



DEFINITIONS – 1

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.

“Club” means a Club for the time being in membership of the Competition.

“Competition” means the West Sussex Football League.

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

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

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

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

Schedule A

“Ground” means the ground on which the Club’s Team(s) plays its Competition Matches.

“Management Committee” means in the case of a Competition which is an unincorporated association the management committee elected to manage the running of the Competition and where the Competition is incorporated it means the Board of Directors appointed in accordance with the articles of association of that company.

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

“Non-Contract Player” means any Player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play for a Club but has not entered into a written contract of employment.

“Officer” means an individual who is appointed or elected to a position in a Club or Competition which requires that individual to make day to day decisions.

“Participant” shall have the same meaning as set out in the rules of The FA from time to time.

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

“Player Registration System” means The FA system to register players as determined by The FA from time to time.

“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 Sussex ...County Football Association Limited.

“Scholarship” means a Scholarship as defined in the The FA rules.

“Season” means the period between one AGM and the next AGM.

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

“SGM” means a special general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

“Team” means a Team affiliated to a Club, including where a Club provides more than one Team in the Competition in accordance with the Rules.

“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 from time to time.

“Virtual Meetings” means meetings held electronically “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.

Schedule B

Unless stated otherwise, terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and also the other way around.

GOVERNANCE RULES

COMPETITION NAME, CONSTITUTION – 2

A.

The Competition will be known as the West Sussex Football 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.

B.
This Competition shall consist of not more than 90 (ninety) Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

C.
The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be West Sussex and surrounding area bordered by the M25/A23/A3.

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

E.
All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a member of the Competition to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee in relation to them, subject to the provisions of Rule 7.

F.
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.

G.
1. All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority and must have a constitution approved by the Sanctioning Authority. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
2. This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Sanctioning Authority and the constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped in divisions each not exceeding 16 in number

H.
Inclusivity and Non-discrimination
1. The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (including those contained in the Equality Act 2010).
2. This Competition and each Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise.
3. Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.

I.
Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including, but not limited to England Football Accredited and RESPECT programs. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

All Club Officials and Management will be required to sign a copy of the Respect ‘Code of Conduct’ document as an acknowledgment of the requirements and that the Club will abide by them.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

J.
All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children and Regulations for Safeguarding Adults at Risk as determined by The FA from time to time

K.
Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing in the Competition in any other competitions (with the exception of FA and County FA Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.



L.

At the AGM or a SGM called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the constitution of the divisions at their discretion. When necessary this Rule shall take precedence over Rule 22.

M.

Only one Team from a Club shall be permitted to participate in a single division unless there is no viable alternative because of logistical issues and/or reasons linked to participation and geographical boundaries in which case the Competition will obtain the prior approval of the Sanctioning Authority. 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 by transfers of registration in accordance with these Rules.

CLUB NAME – 3

Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority. In the event that permission is granted, the Club must advise the Competition Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT – 4

A.

Applications by Clubs for admission to the Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same Club must be made in writing to the Secretary by the 15th May and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee for each Team as set out in the Fees Tariff, which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

Applications, of which due notice has been given, will be received at the AGM or an SGM if confirmed by a majority of the accredited voting members present.

When Rule 22(B) is applied or a Team seeks a transfer or, is compulsorily transferred to another division, no Entry Fee shall be payable.

B.

The annual subscription shall be payable, in accordance with the Fees Tariff for each Club payable by 1st August

C.

In the event of any issue concerning the membership of any Club with the Competition the Management Committee may require a Deposit to be paid (in accordance with the Fees Tariff) by or on behalf of the Club on such terms and for such period as it may in its entire discretion think fit. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

D.

A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the entry fee, annual subscription and deposit (if required) have been paid.

E.

Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 1st August of its Sanctioning Authority affiliation number for the forthcoming Playing Season. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, its Officers and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION – 5

A.

The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and not more than 15 members who shall all be elected at the AGM.

B.

Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination provided that the Officer notifies the Secretary in writing not later than 15th June in each year. All other candidates for election as Officers of the Competition or members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the secretaries of two Clubs, not later than 15th



June in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance by the date stated in the earlier part of this Rule, nominations may be received at the AGM.

C.
The Management Committee shall meet a minimum of twice a season or as and when required. On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Management Committee.

D.
Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.

E.
All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Officers and sent to the Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

F.
The Management Committee shall also comprise of the elected Life Members

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT – 6

A.
The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all sub-committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of The FA or Affiliated Association.

B.
Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained, the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each Season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call on each Club (including any Club which may have withdrawn during the Season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the Season.

C.
Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee meetings and have one vote at all such meetings but no member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly relating appertaining to that member or to the Club so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest. (This shall also apply to the procedure of any sub-committee)

D.
In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chair shall have a second or casting vote.

E.
The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition. Any action by the Competition must be taken within 28 days of the Competition being notified.

With the exception of Rules 6(J), 8(H), and 9, for all alleged breaches of a Rule the Management Committee shall issue a formal written charge to the Club concerned. The Club charged shall be given 7 days from the date of notification of the charge to reply. In such reply a Club may:

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

Where the Club charged fails to respond within 7 days, the Management Committee shall determine the charge in such manner and upon such evidence as it considers appropriate.

Having considered the reply of the Club (whether in writing or at a hearing), the Management Committee shall make its decision and, in the event that the charge is accepted or proven, decide on the appropriate penalty (with reference to the Fines Tariff where applicable).



Where required, hearings shall take place as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of the reply of the Club as more fully set out above.

With the exception of Teams playing at Regional NLS Feeder League of the National League System, the maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Management Committee must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence; taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

The maximum fine permitted for a breach of a Rule by a Team playing at Regional NLS Feeder League level is £500.

No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

All breaches of the Laws of the Game; or the Rules and Regulations of The FA shall be dealt with in accordance with FA Rules by the appropriate sanctioning Association.

F.
All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7. Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 7 days.

G.
A minimum of 50% of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any of its sub-committees.

H.
The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill any vacancies that may occur in their number.

I.
A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

J.
Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision. Any Club failing to do so will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.

K.
A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or Competition Match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.

L.
The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the AGM or SGM called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Playing Season, subject to the provisions of the National League System Regulations or Women's Football Pyramid Regulations (which shall take precedence if applicable)

M.
The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or post

PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS – 7

A.
(1) All questions of eligibility, qualification of Players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee.
(2) 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 Competition Match.



B.

Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within 7 (seven) days (excluding Sundays) of the Competition Match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

C.

No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the inquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

D.

All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.

(1) All parties must have received a minimum 7 days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.

(2) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should indicate such when forwarding the written response.

E.

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

F.

Any appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of the posting of the written notification of the decision causing the appeal, accompanied by a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff), which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. A copy of the appeal must also be sent to the Secretary. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority, in such respect the Sanctioning Authority may (but is not obliged to):

1. Invite submissions by the parties involved;
2. Convene a hearing to hear the appeal;
3. Permit new evidence; or
4. Impose **appropriate** deadlines

Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee.

G.

No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

H.

All protests, claims, complaints relating to these Rules and appeals arising from a Player's contract shall be heard and determined by the Management Committee, or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee. The Clubs or Players protesting, appealing, claiming or complaining must send a copy of such protest, appeal, claim or complaint and deposit a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff) which shall be forfeited in the event of the protest, appeal, claim or complaint not being upheld, and in these circumstances the party not succeeding may, in addition, be ordered to pay the costs at the direction of the Management Committee.

All such protests, claims, complaints and appeals must be received in writing by the Secretary within 14 days of the event or decision causing any of these to be submitted.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 8

A.

The AGM shall be held not later than 3rd Friday in July in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least 20 (twenty) members are present and entitled to vote: -

1. To receive and confirm the minutes of the last AGM.
2. Adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts from the previous season or accounting period



3. Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
4. Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Season.
5. Election of Competition Officers of the Competition and the Management Committee members.
6. Appointment of auditors/verifiers
7. Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14).
8. Agree the date for the beginning of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.
9. Agree the date for the end of the Playing Season
10. Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted by the Chair as being relevant to an AGM.

B.

A copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet, statement of accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 14 days prior to the meeting, together with any proposed Rule changes.

C.

A signed copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet and statement of accounts shall be sent to the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of its adoption by the AGM

D.

Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. 14 days' notice shall be given of any AGM.

E.

Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the Playing Season being concluded or who are not continuing membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the Season being concluded. This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 12.

F.

All voting shall be conducted by a show of **hands, count of email or virtual responses (for virtual meetings)**, unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the **Chairman** so decides.

G.

No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Club.

H.

Any continuing Club must be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

I.

Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a club (See Rule 8.G).

J.

Where a Competition is an incorporated entity, the Officers of the Competition shall ensure that the Articles of Association of the Competition are consistent with the requirements of these Rules.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS – 9

A.

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

B.

The Management Committee may call a SGM at any time.

C.

At least seven (7) days' notice shall be given of a meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.



D. Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.

E. Any Club failing to be represented at a SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

F. Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a club (See Rule 9D).

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED – 10

Each Club shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the Competition together with the application for membership for the coming Season, or upon indicating that the Club intends to compete.

“We, (A) (name) [] of (address) [] (Chairman)/(Director) and (B) (name) [] of (address) [] (Secretary)/(Director) of [] Football Club (Limited) have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, 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 7.”
The agreement shall be signed by:

1. Where a Club is an unincorporated association, the Club Chairman and Secretary; or
2. Where a Club is an incorporated entity, two directors of the Club.

Any change of the Chair, Secretary or Directors of the Club as named on the above agreement must be notified to the County Football Association(s) to which the Club is sanctioned and to the Secretary of this Competition.
Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB -11

A. Any Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a Team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfillment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the Secretary in writing of such intention by 31st May. This does not apply to a Club moving in accordance with Rule 22(B). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. **If a Club requests to withdraw one of its Teams in the Competition it shall always be the lowest ranked Team**

B. The Management Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a Team being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season, including, but not limited to, issuing a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

EXCLUSION OF CLUBS, TEAMS, MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 12

A. At the AGM or SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, notice of motion having been duly circulated on the agenda by direction of the Management Committee, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to: (i) remove a member of the Management Committee from office; (ii) exclude any Club or Team from membership, both of 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 member of the Management Committee or Club which is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

B. At the AGM, or at a SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, provided this is 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 Officer or member of a Club found guilty of either a breach of Rule, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a Player or Players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of clause (A) and/or (B) of this Rule.

TROPHY – 13

A

The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the cup or trophy: -

“We (A) (name) and (B) (name), the Chair and Secretary of _____ FC , 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 **at the AGM in a clean and polished condition.**

For cups or trophies presented at the AGM these are to be returned to the Competition Secretary on or before 1st February unless otherwise agreed with the General Secretary

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.”

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

B

At the close of each Competition awards may be made to the winners and runners-up together with other awards as the Competition sees fit if the funds of the Competition permit.

ALTERATION TO RULES – 14

A.

Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at a SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. Any alteration made during the Playing Season to these Rules shall not take effect until the following Playing Season, except in exceptional circumstances and approved by Sanctioning Authority and The FA.

B.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by the 1st March in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 1st June and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 14th June. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or SGM shall be submitted to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA (as applicable) at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

C.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or SGM shall be submitted to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA (as applicable) at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

FINANCE - 15.

A.

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

B.

All expenditure in excess of £250 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 the 31st May.



D.
The accounting records or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be verified annually by a suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

INSURANCE – 16

A.
All Clubs must have valid Public Liability Insurance cover for a minimum ten million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.

B.
All Clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Players' personal accident insurance 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 Authority. In instances where The FA is the Sanctioning Authority, the minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which a Club affiliates. Failure to comply with Rule 16(A) or 16(B) will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

DISSOLUTION – 17

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

B.
In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.

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

MATCH RELATED RULES

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS – 18

A.
A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has been, Registered through the Player Registration System and received approval from the Competition

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

B.
1. 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 or Tiers 1-4 of the Women Pyramid System.
2. It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any Player registered to the Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any Player aged 10 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.
3. To be eligible for the start of the season a player registration must be recorded on the WGS more than 7 (Seven) days before the first Saturday of the Playing Season. Subsequent registrations must be received 48 hours before the player is eligible to play.
4. In the event of a Non Contract Player changing his status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, or with a Club in another



Competition their registration as a Non Contract Player will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 18.B.1.

C.

A Player that owes a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) shall be permitted to register for a Club but will be suspended from football activities if the Player does not comply with the terms of the Football Debt Recovery Regulations in respect of that Football Debt.

D.

A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered.

E.

The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes.

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

F.

It shall be a breach of Rule for a Player to: -

1. Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.
2. Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season **except if the provisions set out in Rule 18 (E)(iii) apply, or where the Competition adopts rule 18(P).**
3. Submit a transfer through the Player Registration System for registration that the Player had willfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

G.

1. The Management Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rules 18(G) 2 and 3 below.
2. The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player or may fine any Player, at their discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 7).
3. The Management Committee shall have power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 7) subject to the right of appeal to the Sanctioning Authority. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the Player is registered or intending to be registered with. Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition.
4. A Player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18(G) 3 but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the Player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition would be empowered to consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.
(Note: Action under Rule 18(G) (iii) shall not be taken against a Player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and then only in cases of the Player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any event be subject to an appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. All decisions must include the period of restriction. For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the Competition into disrepute can only be considered where the Player has received in excess of 112 days' suspension, or 10 matches in match-based discipline, in any competition (and is not restricted to the Competition) in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.)

H.

Subject to compliance with FA Rule C2 (a) when a Club wishes to register a player who is already registered with another Club it shall submit a transfer notification to the Competition via the Player Registration System. A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff will be required.

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 3 days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within 3 days, the Secretary may, on behalf of the Management



Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date.

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

In addition no more than 2 players can be transferred from one Club to another Club in this Competition within ONE calendar month of each other.

I.

A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 16th March except by special permission of the Management Committee.

J.

Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.

It is the Clubs responsibility to obtain and keep a record of matches a player has participated in if they have registered for or played in other competitions in the current Playing Season that will affect their eligibility (as detailed in Rules 18M & 18O) during the current Playing Season for matches within the WSFL and forward these to the Registration Secretary immediately

K.

A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding Competition Match (as specified in Rule 22.A) unless the Player has played 6 Competition Matches for that Team in the current Playing Season.

L.

A Team shall not include more than 4 Players who have taken part in 5 or more senior Competition Matches during the current Playing Season unless a period of 21 days has elapsed since they last played.

For the purpose of this Rule more senior competitions are:

- (1) Intermediate Divisions WSFL Premier and Championship & Step 7 Leagues**
- (2) Step 6 Leagues and above.**

M.

1. Subject to Rule 18.M.2 any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a Competition Match or Matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that Competition Match deducted from its record, up to a maximum of 12 points, and have levied upon it a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

2. The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18.M.2 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.

Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 18.M.2 above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion **order one or more of the following (if appropriate):**

- a) Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed; or
- b) Levy penalty points against the Club in default; or
- c) Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).

(NB For Information Rule M2 ONLY refers to ITC issues and where a player's status changes from Contract to Non-Contract or vice versa NOT Registration issues)

NOTE: Any suspension of a Player MUST commence 7 days after a sending-off, even if the Club has not received the paperwork from the Sanctioning Authority.

N.

The following clause applies to Competitions involving Players in full-time secondary education:

1. Priority must be given at all times to activities of schools and school organisations. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

2. The availability of children and young people must be cleared with the Head Teachers or Principals (except for Sunday leagues



competitions).

3. To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16.

O.

Not in Use

P.

If a Club wishes to cancel a Player's registration within the Competition, it must make a request via The FA's electronic Player Registration System giving the reasons for the request. The Competition may either approve or decline the request.

If a Player's registration is cancelled he will not be eligible to play in the Competition for a period of 7 days from the date of cancellation.

CLUB COLOURS – 19.

A.

Every Team must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 1st August and the Competition Secretary shall decide as to their suitability.

B.

Any Team changing its colours during the Playing Season must notify the Competition Secretary immediately.

C.

Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all other Players and the Match Officials.

D.

No Player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.

E.

Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents of the colours in which they will play (including the colours of the goalkeeper's jersey) at least 3 (Three) days before the Competition Match.

F.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the away Team shall make the change. Should a Team delay the scheduled time of kick off for a Competition Match by not having a change of colours they will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff?

G.

Shirts must all be numbered, and no two shirts shall have the same number, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY, TIMES OF KICK-OFF. POSTPONEMENTS. SUBSTITUTES – 20

A.

All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board.

Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their Grounds in a playable condition. All Competition 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 Competition Matches and to order the Club concerned to play its Competition Match(es) on another ground.

Artificial Football Turf Pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition provided they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA's Register of Football Turf Pitches <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register>.. All Football Turf Pitches used must be tested (by a FIFA accredited test institute) every three years and the results passed to The FA. The FA will give a decision on the



suitability for use and add the pitch to the Register.

The home Club is also responsible for advising Participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements in accordance with Rule 20(C).

Within the National League System (“NLS”) and Regional NLS Feeder Leagues, all Competition Matches shall have duration of 90 minutes. All other Competition Matches outside of the NLS shall have duration of 90 minutes unless a shorter time (not less than sixty (60) minutes) is mutually arranged by the two Clubs in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves. Two matches involving the same two Teams can be played on the same day providing the total playing time is not more than 120 minutes.

The times of kick-off shall be agreed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs and the Competition.

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, corner flags, Assistant Referee Flags and at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if not provided. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

No overhead netting is allowed for 9v9 and 11v11 affiliated matches

Regional NLS Feeder Leagues: Overhead wires used to support pitch divider netting are removed for all affiliated matches in the NLS and at Regional NLS Feeder League level

For those leagues which are not Regional NLS Feeder Leagues: Overhead wires used to support pitch divider netting are ideally removed for affiliated matches but if they cannot be removed then discretion is given to the match official to restart the match in accordance of the laws of the game.

B.

Except by permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches must be played on the dates originally agreed but priority shall be given to The FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a Competition match with the consent of the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

In the case of a revised fixture date, the Clubs must be given by the Competition 5 clear days’ notice of the match (unless otherwise mutually agreed).

C.

An Officer of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the Ground and time of kick-off to the Match Officials and an Officer of the opposing Club at least 5 (Five) clear days prior to the playing of the match.

Included in these instructions they must advise their Opponent if they incur a Pitch Hire fee in the event that the Opponent forfeit the game.

If not so provided, the away Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

D.

In accordance with the Laws of the Game, the minimum number of Players which will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is 7.

E.

1. 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 impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff), deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the Competition Match in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except **by** the award of goals. Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a Competition 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.
2. Any Club with more than one Team in the Competition shall always fulfill its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence: - First Team, Reserve Team, A Team.



3. Any Club unable to fulfill a fixture or where a Competition Match has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the Fixtures Secretary, the Referee Appointments Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club by TELEPHONE. The HOME CLUB Secretary must advise the Match Official by TELEPHONE. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff
4. In the event of a Competition 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 arranged by the Fixtures Secretary. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and the Clubs involved agree, the Competition shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff
5. The Management Committee shall review all Competition Matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a Competition 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 Competition Match to the opponent. In cases where a Competition Match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule that neither Team will be awarded any points for that Competition Match and it shall not be replayed. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned Competition Match.
6. The Management Committee shall review any Competition Match that has taken place where either or both Teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by The FA or Affiliated Association. In each case the Team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible players in accordance with Rule 18(M) above. Where both Teams were under suspension the game must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

F.

A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use substitute Players in any Competition Match. A Club may name up to 5 (Five) substitute Players of whom not more than 5 (Five) may be used.

A player who has been substituted himself becomes a substitute and may replace a Player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

Where a Competition does allow return substitutes, a Club may use up to 5 from 5 substitute Players in a Competition Match.

The referee and opposition shall be informed of all of the names of the Players and Substitute Players by exchange of Team Sheets not later than 10 (Ten) minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a Player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match.

Any player that has qualified as a more Senior Player under RULE 18L shall be identified by a * against his name on the Team Sheet

The exchange of Team Sheets between the Teams and the Referee shall take place simultaneously in the Referees Changing Room and each Team shall have available for viewing a copy of their Squad List from W.G.S. containing player photographs – **this to be confirmed by each Club Official signing the opponents Team Sheet**

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

G.

The half time interval shall be of 5 (Five) minutes' duration, but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

H.

The Teams taking part in a Competition Match shall identify a Team captain who shall wear an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of their Teammates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine



in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

REPORTING RESULTS – 21

A.
The Competition must receive within **48 hours of the time** played, the result of each Competition Match via the F.A Full Time system. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the Team Players (in block letters) and also the referee markings required by Rule 23 and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

B.
Both Clubs shall notify the result of each Competition Match to Full Time within **1 hour** of the match being completed. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

C.
The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be completed by an Officer of the Club, or as prescribed by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP – 22

A.
Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn Competition Match. The Teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the end of the Playing Season shall be adjudged the winners.

Competition Matches must not be played for double points.

In the event of two or more Teams being equal on points at the end of the Playing Season, rankings shall be determined by goal difference (where the goals scored against each Team shall be deducted from the goals scored by that Team and the Team with the most favourable goal difference shall be placed highest).

In the event of two or more Teams still being equal, the Team which has scored the most goals during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.

In the event of two or more Teams still being equal, the Team that has won the most matches during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.

In the event of two or more 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 Playing Season will be placed highest.

If the records of two or more Teams are still equal and it is necessary for any reason to determine the position of each then the Teams affected shall play a deciding match or matches under conditions as determined by the Management Committee.

B.
Automatic promotion shall be applied for the first 2 [Two] Teams and automatic relegation shall be applied for the last 2 [Two] Teams in each division except as provided for **below**, subject to the provisions of Rule 2(L).

1. Should one or more Teams withdraw from any one division after the Playing Season has commenced an equal number of Teams to those withdrawing in that division shall not be automatically relegated.

2. Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the Playing Season may be filled in any of the following ways:

(B.B.i.a) retention of otherwise relegated Team(s); or additional promotion of the next ranked Team(s) from the division

(B.B.i.b) below; or election.

3. Not applicable to the League

4. When a Senior Team is relegated to a lower division of which its reserve Team is a member, or entitled to be a member, such reserve Team must accept relegation to, or retain its position in, the next lower division; and should the senior Team be relegated to the lowest division its reserve Team automatically retires from the Competition.



5. Should either or both of the leading Teams in any of the divisions have its senior Team in the next higher division, promotion shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next highest Team or Teams in the division concerned.

6. The Champions of the Division 2 (North & South) only shall be promoted. The Champions of Division 3 (North, South & Central) only shall be promoted along with the best placed Runner Up from each Division based on 'Points per Game'.

C.

Not relevant to this League

D.

In the event of a Team withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the Playing Season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting Team shall be expunged from the Competition table. For the purposes of this Rule 22(D) a completed fixture shall include any Competition Match(es) which has been awarded by the Management Committee.

E.

Not relevant to this League

MATCH OFFICIALS – 23

A.

Registered referees (and assistant referees where approved by The FA or County FA) for all Competition Matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Authority.

B.

1. In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed referee the appointed senior assistant referee shall take charge and a substitute assistant referee appointed by the competing Teams.

2. In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the Clubs **will** agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that Competition Match, 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 Competition Match. The Clubs agreeing to postpone the match is not an option.

C.

Where assistant referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club assistant referee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. In the Premier Division a Club Assistant Referee shall not be any of the nominated substitutes under the provisions of Rule 20 (F). Where the Referee allows a Substitute to act as an Assistant, he must inform the Club they will be reported to the competition for this.

D.

The appointed referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground in all Competition Matches and that decision shall be final, subject to the determination of the Local Authority or the owners of a Ground, which must be accepted.

E.

Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Authority, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff.

Match Officials will be paid their fees and/or expenses by the home Club immediately after the Competition Match. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

F.

In the event of a Competition 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 Competition Match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Ground, their full fee and expenses. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

G.



A referee not keeping their engagement and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Affiliated Association with which he or she is registered.

H.
Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The FA, award marks to the referee for each Competition Match and the name of the referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.

I.
The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided by the prescribed date each Season, shall submit a summary to The Sanctioning Authority.

J.
The referee shall submit a report form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the Competition Match, the number of Players in each Team and any other details required to the Referees Secretary within two days of the Competition Match.

K.
Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge

L
Match Officials shall comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA and/or Sanctioning Authority adopted by the Competition.

M.
Match Officials should be present at the appointment at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled Kick Off time

N.
It is permissible for match officials within this competition, to wear a coloured referee shirt. Should the coloured referee shirt clash with either Clubs kit, the referee must revert to black.

For example, the referee cannot choose to wear yellow, and make a Club change their entire kit, as the main colour for match officials remains black. It is however permissible now for a referee to wear yellow with a Team in blue and a Team in red for example.

The shirt(s) must be almost entirely of a single colour.

Where a Competition appoints neutral assistant referees, only one non-black coloured shirt is permitted; the colour must be designated by the League Committee and Competition rules will ensure that the match officials can wear black or the designated colour without clashing with the Players.

SPONSORSHIP – 24.

The Competitions' Management Committee has the power to administer sponsorship for any of the Competitions under its jurisdiction providing the conditions for such sponsorship comply with the Football Associations and Sussex County Football Associations requirements governing sponsorship and do not conflict with this Competitions Rules.

PREMIER DIVISION AND CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION – CONDITIONS AND FACILITIES -25

Membership of the Premier Division and Championship Division is subject to the Management Committee being satisfied that the following ground conditions and facilities are provided on the Member Club's ground

A.
Adequate dressing room accommodation for each Team, with suitable hot bath or hot shower facilities. Provision must be made for each dressing room to be locked.

B.
Referees must have a separate dressing room and suitable hot shower facilities must be available to the referee which the referee must be able to access without going through a public area. Provision must be made for the dressing room to be locked.

C.



Dimensions of the field of play must not be less than 100 yards in length and 60 yards in width

D.

Pitches must be completely and safely cordoned off for all this Competition's matches, failure to do so will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

If a Club does not satisfy the Management Committee that the ground and facilities standards are met, that Club will not be admitted to the Premier Division or Championship Division. Similarly, if a Premier Division or Championship Division Club's ground and facilities fall below the standards required by the Management Committee, that Club will be placed into Division Two (2) for the following season.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE PASSES – 26.

Each member of the Management Committee shall be furnished with a pass (not transferable) which shall admit the holder to all grounds and stands of all Clubs in association with the West Sussex Football League except when the Management Committee shall decide otherwise. Such passes to be surrendered to the General Secretary of the League when the holder no longer serves on the Management Committee.



CUP COMPETITION RULES

Names of Competitions

1. The following Cup competitions shall be under the control of the Management Committee of the West Sussex Football League:

The Malcolm Simmonds Memorial Cup, the Chichester Charity Cup, Division 3 Charity Cup the Bareham Trophy the Tony Kopp Cup, the Centenary Cup & the Walter Rossiter Trophy

Eligible Clubs

2. The Cup competitions shall be played for annually and open to the eligible Teams as shown below, or as Management Committee may decide.

Malcolm Simmonds Cup	Premier Division & Championship Division Teams
Chichester Charity Cup	Division 1 & 2 Teams
Division 3 Charity Cup	Division 3 Teams
Bareham Trophy	All Teams of junior status competing in Divisions 2 & 3 whose Club is not eligible or invited to compete in the Tony Kopp Cup.
Tony Kopp Cup	All Teams of junior status competing in Divisions 2 & 3, who at the time of the merger were members of the Horsham & District F. A. together with such other junior status Teams playing in the West Sussex Football League as may be invited.
Centenary Cup	Premier Division, Championship Division & Division 1 Teams or other Teams by invitation.
Walter Rossiter Trophy	Winners of the Premier Division and the Malcolm Simmonds Cup or any other Team by invitation

A Club cannot enter more than one Team in any one competition.

Entry Fees

3. A fee of £15.00 will be charged for entry to each of the competitions named in Cup Rule No. 2 except the Rossiter Trophy

Organisation of the Competitions

4. The Competitions Committee shall have the power to divide the competing Teams into geographically convenient districts to such a stage in the competition as they may deem necessary.

The ties shall be drawn using Full Time. Matches shall be played on the ground & date fixed by the Fixtures Secretary, who shall give the Clubs five (5) clear days' notice. Should the tie be postponed on two occasions due to poor condition of the ground the Fixtures Secretary can order a change of venue



In the event of a drawn game all matches shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the Laws of the Game – knockout competitions – obtaining a result.

The final tie may be played on a neutral ground which, together with the date, shall be arranged by the Competition.

Proceeds of Matches

5. The gate receipts or collections at each match, after the Referee's and Assistant Referee's fees and expenses have been deducted, must be sent to the Treasurer of the League within three (3) days of the match. If no gate is taken a collection must be made. In the event of the Referee's and Assistant Referee's fee and expenses exceeding the gate or collection taken, a statement must be sent to the Treasurer of the League within three (3) days of the match.

The Management Committee shall devote a proportion of the gate receipts and collections from the Malcolm Simmonds Memorial Cup, Chichester Charity Cup and Divisions 3, 4 and 5 Charity Cup Competitions, to the Sussex County F. A. Benevolent Fund, or such charitable organisations as Council may decide, in accordance with the Football Association's regulations governing charity challenge cup competitions.

The net gate receipts and collections from the Bareham Trophy and the Tony Kopp Cup competitions shall be devoted to the funds of the West Sussex Football League.

Qualification of Players

6. The qualification of players shall be as in the West Sussex Football League but no player shall be qualified to play in the semi-final or final tie unless he has played at least six (6) games under the control of the West Sussex Football League, for his Club during the current Playing Season.

Any Club found guilty of playing an ineligible player shall be removed from the competition.

A player shall not play for more than one Club in any one season in the same competition, for the purposes of this rule the Tony Kopp Cup and the Bareham Trophy are regarded as one competition

A Club may not play more than four players, collectively, of senior or intermediate status in any one match, except, in the Malcolm Simmonds Memorial Cup Competition or the Centenary Cup.

A player who has played in the Malcolm Simmonds Memorial Cup competition shall not be eligible to play in any of the other cup and trophy competitions in the same season except with the consent of the Management Committee.

A player, who has played in the Chichester Charity Cup competition, shall not be eligible to play in the Divisions 3 Cup but may play in the The Bareham Trophy, or The Tony Kopp Cup competitions in the same season, except with the consent of the Management Committee.



Assistant Referees

7.

(a) Each Club shall provide a Club Assistant Referee for the duration of the match except the final tie when Referees and Assistant Referees shall be appointed by the Competitions Committee. Assistant Referees may be appointed to all or any semi-final subject to availability.

Assistant Referees' fees for semi-finals and finals for the Malcolm Simmonds Memorial Cup shall be as paid in the early rounds of the Sussex County F. A. Intermediate Cup, and for all other Cups, as paid in the early rounds of the Sussex County F. A. Junior Cup. Traveling expenses shall be as per rate shown in League Rule No.13 (E).

(b) Each Home Club shall be responsible for providing standard Assistant Referee's flags.

A Club failing to comply with either part of this Rule shall be fined £12.00. Referees shall report any breach of this Rule to the General Secretary of the Competition.

In the Malcolm Simmonds Memorial Cup Competition, a Club Assistant Referee shall not be any of the nominated substitutes under the provisions of League Rule No. 13C.

Kick-off Times

8. All kick-off times shall be at 3.00 pm. except in November, December, January, and February when the kick-off time shall be 2 p.m. unless advised and agreed otherwise by the Fixtures Secretary. For matches played on grounds with approved floodlights, kick-off times will be 3.00 pm. on Saturdays and 7.30 pm. for mid-week fixtures, unless advised or agreed otherwise by the Fixtures Secretary. Referees shall report any breach of this rule in writing to the General Secretary and advise the captain of the offending Team of his intention.

Duration of Matches

9. All matches shall be played according to the Rules of the League and Laws of the Game.

Medals

10. The League shall present plaques, medals, or other suitable mementoes to the players of both Teams in final ties. The Referee, Assistant Referees and Fourth Official shall have the choice of a memento or match fee in accordance with League Rule No. 13E and Cup Rule No. 7.

Rules

11. In all other respects than the foregoing, the Rules governing the West Sussex Football League Competition shall apply.



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

1. Any act, statement, conduct or other matter which harms a child or children, or poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children, shall constitute behavior which is improper and brings the game into disrepute.

2.

(a) In these Regulations, the expression "Offence" shall mean any one or more of the offences contained in the Schedules of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 and any other criminal offence which reasonably causes The Association to believe that the person accused of the offence poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children.

(b) All persons in such positions that The Association deems relevant whose normal duties include caring for, training, supervising or being in sole charge of children are required to obtain an Enhanced Disclosure via The Association's CRB process.

3. Upon receipt by The Association of:

3.1 notification that an individual has been charged with an Offence; or

3.2 notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the Police, Social Services or any other authority relating to an Offence; or

3.3 any other information which causes The Association reasonably to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children then The Association shall have the power to order that the individual be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.

4. In reaching its determination as to whether an order under Regulation 3 should be made The Association shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:

4.1 whether a child is or children are or may be at risk of harm;

4.2 whether the matters are of a serious nature;

4.3 whether an order is necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by The Association or any other authority or body to precede unimpeded.

5. The period of an order referred to in 3 above shall not be capable of lasting beyond the date upon which any charge under the Rules of The Association or any Offence is decided or ended.

6. Where an order is imposed on an individual under regulation 3 above, The Association shall bring and conclude any proceedings under the Rules of The Association against the person relating to the matters as soon as reasonably practicable.



7. Where a person is convicted or is made the subject of a caution in respect of an Offence, that shall constitute a breach of the Rules of The Association and The Association shall have the power to order the suspension of the person from all or any specific football activity for such a period (including indefinitely) and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.

8. For the purposes of these Regulations, The Association shall act through its Council or any committee or sub-committee thereof, including the Board.

9. Notification in writing of an order referred to above shall be given to the person concerned and/or any Club with which he is associated as soon as reasonably practicable.

10. The applicable standard of proof shall be the civil standard, of the balance of probability. The more serious the allegation taking into account the nature of the misconduct alleged and the context of the case the greater the burden of evidence required to find the matter proved. Save that for charges pursuant to The Football Association's Safeguarding Children Policy, where the welfare and protection of children shall be paramount, and the test shall be whether more likely than not.



SPONSORSHIP SCHEME

When there is no sponsor in place the 'sponsorship' awards will be paid at the discretion of the League committee from available funds or not.

(a) TEAMS OF THE MONTH

Teams will be divided into two Sections; one Section will comprise of all Teams in the Premier Division, Championship Division & Division One. The second Section will comprise of all Teams in Division Two & Three.

A sum of £100 per month will be given to each Section for a period of eight months (September to April inclusive) to the Club with a Team gaining the most points in each monthly period. Points will be calculated as follows:

Three for a win and one for a draw, plus a point for every goal scored.

The games to be considered will include all matches administered by this League played on a Saturday.

From the aggregate amount of points scored during the month shall be deducted the following penalty points – five for a sending off and two for a caution.

(i) No Team shall be eligible for more than one monthly award during the course of the season, though this shall not be taken to exclude different Teams of the same Club.

(ii) In the event of two or more Teams having the same net score, the winner shall be the Team with fewest penalty points. If the totals, then remain level the Team which has the highest number of goals for the month shall be the winner.

(b) TEAMS OF THE YEAR

A sum of £300 will be given to the Club with a Team which has gained the highest number of points at the end of the season in each Section.

Points will be based on the aggregate number of points (three for a win and one for a draw) from all League matches played during the season LESS any penalty points incurred in such matches (five for a sending off and two for a caution). A Team which has not incurred any penalty points for misconduct throughout the season shall receive bonus points of twenty, to be added to its total of League points in deciding its final aggregate score at the end of the season.

In the event of two or more Teams having the same number of points in their section after taking into account any penalty points or bonus points then the award shall go to the Team which has scored the highest number of goals in League matches.



All Teams shall be eligible for consideration for the Team of the Year award for their particular section of the League irrespective of whether or not they have previously gained one of the monthly awards.

(c) The Management Committee reserves the right to withhold making an award to any Club whose Players, Officials or Spectators have been found guilty by a County Football Association of Misconduct against any Match Official/s whether such Official/s have been appointed by the League or not. This right will also apply where the Players, Officials or Spectators of a Club have been found guilty by a County Football Association of Misconduct against any Players, Officials or Spectators of another Club.

(d) In the event of any dispute, the decision of the Management Committee shall be final.

SCHEDULE A

FEES TARIFF		
RULE	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
4 A	CLUB ENTRY FEE	£20.00
4 B	CLUB/TEAM ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£35.00
4 C	DEPOSIT	£50.00
7 C, 7 E,	PROTEST/APPEAL FEES	£35.00
18 D	PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE	£2.00
18 H	TRANSFER FEE	£12.00
23 E	REFEREE FEES	£45 (Int) £40 (Jun)
23 E	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES	£ N/A

FINES TARIFF		
RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
2 G	FAILURE TO AFFILIATE	£12.00
2 I	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£50.00
2 K	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	£12.00
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	£12.00
4 C	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£12.00
4 E	FAILURE TO PROVIDE AFFILIATION NUMBER/DETAILS FORM	£12.00
5 E	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN	£12.00

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	NOMINATED OFFICERS	
6 I	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£50.00
6 J	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£50.00
8 H	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£50.00
9	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM	£50.00
10	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES	£12.00
11 A	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE	£50.00
11 B	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£50.00
13 A	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£25.00
16 B	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£12.00
18 A	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£12.00
18 F	REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS, OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION/TRANSFER FORM	£12.00
18 G 2	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£50.00
<u>18 L</u>	FIELDING MORE THAN THE PERMITTED NUMBER OF PLAYERS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SENIOR COMPETITIONS MATCHES	£12.00
<u>18 M</u>	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£50.00
<u>18 N</u>	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£12.00
<u>19 F</u>	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS	£12.00
<u>19 G</u>	FAILURE TO HAVE DIFFERENT NUMBER SHIRTS	£12.00
20 A	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT	£12.00
20 B	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	£12.00
20 C	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£12.00
20 E	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	£50.00
20 E 6	NO PLAYER PHOTOS AVAILABLE	£12.00
20 F	NO/LATE TEAM SHEET	£12.00
20 H	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£12.00
21 A	LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION FORM	£12.00
21 B	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT	£12.00
21C	RESULT NOTIFICATION NOT SIGNED BY APPROPRIATE SIGNATORIES	£12.00
23 C	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£50.00
23 E	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES	£12.00
23 F	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£12.00
23 H	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£12.00