions of B (4) and C (1) above. No Full Member Club or Associate Member Club may include the name of a sponsor in its Club title without the consent of The Football Association.

5. No Club in Membership of The National League, the Isthmian League, Northern Premier League or Southern Football League may include the name of a sponsor in its Club title without the consent of the competition and, in the case of a Full Member Club or Associate Member Club, the consent of The Football Association.

6. Clubs with more than one team may conclude separate shirt advertising agreements on behalf of each team.

D. MATCH OFFICIALS

No advertising of any nature, save as set out below, is permitted on Match Officials' clothing or football boots without the consent of The Football Association. The following advertising is permitted:

1. The mark, logo or name of a clothing manufacturer or a combination of the same, may appear:
 - (a) once only on the shirt provided it is an area no greater than 20 square centimetres.
 - (b) once only on the shorts provided it is an area no greater than 12 square centimetres.
 - (c) incorporated into the design of the socks, but must be limited to an area no greater than 12 square centimetres.

REGULATIONS RELATING TO ADVERTISING ON THE CLOTHING OF PLAYERS, CLUB OFFICIALS AND MATCH OFFICIALS

2. Jacquard Weave

A jacquard weave or similar technique such as embossing shall be allowed providing each is limited to 20 square centimetres, with unlimited repeats being acceptable. The design of such jacquard weave may be the manufacturer's mark, logo or name. The jacquard weave shading shall be restricted to two shades differing from the base colour, using a standard Pantone reference manual.

3. Sponsor Advertising

Sponsor Advertising in accordance with FIFA Equipment Regulations is permitted only on shirt sleeves and the total surface area of the advertising shall not exceed 200 square centimetres. Any sponsorship contract must be made between the sponsor and The Football Association. Individual Affiliated Associations or Leagues are not permitted to enter into sponsorship contracts.

4. Badges

Match kit shirts may carry the recognised badge of the appropriate Competition once only, which must be on either site of the breast pocket. This badge must not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres and, where it contains the established trademark, trade name or logo of a sponsor of the Competition, must be approved by The Football Association in advance. In addition to the recognised competition badge the match kit shirt may carry once only on either site of the breast pocket an officially designated badge of FIFA, The Football Association, the relevant Affiliated Association or the Referees' Association (where relevant).

5. Sock Tie-Up

Each sock tie-up may show the name and/or badge of appropriate Affiliated Association or the Referees' Association providing it does not exceed an area of 100 square centimetres.

No advertising is allowed.

EQUALITY POLICY

The United Counties Football League Equality Policy

The aim of this policy is to ensure that everyone is treated fairly and with respect and that The United Counties Football League is equally accessible to all.

The United Counties Football Leagues commitment is to promote inclusion and to confront and eliminate discrimination whether by reason of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status or civil partnership, race, nationality, ethnic origin, religion or faith, disability, pregnancy and maternity and to encourage equal opportunities.

The United Counties Football League's commitment is to eliminate discrimination whether by reason of age, disability, gender re-assignment, ethnicity or race, religion and faith, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, sex and sexual orientation.

The United Counties Football League is also committed to promoting equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community.

This policy is fully supported by the Board of The United Counties Football League and the Equality Officer is responsible for the implementation of this policy on a day to day basis.

The United Counties Football League will ensure that it treats people fairly and with respect and that it will provide access and opportunities for all members of the community to take part in, and enjoy, its activities.

The United Counties Football League will not tolerate any form of harassment, bullying, abuse, or victimisation of a Participant, which for the purposes of this policy and the actions and sanction applicable is regarded as discrimination, whether physical or verbal or other. The league will work to ensure that such behaviour is met with appropriate action in whatever context it occurs.

The United Counties Football League commits itself into the immediate investigation of any allegation, when it is brought to their attention, of discrimination and where such is found to be the case, The United Counties Football League will require that the practice stop and impose sanctions as appropriate.

The United Counties Football League is committed to inclusion and anti-discriminatory and raising awareness and educating, investigating concerns and applying relevant and proportionate sanctions, campaigning, achieving independently verified equality standards, widening diversity and representation and promoting diverse role models are all key actions to promote inclusion and eradicate discrimination within football.

The United Counties Football League is committed to a policy of equal treatment of all members and requires all members to abide and adhere to these policies which are underpinned by the Equality Act 2010 and any amendments to this Act.

With this in mind, we are working towards achieving the Foundation Level and Preliminary Level of the National Equality Standards for Sport which will demonstrate and measure our commitment to equality. If you have any queries or questions relating to this statement or any issues relating to equality generally, please contact Wendy Newey/Daniel Leggett on 01733 330056 or email uclidaniel@btconnect.com



John Weeks
Chairman of the League
November 2014