

17. The Management Committee shall take the receipts of all finals and after meeting expenses the balance shall be handed over to the league funds.
18. Any matters arising and not dealt with in the foregoing rules shall be decided by the Management Committee whose decision shall be final subject to the right of appeal to the BCFA.

CODE OF CONDUCT

We are taking this opportunity to bring to the attention of all managers playing in this league, the behaviour of spectators including players parents, at league games. It is left to the discretion of the individual managers as to how you can ensure that spectators appreciate the importance that both the league and the BCFA attach to this aspect of local football.

Obviously the Management Committee would not wish to report any clubs for the unseemly behaviour of spectators, which could result in a banning from matches, a summons, the closure of a ground or even the expulsion of a team.

Co-operation between the two team managers and the referee must be sought before the game starts, this can be aided by the managers making a point of meeting and placing the game on a friendly footing by their own behaviour, they should confirm their support to the referee in any decision he makes.

It is of importance that everyone involved in boys football appreciates that they are dealing with juveniles who are completely dependent on their guardians. This affects their attitude and behaviour to adults to whom they look up to, obey and imitate, boys learn by example, so let the example be good, having said that, a boy is growing into a man and he is naturally developing the male strength and needs to learn self control. He will be the last person to want 'molly coddling' so explain to your parents that there will be knocks, and that you are the manager and you will look after your players welfare.

Football is played on the field and in the past has help build character and the name for sportsmanship which is synonymous with our people throughout the world. Leave the lads to play the game and don't try to play it for them or to influence the result by shouting. Cheer on your team and give encouragement, but please make sure your parents know that the opposition is made up of boys very much like their own, so tell them to give them a word of appreciation for the skill and courage they show, the boys will enjoy it much better.

1. Give a warm generous welcome to your opposition
2. Show that you appreciate good football by clapping
3. Cheer for your team and also your opponents when they play well
4. Never boo anyone, not even the officials
5. Give a thought to the other spectators

1. NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

- (A) This Competition shall be designated the Mid-Warwickshire Boys Football League and shall consist of not more than 100 clubs by invitation.

All such Member 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 Birmingham County Football Association. The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be within a 30 mile radius of the Sports & Social Club, Whitnash, Leamington Spa

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Birmingham County Football Association and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions as the Management Committee may determine.

The competition will provide 11-a-side football for players who have attained the age of 10 as at midnight 31st August in a playing season.

2. ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

- (A) Applications by New Clubs for admission to this Competition by invitation must be made in writing to the Secretary and must be accompanied by the League Fees of £50 per team and a deposit of £25 per Club 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.

- (B) The Annual Subscription for Existing Clubs shall be £50 per team payable on or before the 30th June in each year. Clubs failing to pay by 30th June will pay an additional £10 per team
- (C) Each Club shall, upon election, pay a Deposit of £25 which shall be returnable to Clubs on leaving the Competition provided they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all orders of the Management Committee.
- (D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the Annual Subscription and Deposit have been paid.
- (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 £10. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing on the prescribed form by 1st May of details of its Headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition.

3. OFFICERS

- (A) The Officers of the Competition shall be the President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Minute Secretary, Fixture Secretary, Referees Secretary and Cup Final Secretary to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. (N.B. Auditors are not Officers).

4. MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

- (A) The Competition shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association by a Management Committee comprised of the Officers and three Committee Members who shall be elected annually provided all the officers vacancies have been filled, at the Annual General Meeting. All participants shall abide by the Football Association regulations for safeguarding children as determined by the Association from time to time.
- (B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination. All other candidates for election as Officers or Members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two Member Clubs, not later than 1st May in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting.
- (C) The Management Committee shall meet as often as is necessary to deal with business as it arises. On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the Members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Committee.
- Any Management Committee member failing to attend three consecutive meetings without written explanation to the League Secretary will be considered to have resigned and will take no further part in the running of the League.
- (D) Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.
- (E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Secretary.

Cup.

8. Any bona-fide player in the relative age group who is duly registered by this league can take part in these competitions provided that he has played one league match during the current season unless through no fault of his own the player has failed to qualify then the player who has registered with his team since the start of the season shall be eligible to play in any cup game including semi-finals and finals.
- *For semi-finals and finals see extra requirements.
9. No player can play for more than one team in either of the cup competitions, ie. if a player has played for a team in the League Cup he is ineligible to play for another team in either the League Cup or the Supplementary Cup as the latter is a competition arising from the League Cup, no player can play for more than one team age group even in his own club.
10. Eligibility for Semi-Finals - A player must have played not less than 3 league games for the team with whom registered.
11. Eligibility for Finals - A player must have played not less than 3 league games and 1 cup game for the team with whom registered.
12. Any team proved guilty of falsifying a match report form and/or playing an ineligible player may be fined a maximum of £50 and will be expelled from the competition.
13. Any team refusing or failing to play the team against which they have been drawn within the time fixed will be adjudged to have lost the match and shall also be liable to pay any expenses incurred. Failure of the referee to appear will not be sufficient reason for not playing the match.
14. Teams playing in semi-finals and finals must forward to their opponents and the Registration Secretary at least 7 clear days before the match is due to be played a list of players from whom their team will be selected, failure to comply will result in a fine of £10. Any objections to the qualifications of any player named on the list must be forwarded to the Registration Secretary in writing at least 3 clear days prior to the match
15. The Management Committee shall if possible arrange for the semi-finals and finals to be played on neutral grounds.
16. In rounds prior to semi-finals, each team must appoint a linesman, the Management Committee shall if possible appoint referees and linesmen for all semi-finals and finals.

CUP RULES

1. At each age division there will be two cup competitions:
 - a) League Cup
 - b) Supplementary Cup (Except in divisions of 8 or less teams where there will not be a Supplementary Cup competition)All matches will be played under the Laws of the Game.
2. The League Cup will be played on a knock out basis for divisions with eight or more teams, in divisions of 7 and less teams will be played on a league basis up to the semi-finals which will be on a knock out basis. All teams registered with the MWBFL will be entered into the League Cup competition.
3. The Supplementary Cup is played on a knock out basis and will consist of all teams knocked out of the League Cup competition in the preliminary rounds and first rounds only.
4. When a cup competition is played on a knock out basis, in all rounds, if a game is level on goals after full time then extra time will be played, if still level after extra time, the players, five (5) of both teams will take penalty kicks, if after an even number of kicks have been taken the score is still level the penalty kicks will continue until such time as one team misses after taking an equal number of kicks. Extra time will be ten minutes each way.
5. When the League Cup is played on a league basis, the four teams finishing with the highest number of points will be the semi-finalists, in the semi-finals the first team will play the third team and the second team will play the fourth team. Only this competition differs in that goal difference will determine which team goes through, a play off will be arranged if equal on goal difference.
6. All cup games will kick off at 2 pm on Sunday afternoons, except for the finals.
7. Cup finals will be played on Sunday afternoons. The Supplementary Cup will kick off at 2pm and the League Cup will follow the Supplementary

5. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

- (A) The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all such committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have the power to only deal with Matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of the Football Association or affiliated Association.
- (B) Subject to the permission of the Birmingham County Football Association having been obtained the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any Club which may have withdrawn during the season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the season. (See Rule 6(e)).
- (C) Each Member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee Meetings and have one vote thereat, but no Member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such Member or to the Club so represented. (This shall apply to the procedure of any sub-committee). In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote. Any Management Committee member failing to attend three consecutive meetings without written explanation to the League Secretary will be considered to have resigned and will take no further part in the management of the league
- (D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition, including any not provided for in the Rules. Except where these Rules provide for the imposition of a set penalty any Club, Club Official (limited to Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer) or Player alleged to be in breach of a Competition Rule must be formally charged in writing and given the opportunity to present their case before the Management Committee. Financial penalties can only be imposed if included within the set penalties for breaches of Competition Rules. 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..
- (E) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal to the Board of Appeal in accordance with Rule 16. Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 14 days.

- (F) Five Members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee and Three Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by any sub-committee of the Competition.
- (G) The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill in an acting capacity, any vacancies that may occur amongst their number.
- (H) A Club having failed to comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee, or failing to satisfactorily attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition within 14 days of the date specified, shall be liable to a fine of £10 or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- (I) All fines and charges shall be paid within 14 days of the date of posting of the written notification. Clubs, Officials or individuals committing a breach of this Rule will be fined a further £10 and given 7 days to pay, if still in breach of this Rule then the Club will go under suspension and any fixtures during the suspension period will be awarded to the opposition and a Club may incur such penalties as the Management Committee may impose.
- (J) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or match may have any expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.
- (K) The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the Annual General or Special General Meeting called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Competition season.
- (L) No participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

become operative until the approval of the Association issuing sanction shall have been obtained.

21. RULES BINDING ON CLUBS

- (A) Each Member Club shall be deemed to have given its assent to the foregoing Rules and agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee subject to Rule 16. Each Member Club must abide by any issued Football Association Code of Conduct.
- (B) League meetings will be held on the 4th Wednesday of each month unless otherwise determined by the Management Committee, a club failing to be represented at a league meeting will be fined £10, not less than 7 days notice will be given of a league meeting.

22. FINANCE

- (A) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.
- (B) All expenditure in excess of £100 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.
- (C) The financial year of the Competition will end on 31st March in each year.
- (D) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be audited annually by some suitable person(s) who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.
- (E) Any team wishing to have sponsorship must seek permission in writing from the league. Sponsorship from pubs or clubs or alcohol, cigarettes, tobacco, gambling or any other product which might prove detrimental to persons under the age of 18 is not allowed.

for the following season will return the trophy to the league within 7 days of the Presentation Evening, failure to comply will result in a fine of £25 plus £5 per week for the weeks that the trophy is outstanding.

(iii) Any team failing to collect trophies at the Presentation Evening will forfeit same.

19. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting.

The Management Committee may call a Special General Meeting at any time.

At least 7 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 Full Member Team shall be empowered to send two delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Team shall be entitled to one vote only. Not less than 7 days' notice shall be given of any Meeting. Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given may be fined £10.

Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all Special General Meetings.

20. ALTERATION TO RULES

(A) Alterations shall be made to these Rules only at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 19. Any alteration made during the playing season to the Rule relating to the qualification of players shall not take effect until the following season.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary by 1st May in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present and entitled to vote 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 21 days prior to the date of the meeting.

Any alterations or additions decided upon at any meeting shall not

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 30 June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least two thirds of members are present and entitled to vote:-

- (i) To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
- (ii) To consider any business arising therefrom.
- (iii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
- (iv) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies (as recommended by the Management Committee).
- (v) Constitution of the Competition for ensuing season.
- (vi) Election of Officers and Management Committee.
- (vii) Appointment of Auditors.
- (viii) Alteration of Rules, if any (of which notice has been given).
- (ix) Fix the date for the commencement and conclusion of playing season.
- (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.

(B) A Copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least fourteen days prior to the meeting, and to the Birmingham County Football Association.

(C) A signed copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Birmingham County Football Association within fourteen days of its adoption by the Annual General Meeting.

(D) Each Full Member Team shall be empowered to send two delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Team shall be entitled to one vote only. Not less than seven days' notice shall be given of any Meeting.

(E) Clubs who have withdrawn their Membership of the Competition during the season being concluded or who are not continuing Membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the season being concluded.

(F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least two thirds of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.

(G) Not Applicable

(H) Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £25.

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

7. AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

- (A) The Chairman and the Secretary 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, Chairman _____ of _____ and Secretary _____ of _____ and Treasurer _____ of _____ of the _____ Football Club have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Mid-Warwickshire Boys Football League and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, if elected or accepted into Membership, to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16.

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

(Note: The spaces above are intended for the inclusion of the signatures and addresses of officers and members).

8. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

- (A) Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules, are not permitted in this Competition.

No player registered with a F.A. Premier League or Football League Academy will be permitted to play in this competition. A Player registered with a Centre of Excellence may only play in this Competition subject to the Regulations of the Programme for Excellence.

- (B) A registered youth playing member of a Club is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:-

Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by his / her parent or guardian and by an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the Registration Secretary 24 hours prior to playing and whose completed registration identity card has been received by the Club prior to playing. The registration document must incorporate a current passport-size photograph of the player seeking registration.

The qualification dates for the competition shall be as follows:

- (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 or team of a Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by a majority 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 misconduct, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a player or players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to expulsion or such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Clauses (A) and (B) of this Rule.
- (D) Any Club or Team failing to complete all of its fixtures in any season shall (unless the conditions are beyond their control, or the accredited delegates present at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting decide otherwise by a simple majority of the votes cast) be debarred from membership the following season.

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

A Competition Cup or Trophy shall be vested in the Association sanctioning the Competition as Trustees. If a Competition be discontinued for any cause the Cup or Trophy shall be returned to the Donor, if the conditions attached to it so provide, or otherwise dealt with as the Association may decide. At the close of each Competition awards may/shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the Cup or Trophy:-

We, Chairman and Secretary.....
Of FC, members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners ofCup or Trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the Cup or Trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before 1st February. 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.”

- (i) Cups or trophies not returned by 1st February in each year will be find £20 plus £5 per week for the weeks that the trophy is outstanding.
- (ii) Any team winning a trophy and then withdrawing from the league

- (C) Any dispute occurring between Clubs in the Competition shall be referred for determination by the Management Committee whose decision shall be binding upon all parties subject to Rule 16.
- (D) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum of £10. 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.
- (E) All parties to a protest or complaint must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement when the protest or complaint is being heard and must have received 7 days notice of the hearing, together with a copy of the submission. When dealing with a protest or complaint the Management Committee shall take into consideration the possession by the protesting or complaining Club of any information which, if properly used, might have avoided the protest or complaint.

16. BOARD OF APPEAL

- (A) Within 14 days of the posting of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee or the Competition a Club, Official or Player against whom action is taken may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars in duplicate with the Secretary of the Birmingham County Football Association, including a fee of £25, for adjudication of a Board of Appeal. The grounds of appeal shall be in accordance with FA Rules. The Board of Appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited and shall decide by whom the costs of the appeal shall be borne. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned.

No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an Annual 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 in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, 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 a majority of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot.

Players must be under the relevant age as at midnight on 31st August of the playing season as follows:

- U11's - Players must be over 10 and under 11
- U12's - Players must be over 10 and under 12
- U13's - Players must be over 11 and under 13
- U14's - Players must be over 12 and under 14
- U15's - Players must be over 13 and under 15
- U16's - Players must be over 14 and under 16
- U17's - Players must be over 15 and under 17

A bone-fide playing member of a team is one who, being in all other respects eligible, is in receipt of a signed identity card. All players are to have two signed identity cards complete with passport sized photographs, one to be retained by the Registration Secretary, the other to be kept by the Team Manager. Identity cards will be exchanged by opposing managers prior to the kick off and will be returned after the final whistle. Failure to produce identity cards prior to the game may result in the team being fined £25 and have 3 points deducted, failure to produce identity cards will not be a reason to postpone a match.

A minimum of 11 players registration forms must be received and accepted by the Registration Secretary 28 clear days before the first playing date of the season before any player can take part in any game, failure to comply will result in a fine of £25 and the team may be expelled from the league subject to Rule 20 (a).

No more than 16 players can be registered for a team at any one time, no restriction on the total number of players in a season.

- (C) Not Applicable
- (D) Not Applicable
- (E) A player having taken part in matches for any Club affiliated to any County Football Association shall not be allowed to join, be transferred to, or sign for a Club in the Competition without first proving to the officials of the intended Club that the player has discharged all reasonable financial liabilities to the previous Club or Clubs, and a Club official may not accept such player's signature without first ascertaining whether such claims have been discharged to the satisfaction of the Club, or Clubs, for which the player last played.
- (F) Registrations forms shall be obtained from the Registration Secretary and are free of charge.
- (G) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes.

In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club priority of registration shall decide for which Club the player shall be registered. The Registration Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

- (H) It shall be deemed misconduct for a player to:-
- (i) Play for more than one team in the competition in the same season without first being transferred.
 - (ii) Having signed for one team in the Competition, sign for another team in the competition in that season except for the purpose of a transfer.
 - (iii) Submit a signed registration form for registration that the player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.
- (J)
- (i) The Management Committee shall have power to accept the registration of any player.
 - (ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player or may fine any player, except those under 18 years of age, at their discretion who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (Subject to Rule 16).
 - (iii) The Management Committee shall have power to make application to refuse, cancel or suspend 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 conduct, which may deter a participant from being involved in the Competition. Application should be made to the parent County of the club the player is registered with.
- 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 in disrepute and will in any case be subject to an appeal to the Football Association. For the purpose of this rule, bringing the competition into disrepute can only be considered where the player has received in excess of 12 days suspension or 10 matches in a match based discipline in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.
- (K) Subject to The Football Association Rules dealing with players without a written contract when a player desires a transfer, the Club the player wishes

- (B) A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its teams from the Competition after the Annual General Meeting for the following season. Any Club infringing this Rule shall be liable for the league fees of £50 per team plus its deposit of £25 and will be further liable to a fine of £15 per team.
- (C) The Membership for the coming season having been decided at the Annual General Meeting shall have the right, irrespective of other provisions in this Rule, to refuse to permit a Club to withdraw its team(s) in order to join another Competition and may hold the Club to its engagements
- (D) In the event of a Member Club which is an un-incorporated association withdrawing and/or disbanding it shall be immediately liable to discharge all its financial and other obligations to the Competition.

In the event that any such obligation remains undischarged after a period of twenty-one (21) days then such obligation shall be met by the then current Club Members, excluding those under the statutory school leaving age. Until a Member's pro rata obligation is discharged in full the Member shall not be allowed to participate in the Competition, which may apply to the Club's Parent County Association for a suspension order. Any team shall be liable to forfeit the whole or part of its deposit by failing to complete its fixtures or failing to comply with the rule or carry out instructions of the Management Committee, the Management Committee shall be the sole judge of whether a team has failed to fulfil its obligations.

15. PROTESTS AND APPEALS

- (A)
 - (i) All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee.
 - (ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match. Any Club lodging such protest and not proceeding with it shall be deemed guilty of a breach of this Rule and shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.
- (B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged in duplicate with the Secretary within 5 days (excluding Sundays) of the match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A Member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

- (G) A Referee not keeping his engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to his non-appearance, may have his name removed from the list of Referees and the fact reported to the County Football Association with which he is registered.
- (H) Each team shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The Football Association, award marks to the Referee for each match and the name of the Referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed Form provided. Teams failing to comply with this rule shall be liable to be fined or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.

Referee's will be marked out of 100 using the following as a guide:

- i Marks out of 50 for general control.
- ii Marks out of 30 for applications of the Laws of the Game.
- iii Marks out of 20 for personality and personal appearance.

The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the Form provided by the prescribed date each season, shall submit a summary to The Football Association/County Football Association.

- (I) Not Applicable
- (J) Not Applicable
- (K) Referees and Assistant Referees shall be supplied, each Season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.

14. CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

- (A) After 31st December in the current Season 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 Midnight on the 31st March each Season or be liable to a fine not exceeding £25.

All Clubs wishing to remain in membership of the Competition for the following Season must confirm their intention to do so, in writing, by completing the forms as supplied by the League, to the Secretary by midnight on the 31st March. Any Club failing to comply with this rule shall be deemed to have resigned membership from the league for the following season. However a club may make a late application with a payment of £25 and will be considered with applications from new clubs.

to transfer to shall submit a transfer form to the Registration Secretary accompanied by a fee of £10. Such transfer shall be referred by the Registration Secretary 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 Registration Secretary and to the player concerned within seven days of receipt of the transfer form. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within seven days, the Registration Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or seven days after receipt of such transfer. In the event of an objection to a transfer the matter shall be referred to the Management Committee for a decision.

- (L) A player may not be registered for or transferred to another Club in the Competition after 31st January except by special permission of the Management Committee.
- (M) A Club shall keep a list of the players it registers and a record of the games in which they have played, and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee.

In the event a Club has more than one team in an age group, each team must be clearly designated "Colts" and "Juniors" etc. In such cases, players will be registered for one team only.
- (N) A register containing the names of all players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Registration Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of any duly appointed Member Club representative at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged.
- (O) A player shall not be eligible to play for a team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding match (as specified in Rule 12(A)) unless the player has played three games for that team in this Competition in the current season.
- (P) Not Applicable
- (Q)
 - (i) Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players shall have the points gained in the match(es) deducted from its total and may be fined £50 and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.
 - (ii) In addition the team may have 3 points deducted from its total at the discretion of the Management Committee and may be dealt with in any further manner which is thought to be fit.

- (iii) The Management Committee in exceptional circumstances may, at its discretion, award any points deducted from a Club under this Rule to the opponents in the match in question to the opponents, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.

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

- (R) (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 Competitions).
- (iii) Children under 14 shall not play in a team involving players who are more than 2 years older.

9. CLUB COLOURS. CLUB NAME

- (A) Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 1st May in each year who shall decide as to their suitability. Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from other players and the referee. No player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.

Any team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify the colours in which they will play to its opponents at least five days before the match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the away team shall make the change. Any team not having a change of colours or delaying the kick-off by not having a change shall be fined £10.

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

- (B) Any Club wishing to change its name must seek permission from its affiliated County Football Association and from the Management Committee.
- (C) A Club or Team cannot be affiliated to a professional or semi professional club.

- (B) Automatic promotion and relegation shall be applied for the first two and last two teams in each Division.

13. REFEREES

- (A) Registered Referees and Assistant Referees for all matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the sanctioning Association(s).
- (B) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed Referee or where the competition has been unable to appoint a Referee, the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee. A Referee thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee.
 - i. To determine who referee's should the two team managers disagree the home team will implement clause (ii)
 - ii. Toss a coin, the away team manager shall call and the winner shall referee the game.
 - iii. The referee decided upon will be entitled to full payment.
 - iv. If clause (ii) is not complied with, the Management Committee shall have the power to declare the fixture void and may at its discretion fine both teams up to £50.
- (C) The Management Committee may, if they consider it desirable, or upon application by the two competing Clubs, appoint Assistant Referees, if available, to any match. Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £10 being imposed on the defaulting Club.
- (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) Referees and Assistant Referees appointed under this Rule shall be entitled to a fee of £20 which includes expenses, subject to any limits laid down by the sanctioning Association(s). The officials fees will be shared equally by both teams and it is the responsibility of the home team to ensure that officials are paid either before the match or no later than 10 minutes after the final whistle. In the event that an official is not paid his fee, the offending team will be fine £10.
- (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 of his match fee. Where a match is not played owing to one team being in default, that team shall be ordered to pay the Officials, if they attend the ground, their full fees.

- (H) The half time interval shall be of 5 minutes duration, but it shall not exceed fifteen minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

11. REPORTING RESULTS

- (A) The Results Secretary must receive within five days of the date played, the original match form complete with the result of each 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 of £25 and/or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide.
- (B) Both Clubs shall telephone the result of each match to the Press Officer by 7pm on the day of the match, failure to comply will result in a fine of £10.
- (C) The match result form, correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of the Club. The Management Committee shall have power to take such action as they deem suitable against a Club which submits an incomplete form or incorrect information. Any team found guilty of falsifying a match report form will be fined £50 and will be recommended for expulsion from the league in accordance with rule 17 (A) and their record will be expunged.

12. DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

- (A) Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with 3 points to be awarded for a win and 1 point for a drawn match. The teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the conclusion shall be adjudged the winners. Matches must not be played for double points.

In the event of two or more teams being equal on points team rankings will be decided in following way:-

- (i) Deciding match(es) played under conditions determined by the Management Committee.

For deciding matches, in the event of the scores in a special championship match played under conditions determined by the management committee being level at the end of the game 10 minutes extra time shall be played in two equal periods. If no goal is scored during extra time, the winners will be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the International Board Decision contained in the Laws of Association Football.

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

- (A) The Annual General Meeting shall determine the commencing and concluding dates for the ensuing season which shall be in accordance with Football Association Rules. No Club shall be compelled to play after the concluding date. Original fixtures arranged by the Fixture Secretary, or at a meeting specially convened for that purpose, to be held no later than 1st April, must not be arranged for a date later than seven days preceding the concluding date determined by the Annual General Meeting.
- (B) All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board.

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

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

All matches shall have a duration as set out below unless a shorter time (not less than 20 minutes each half) is mutually arranged by the two managers in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves.

U11's and U12's - 30 minutes each half
U13's and U14's - 35 minutes each half
U15's and U16's - 40 minutes each half
U17's - 45 minutes each half.

The minimum time for any game will not be less than 20 minutes each half for players in the U14 age group and below and 25 minutes each half for all other age groups.

No player under the age of 17 as at midnight on 31st August in any season shall be permitted to play more than one game or, in the event the competition allows the playing of a double-header, ie: two separate matches, 100 minutes per day in this Competition.

Matches will be played on Sundays and the kick-off shall be 2pm. Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time may be fined a sum not exceeding £5 or be otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee 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 at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. The size of football to be used shall be:

U11's, U12's, U13's & U14's - Size 4
U15's, U16's & U17's - Size 5

Goal nets and corner posts must be provided by the home team, corner posts must not be less than 5' high, failure to comply will result in a fine a £5.

- (C) Except by permission of the Management Committee all matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The Football Association and all relevant County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of the Fixture Secretary. Teams shall be allowed to request that one match be postponed per season providing that they inform the League Secretary and the Fixture Secretary of the date of unavailability giving 14 days notice in writing.
- (D) The Manager of the home Club must give notice in writing or by telephone of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the match officials and the Manager of the opposing Club at least five clear days prior to the playing of the match. Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine of £10.
- (E) Every Club shall play its best available qualified team or teams in all matches in the Competition. A minimum of seven players will constitute a team for a Competition match.
- (F) Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have power to inflict a fine of up to £50, deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals. Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent's ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Fixture Secretary within five days the Management Committee shall have power to order the match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date.

The Management Committee shall review all matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both teams. Where the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one team or its club members they shall be empowered to award the points for the match to the opponent. In cases where a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams or their club members the Management Committee shall rule all points for the match void. No fines can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match.

- (i) No cancellations, other than the following will be permitted
- a. For adverse weather conditions
 - b. The ground being declared unfit
 - c. Teams with 6 or more players on school activities.

Any team wishing to cancel a game under this rule is required to submit written notification including the players name, the school activity and the name of the school.

- (ii) In the event that the homes teams pitch is unfit for play, the fixture must be switched to the away teams pitch if available and fit for play. All scheduled kick-off times will apply. Teams failing to comply with this rule will be fined up to £30 and at the discretion of the Management Committee, the match can either be awarded to the opponents of any team failing to comply with this rule or to declare the fixture void (not to be played).
- (iii) Whilst matches will normally be played on Sunday's the Fixture Secretary shall have the power to instruct teams to play midweek games should fixture congestion or other circumstances require.

Notice of postponement, in the form of a match sheet, must be given by both teams stating why the game was postponed within 5 days of the date of the match to the Results Secretary, Any Club failing to comply will be fined £25 and may be dealt with by the Management Committee who may inflict any penalty it may deem suitable.

- G) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use 5 substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from 5 players. For teams in the under 16 age group and below, a player who has been substituted himself becomes a substitute and may replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football. 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.