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STANDARD CODE OF RULES

This document contains the Standard Code of Rules developed by The Football Association for open age football (the "Standard Code").

The Standard Code is mandatory for all Competitions at Step 7 of the National League System and below, and The FA Women's Pyramid excluding FA Women's Super League and FA Women's Championship.

Competitions seeking sanction must draft their Rules in conformity with the Standard Code, using the same numbering and standard headings.

The mandatory rules are printed in normal text and the optional rules in italics are used, unused optional rules are in ~~italics in blue with a line through~~.

It should be noted that in many cases rules are so printed because they are alternatives and the procedure to apply should be retained and the others omitted.

In all cases where a [] is shown the necessary name, address, number or wording to complete that rule must be inserted. Competitions may add to the core of the Standard Code (These are noted with []), which is mandatory, providing the additions are approved by the Sanctioning Authority and do not conflict with the mandatory rules or any relevant principles and policies established by The FA. Local Rules are denoted by **ND** at the start of each rule.

Guidance from the Sanctioning Authority should be sought in advance if there is any doubt as to the acceptability of additional rules.

DEFINITIONS

1. (A) In these Rules:

“Affiliated Association” means an Association accorded the status of an Affiliated Association under the rules of The FA.

“AGM” shall mean the annual general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition. “Club” means a club for the time being in membership of the Competition. “Competition” means the [\[North Devon Association Football League\]](#).

“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.

“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.

“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 [\[Devon County Football Association Limited\]](#).

“Scholarship” means a Scholarship as set out in Rule C 3 (a) (i) of the rules of The FA. “Season” means the period of time between an AGM and the subsequent 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.

“written” or “in writing” means the representation or reproduction of words or symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.

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

(C) Please note that from the 2021/22 season all players must be registered though WGS.

GOVERNANCE RULES

COMPETITION NAME, CONSTITUTION

2.

- (A) The Competition will be known as **[NORTH DEVON 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 **[100]** Clubs ~~and/or~~ **[Teams]** approved by the Sanctioning Authority.
- (C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be **[50 Miles radius of Barnstaple.]**
- (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 thereto, subject to the provisions of Rule 7.
- (F) The Rules are taken from the Standard Code of Rules (the "Standard Code") determined by The 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) 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.
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~~ **[] in number.**
- (H) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination
 - (i) The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (to include those contained in the Equality Act 2010).
 - (ii) This Competition and 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.
 - (iii) 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, Charter Standard and RESPECT programmes. 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 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 shall be permitted from any Club to participate in the same division as another Team from the same Club unless there is no viable alternative because of logistical issues and/or reasons linked to participation and geographical boundaries. The Competition will obtain the prior approval of the Sanctioning Authority in the event of a division comprising of more than one Team from the same Club. This Competition will ensure that, where permission is given, Teams from a Club operating in the same division are run as separate entities with no interchange of players other than via transfers of registration in accordance with these Rules.

ND 2.1. It is a requirement of the League that all clubs maintain their Charter Standard Award status. Any new club/team joining the League is required to achieve the Standard within 12 months.

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CLUB NAME

- 3. Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority and from the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

4. (A) Applications by Clubs for admission to the Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same Club must be made in writing to the Secretary and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee per Team as set out in the Fees Tariff, 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 AGM or an SGM.

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

- (B) The annual subscription shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Club/[Team] payable on or before the AGM of the Competition in each year.
- (C) In the event of any issue concerning the membership of any Club with the Competition the Management Committee may require a Deposit to be paid (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 September] 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.

ND 4.1. As a condition of entry to the Premier Division the following ground standards are required:

- (i). An enclosed and well maintained playing area.
- (ii). Separate changing rooms for two teams on, or adjacent to, the ground with shower or warm washing facilities and toilets.
- (iii). Separate changing room for match officials on, or adjacent to, the ground with shower or other warm water washing facilities.
- (iv). Adequate dug-outs, or covered shelter, for team officials and substitutes.

The Management Committee shall have the power during the playing season to (a) fine any club not meeting the standards £25.00 and/or, (b) order a club to play home matches on another ground that is up to standard and (c) at the end of the season, where a Premier club's ground has fallen below standard, to relegate the club to the Senior Division.

As a condition of entry to the Competition the following minimum ground standards are required for Clubs not playing in the Premier Division:

- (v). All clubs are required to have changing rooms for teams on, or adjacent to, the ground with shower or warm washing facilities and toilets.
- (vi). All clubs are required to have a separate changing room for match officials on, or adjacent to, the ground with shower or warm washing facilities.

ND 4.2. The Competition will not permit the sharing of one pitch by more than two Saturday League teams.

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MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

5. (A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and [12] 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 [1st 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 [1st 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 with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the AGM.

- (C) The Management Committee shall meet as and when required, save that no more than three calendar months shall pass between each meeting.

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.

ND 5.1. No person shall be permitted to fill the role of a Club Secretary in this league for the first time without first having either (i) attended a meeting called by the League Secretary to acquaint him/her of the duties involved, or (ii) met the League Secretary individually for the same purpose. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

ND 5.2. All clubs will provide at least one delegate to attend a pre-season managers' meeting. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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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 upon each Club (including any club which may have withdrawn during the Season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the Season.

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

In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman of the Management Committee shall have a second or casting vote.

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

With the exception of Rules 6(I), 8(H), and 9, for all alleged breaches of 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:

- (i) Accept the charge and submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
- (ii) Accept the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or
- (iii) Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
- (iv) Deny the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee.

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

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

Having considered the reply of the Club (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).

With the exception of Teams playing at Step 7 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 Step 7 of the National League System 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 Association.

(E) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7.

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

(F) **[Fifty Percent (50%)]** of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any sub-committee thereof.

(G) The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill in an acting capacity, any vacancies that may occur amongst their number.

- (H) A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (I) Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision. Any Club failing to do so will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.
- (J) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or Competition Match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.
- (K) The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the AGM or SGM called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Playing Season.
- (L) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

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PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

- 7. (A) (i) 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.
 - (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 Competition Match.
 - (B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within [4] 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.
 - (i) All parties must have received [7] days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.
 - (ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then 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):
 - (i) invite submissions by the parties involved;
 - (ii) convene a hearing to hear the appeal;
 - (iii) permit new evidence; or
 - (iv) impose deadlines as are appropriate
 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 or complaints relating to these Rules and appeals arising from a Player's contract shall be heard and determined by the Management Committee, or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee. The Clubs or Players protesting, appealing, claiming or complaining must send a copy of such protest, appeal, claim or complaint and deposit a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff) which shall be forfeited in the event of the protest, appeal, claim or complaint not being upheld, and the party not succeeding may, in addition, be ordered to pay the costs at the direction of the Management Committee.
- All such protests, claims, complaints and appeals must be received in writing by the Secretary within fourteen days of the event or decision causing any of these to be submitted.

ND 7.1. Protests against teams being strengthened must be submitted within 10 days of the match or, to allow for factors such as late team sheets, at a number of days' subject to the discretion of the Registration Secretary.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8. (A) The AGM shall be held not later than **[the second Friday in July]** in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least **[25]** members are present and entitled to vote:-
- (i) To receive and confirm the minutes of the preceding AGM.
 - (ii) To receive and adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts.
 - (iii) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
 - (iv) Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Season.
 - (v) Election of Officers of the Competition and the Management Committee members.
 - (vi) Appointment of auditors.
 - (vii) Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14)
 - (viii) Fix the date for the commencement of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.
 - (ix) Fix the date for the end of the Playing Season (save for Step 7 which shall be determined by The FA).
 - (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an AGM.
- (B) A copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet, statement of accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 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 voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.
- (G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Club.
- (H) Any continuing Club must be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply 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.
- (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.

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SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

9. Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call a SGM.
- The Management Committee may call a SGM at any time.
- At least seven (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.
- Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Any Club failing to be represented at a SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs.

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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 **[North Devon Football League]** 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:
- (i) Where a Club is an unincorporated association, the Club chairman and secretary; or
 - (ii) Where a Club is an incorporated entity, two directors of the Club.
- Any alteration of the chairman and /or secretary of the Club on the above agreement must be notified to the **[Devon]** County Football Association(s) to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. [Index](#)

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

11. (A) Any Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a Team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the Secretary in writing by 31st March each season. This does not apply to a Club moving in accordance with Rule 22(B). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (B) The Management Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a Team being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season, including, but not limited to, issuing a fine in accordance with the 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.

ND 11.1. Any Club withdrawing a team under the context of this rule must withdraw its most junior Team or apply to the competition to withdraw another team. The competition will deal with this on a case by case basis and may place sanctions on the club and/or its players. The playing record of the Team withdrawing shall be expunged.

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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, which must be supported by more than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.
- (C) Any Officer or member of a Club proved guilty of either a breach of Rule, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a Player or Players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of clause (A) and/or (B) of this Rule.

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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 Chairman and Secretary of “Club Name” FC (Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of cup or trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the cup or trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before **[the March LMC meeting]**. 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/shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.*

ND 13.1. Trophies must be returned engraved and cleaned. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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ALTERATION TO RULES

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

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM 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 the Clubs by **[8th May]** and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by **[15th May]**. 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.

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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 £[500] 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 May].
- (D) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be *audited/verified* annually by a suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.
- ND 15.1** All expenditure in excess of £500 shall be approved by the Management Committee when using the League Debit Card or Online Banking

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INSURANCE

16. (A) All Clubs must have valid public liability insurance cover of at least 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.

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

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MATCH RELATED RULES

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

18. (A) A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:
- (i) signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by an Officer of the Club, which is submitted to the Competition [0] days prior to the Player playing and whose registration has been confirmed by the Competition prior to that Player playing in a Competition Match; Or
 - (ii) signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink on a match day prior to playing which is countersigned by an Officer of the Club and witnessed by an Officer of the opposing Club, and submitted to the Competition within two days (Sundays excluded) subsequent to the Competition Match. The Player shall not play again on a subsequent match day until the Club is in possession of the approval of the Competition. A maximum of [2] Players may be registered in accordance with this paragraph 18(A)(ii); or
 - (iii) registered through WGS.
 - (iv) **For the purpose of player consent, Clubs will be required to obtain player consent using the online consent within WGS only. No other form of consent will be accepted by this competition.**

Any registration form which is sent by either of the means set out at Rules 18(A) (i) or (ii) above that is not fully and correctly completed will be returned to the Club unprocessed. If a Club attempts to register a player via WGS but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via WGS, the registration will not be processed.

For Clubs registering Players under Rules 18(A) (i) or (ii), registration forms will be provided in a format to be determined by the Competition. For Clubs registering Players via WGS (under Rule 18 (A) (iii)), Clubs must access WGS in order to complete the registration process.

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

- (B)
- (i) Contract players are not permitted in this Competition with the exception of those Players who are registered under Contract with the same Club who have a team operating at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System. It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any Player registered to the Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any Player aged 10 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.
 - (ii) Each Club must have at least [11] Players registered [7] days before the start of each Playing Season. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (C) A Player that owes a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) to any club(s) shall be permitted to register and play for a Club in Competition Matches, save that the Player may be liable to be suspended from playing for that Club should the Player fail to comply with the terms of the Football Debt Recovery Regulations in respect of that Football Debt.

ND 18.1. For the purposes of standard rule 18C, you must follow and use the Devon FA Debt Recovery System as detailed in the County Handbook. Any club that reports a player's debt to the League for the suspension of that player's registration, must, within 112 days, use the Devon FA Debt Recovery System. Upon the expiry of 112 days the player's registration suspension with the League will be lifted.

- (D) A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered.
- (E) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes.
- In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club, priority of registration shall decide for which Club the Player shall be registered. The Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.
- (F) It shall be a breach of Rule for a Player to:-
- (i) Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.
 - (ii) Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season except for the purpose of a transfer.
 - (iii) Submit a signed registration form or submit a registration through WGS for registration that the Player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

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

- (G)
- (i) The Management Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rules 18(G) (ii) and (iii) below.
 - (ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player or may fine any Player, at their discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 7).
 - (iii) The Management Committee shall have power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 7) subject to the right of appeal to the Sanctioning Authority. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the Player is registered or intending to be registered with.
Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition.
 - (iv) For a Player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18(G)(iii) but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the Player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition would be empowered to consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.
(Note: Action under Rule 18(G) (iii) shall not be taken against a Player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and then only in cases of the Player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any 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 form (in a format as determined by the Competition) to the Competition accompanied by a fee as set out in the Fees Tariff. Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to the

club for which the player is registered. Should this club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the player concerned within 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 or [nil] 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.

ND 18.2. No player shall be granted more than two transfers in the current season.

- (I) A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after [the 31st March for Registrations and after the 28th February for Transfers] except by special permission of the Management Committee.

ND 18.3. Clubs may only start transferring a player from another club on or after the 1st September in each season

- (J) A Club shall keep a list of the Players it registers and a record of all matches in which those Players have played for the Club, and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee.
- (K) A register containing the names of all Players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the (*Registrations*) Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of an Officer of the Club at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.

In the event of a Non Contract Player without a written contract changing his status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition or with a club in another competition his registration as a Non Contract Player will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 18(B)(i).

- (L) A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding Competition Match (as specified in Rule 22(A)) unless the Player has played [9] Competition Matches for that Team in the current Playing Season.
- (M) A Team shall not include more than [one] Players who [has] ~~have~~ taken part in [three] or more senior Competition Matches during the current Playing Season unless a period of 21 days has elapsed since they last played [or they have played for the junior team/s in more matches than the senior team/s.]

For the purpose of this Rule a senior competition(s) ~~is/~~ [are a league or league cup match within the Competition or a higher level in the football pyramid.]

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

- (N)
- (i) Subject to Rule 18(N)(ii), 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).
- (ii) The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18(N)(i) 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.
- (iii) Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 18(N)(i) above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion:
- 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
 - Levy penalty points against the Club in default; or
 - Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).

ND 18.4. Any Club fielding a player under an assumed name will incur a fine of £100 per offence.

- (O) The following clause applies to Competitions involving Players in full-time secondary education:-
- Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
 - The availability of children must be cleared with the Head Teachers (except for Sunday leagues competitions).
 - To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16.

- ND 18.5.** A clerical error on a team sheet involving a player's surname or first name will be dealt with as follows: (i) The Registration Secretary shall contact the offending club to obtain a list of players and substitutes that played in the respective match.
- (ii) The Registration Secretary shall forward that list to the opposing side.
- (iii) The opposing side must respond within 3 days to either confirm that they agree with the list or that they dispute the list.
- (iv) If they agree the list, the result shall stand and the offending team shall be fined in accordance with the fines tariff.
- (v) If the opposition dispute the list, the matter shall be referred to a sub-committee who will review the matter at a specially convened meeting to occur within 7 days of the receipt of the opposition's dispute. That sub-committee's decision shall be final but subject to appeal under Rule 16.

~~(P) A Player who has played for a Team in the [] division [] times or more shall not in that Playing Season be eligible to play in a lower division except by permission of the Management Committee.~~

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CLUB COLOURS

19. Every Club must register the colour of its **[Home and Away outfield players & goal keeper]** shirts and shorts with the Secretary by **[7th August]** who shall decide as to their suitability.

Any Club wishing to change its colours during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the Management Committee.

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

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

Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents the colours in which they will play (including the colours of the goalkeepers jersey) at least **[5]** days before the Competition Match.

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

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

ND 19.1. Clubs will be required to play in their registered shirt & shorts home colours (inc goal keeper) in all home fixtures (inc cup competitions) and registered shirt & shorts away colours (inc goal keeper) in all away fixtures (inc cup competitions).

Should your outfield colours clash, it will be the away team's responsibility as per rule 19 to use their alternative colour. Should your goal keeper colours clash with the outfield players, it will be the your team's responsibility to use your alternative colour.

Any colour changes must be notified to the opposing team & match official in writing (email) within 5 days of the match of the shirt & shorts colours (inc goal keeper).

Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance to the fines tariff

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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.

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. 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") all Competition Matches shall have a duration of 90 minutes. All 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 fixed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs prior to the scheduled date of the Competition Match with written notification given to the Competition at least 7 days prior.

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

The home Team must provide goal nets, corner flags and at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

ND 20.1. Each team must be equipped to provide basic first aid to any injured player. Any teams failing to comply with any of the match requirements in this paragraph will incur a fine in accordance with the fines tariff.

ND 20.2. All matches must be played on the ground allocated by the Fixtures Secretary unless permission is given by him to play on an alternative ground, and any Club not complying with this rule shall be fined in accordance with the fines tariff.

(B) Except by permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches must be played on the dates originally fixed 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 (*Fixtures*) Secretary. 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).

ND 20.3 Two clubs may postpone a League match by mutual agreement. Written notification must be given by both clubs to the Fixtures Secretary in advance of the scheduled date of the match, and the match rearranged in accordance with Rule 20(E). A fine in accordance with the fines tariff shall be imposed on any club failing to do this. This paragraph does not apply to League Cup matches.

(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 [0] clear days prior to the playing of the match. If not so provided, the away Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition. **[All Club Officials & Match Officials will be notified by Full-Time every Sunday 12 noon or 1 hour after any amendment to their fixture.]** 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 that will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is [7] Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(E)(i) Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have power to 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 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.

When the Management Committee is satisfied that there has been abuse of this rule, a fine in accordance with the fines tariff shall be imposed on the offending club.

(ii) Any Club with more than one Team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence: - First Team, Reserve Team, A Team.

(iii) Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a Competition Match has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the Fixtures Secretary, the Competition Referees Appointments Secretary, the secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials.

(iv) 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 to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Fixtures Secretary within [7] days the Management Committee shall have the power to order the Competition Match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and the Clubs involved agree, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand. *Providing gate money is taken and retained the visiting Club shall receive their actual standard class rail or bus fares or the equivalent for [] persons, or car allowance at [] p per mile for transporting [] persons, or hire charge of a coach (receipt to be submitted). The residue (if any) to be equally*

~~divided between the two Clubs after deducting the cost of advertising, printing, posting, police and Match Officials charges. The home Club shall take the whole of the proceeds of the second Competition Match.~~

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

- (v) 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.
- (vi) 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(N) above. Where both Teams were under suspension the game must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.

ND 20.4. In bad weather conditions which make ground or travelling conditions impracticable, the Management Committee shall accept the agreed decision of both clubs to postpone the fixture, or the opinion of a qualified referee (which may be requested by either club) that the condition of the ground on match day is not suitable for the match to be played. No club shall inform its own selected players that a match has been postponed for such reasons until agreement on the postponement has been reached with the opposing club. If the clubs fail to agree and are unable to obtain the prior opinion of a qualified referee such decision shall be taken by the match referee on arrival, except where the owners of the ground forbid its use, such decision shall be binding on all concerned. Written confirmation of the owner's decision may be requested by the League

(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 ~~3, 4, [5] 6, 7~~ substitute Players of whom not more than ~~3, 4, [5]~~ may be used.

[In the lowest division only,] 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 ~~[3 from 3 substitutes Players] [4 from 4 substitute Players]~~ 5 from 5 substitute Players in a Competition Match.

The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitute Players not later than [30] minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a Player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match.

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 [10] 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 ~~may~~[shall] wear an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his/her teammates.

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

ND 20.5. No club may be forced to play a game on a Sunday, Christmas Day or Good Friday, however if a Club has agreed in writing to do so, or has accepted a fixture on any of these days, then it cannot use the terms of this rule as cause for failing to fulfil the fixture.

ND 20.6. All teams must be prepared to play a minimum of three evening matches during August and September.

ND 20.7. The number on the shirt of each player must be inserted on the team sheet next to their name. The shirt number must be inserted on to the team sheet prior to the kick off. Referees must report all breaches of this rule to the competition. Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the fines tariff.

ND 20.8. Prior to each match the participating teams and official(s) SHALL conduct the 'Respect' handshake. It is the responsibility of both Clubs to ensure this Respect protocol is conducted prior to the match commencing and where required the Match Official should assist with direction and guidance as required. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

REPORTING RESULTS

21. (A) The ~~[Registration]~~~~/Fixtures~~ Secretary must receive within **[2 clear]** days of the date played, 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 23, or 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) The **[Home Club]** ~~/both Clubs~~ shall ~~telephone/~~ **[SMS]** ~~/email/notify~~ the result of each Competition Match to the **[League's Results Service]** by **[within one 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 signed 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.

ND 21.1. All results shall be reported by the home team only. Should an away team decide to report a result this is acceptable but reporting an incorrect result will incur a fine in accordance with the fines tariff.

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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 **[two]** Teams and automatic relegation shall be applied for the last **[two]** Teams in each division except as provided for hereunder, subject to the provisions of Rule 2(L).*
- (i) *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.*
- (ii) *Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the Playing Season may be filled in any of the following ways:*
- (a) *retention of otherwise relegated Team(s); or*
- (b) *additional promotion of the next ranked Team(s) from the division below; or (c) election.*
- (iii) ~~*The last [] Teams in the lowest division shall retire, but be eligible for re-election except as below, and be subject to the conditions of Rule 22 (B)(i) above.*~~
- (iv) *When a senior Team is relegated to a lower division of which its reserve Team is a member, or entitled to be a member, such reserve Team must accept relegation to, or retain its position in, the next lower division; and should the senior Team be relegated to the lowest division its reserve Team automatically retires from the Competition.*
- (v) *Should either or both of the leading Teams in any of the divisions have its senior Team in the next higher division, promotion shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next highest Team or Teams in the division concerned.*
- (C) ~~*In addition to the Team(s) automatically promoted under Rule 22(B), a maximum of one further Team shall be promoted by virtue of being the winner of a play-off match or series of matches (the "Play-Offs"). The eligibility criteria and format of the Play-Offs are as follows [].*~~
- (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) *Where a promotion and/or relegation link exists between Competitions **[two]** Clubs, providing they meet the appropriate grading criteria, will be eligible to make application to the **[Devon Football League]** Competition at their AGM. Should the champion Club not wish for promotion or, alternatively, not have the necessary grading criteria, then the **second** or **third** placed Club will be eligible under the same conditions.*

At the end of each Season and depending on the geographical location of Clubs gaining promotion to or being relegated from the *[Devon Football League]* Competition, it may be necessary for the Competition either (a) to accept a Club from *[any other]* Competition, or (b) have a Club transferred to the same Competition.

~~The bottom [] Clubs in the [] Competition will be relegated. Each relegated Club will be allocated either to the [] Competition or to the Competition recommended as most appropriate by the Joint Liaison Committee.~~

~~[] Clubs will be promoted to the [] Competition from the [] Competition, and the [] Competition providing that each Club is either the Champion Club or Runner-up or [] placed Club and has the necessary grading criteria.~~

~~In the event of there being no eligible Club wishing promotion or not having the necessary grading criteria from any of the Competitions, this will reduce the number of Clubs to be relegated from the [] Competition.~~

~~If only [] Clubs are eligible or wish for promotion, the bottom [] Clubs in the [] Competition will be relegated. If only [] Club is eligible or wishes promotion, only the bottom Club in the [] Competition will be relegated.~~

~~If no Clubs are eligible, or wish for promotion, no Clubs will be relegated from the [] Competition.~~

~~In the event of a [] Competition Club not being placed in the bottom [] Clubs at the end of the Playing Season, wishing to resign from the Competition at the end of the Playing Season, or having been excluded under Rule [] only [] Clubs will be relegated at the end of the Playing Season.~~

~~In the event of a [] Competition Club opting to be relegated or being relegated under Rule [] such Club or Clubs will replace the Club or Clubs otherwise due for relegation.~~

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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) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed referee the appointed senior assistant referee shall take charge and a substitute assistant referee appointed by the competing Teams. In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the Clubs shall 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.

(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.

(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 and ~~travel expenses of [40p] per mile / or~~ **inclusive of travel expenses.**

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

ND 23.1. Payments to Officials must be made using cash unless previously agreed by the Club with the Officials. 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 ~~full fee plus expenses/half fee plus expenses/~~ **[expenses only (40p per Mile)]**. 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 his or her engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their nonappearance, 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 FA/County FA.

(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 the time of kick-off to the* ~~(Registration)~~ **League Referee Officer & League Secretary within two days of the Competition Match. Other information will be added to this form as per the leagues requirements.**

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

(L) ~~Match Officials shall have undertaken a RESPECT briefing offered by The FA/County FA or the Competition.~~

ND 23.2. Any Club marking a referee 60 or below must submit a report in support of such low marking. The League can request at any time for a club to explain in writing their Referee Mark. Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff.

ND 23.3. All Referee's to apply to the League Secretary to Referee in the North Devon Football League by the 31st July except any wishing to gain Premier Division Referee Status will be by the 14th July, All Referees may be required to attend a League Referee Briefing meeting before the start of the season. Late applications or new referees after the closing date will be subject to approval by the League Management Committee.

ND 23.4. All level 5 Referees or any level 6 Referees currently in for promotion to level 5 will be able to apply to Referee any Premier Division games by 14th July. Premier Division Referee Status Referees will also be expected to Referee all other divisions as and when required. Applications after the closing date will be subject to approval by the League Management Committee, who will also be permitted to propose level 6 or below referees should there be insufficient level 5 and level 6 promotion candidates apply.

ND 23.5. Referees must give the Referee Appointments Board Secretary notice of any dates they cannot do for the following months fixtures by the 14th of each month. Any appointments issued that are not fulfilled must be reported to the Referee Appointments Board Secretary with a satisfactory reason given, this will then be passed to the League Referee Officer.

ND 23.6 At the Referees discretion, a stoppage for a drinks break of no more than 1 minute will be allowed in the competition in certain weather conditions (e.g. high humidity and temperatures)

ND 23.7 Any person who is registered as a player and/or a club official for a member club will not be allowed to referee in any league or league cup fixtures in the current season. Should they wish to referee they must first seek permission of the league with proof that they no longer are part of that member club. Players will be allowed to deregister to referee but will not be allowed to re-register for that season.

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BENEVOLENT FUND

ND 24.1. (A) The fund shall be called the North Devon Association Football League Benevolent Fund and be entirely under the management of the Officers of the League. **(B)** £2.50 of each team entry to be allocated to the Benevolent Fund.

(C) The object of the Fund shall be to grant assistance to players of Clubs in membership of the Competition who are injured and off work for more than 14 calendar days whilst playing in matches under the jurisdiction of the Competition, Devon County Cups or Local Cup Competitions that have made a contribution to the Fund and to make grants to dependents when funds allow in case of fatal injury. **(D)** If a player of a team is injured whilst playing in a match that qualifies under Rule 24.1 (C) he will receive a lump sum payment after being off work for 14 days from the date of the match.

(E) Club secretaries must claim on his behalf enclosing proof of injury.

(F) Amounts will vary according to circumstances.

(G) Local Cup Competitions may have access to the Fund on payment of a contribution in the sum of £50.00 per season. A Local Cup Competition shall not be covered by the Fund until such payment has been received by the League.

(H) Any decision made by the Officers of the League concerning a Fund payment may be appealed within 7 days of the decision. Such appeal must be made in writing to the League Secretary and will be considered by the full Management Committee.

(I) All Benevolent fund claims must be put forward in full to the League Secretary within 14 days. Should the club have a delay with the paperwork, the League Secretary can extend this time at his discretion providing the main form is received within 14 days.

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LEAGUE CUP COMPETITION RULES

These Rules are additional Rules that apply to the Divisional League Cup Competitions.

ND 25.1. Each Club shall be required to make their ground available to the League once per season without charge for the provision of a Cup Final venue. Cup Final venues are to be decided, with the exception of the Combe Martin Cup which is played at Combe Martin, by the League Management Committee. Final venues only to be those of member clubs. Failure to make a ground available will be subject to a fine in accordance with the fines tariff unless notification was given before the AGM.

ND 25.2. (i) A player is eligible to compete in League Cup Competitions if he has been registered for (seven) 7 days in the Competition prior to the match.

(ii) In the case of the Semi Final and Final ties, the player must have played three competitive North Devon Football League or North Devon Football League Cup matches. The matches must have been played during the current season for the divisional team playing the tie and not for any other team the club operates in another North Devon Football League division or North Devon Football League Cup.

(iii) During the current season, once a player has played in any League Cup Competition, he is not eligible to play for any other Club in a League Cup Competition.

(iv) Players whose Clubs are entered in more than one League Cup Competition may take part in different League Cup Competitions for their own Club, but cannot play in a lower League Cup Competition, once they have played in a higher ranked Cup Competition.

The ranking order of the Cups is highest to lowest: Brayford, Combe Martin, Arlington, Bill Smale Cup and Intermediate 3 Cup.

(v) A team that withdraws from a division during the season is deemed to have also withdrawn from their respective cup competition. The result of any round already played shall stand and for the purposes of Rule ND 25.2 (iii) the appearances made by the players of the withdrawn team stand. If the withdrawn team is to still play a match their opponents shall receive a bye.

ND 25.3. League Cup Competitions shall kick-off at the times set by the Annual General Meeting for League matches. In the case of a League Cup Competition match being drawn, the Clubs must go directly to kicks from the penalty mark and shall be taken in accordance with the conditions laid down by the International Board.

ND 25.4. The venues for the finals of the League Cup Competitions shall be arranged by the Management Committee who is permitted to charge an admittance fee which shall be for League Funds.

ND 25.5. The venue for a Cup game other than the Final shall be the home team's venue. In the event of the Home Venue being unavailable for any reason, including the weather, the venue shall be switched to the away team's pitch, the original home team shall be responsible for costs. Away teams are advised to check their pitches for availability and advise the Home team and Fixtures secretary no later than 11am in writing so the Home team can make arrangements to travel if needed. Failure to travel will result in a charge for failing to play tie.

ND 25.6. Should a team play an ineligible player or players, the tie shall be awarded to their opponents and the offending team fined in accordance with the fines tariff. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement in a Cup Competition they shall be fined in accordance with the fines tariff and forfeit the tie to their opponents.

ND 25.7. Final clubs must each provide at least two suitable match balls.

ND 25.8. All other Rules shall be in accordance with the League Competition.

ND 25.9. The referee's and assistant referee's fees and expenses applicable to the semi-final ties shall be split equally between both teams.

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WOMENS DIVISION

These rules ONLY apply to the Womens Division

ND 26.1 Teams will commence a game of equal sides plus 1 substitute. Minimum of 9v9.

ND 26.2 Rule 20 (F) option rule. A Player who has been substituted herself 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.

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SCHEDULE A

FEES TARIFF

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
4 (A)	CLUB MEMBERSHIP FEE	£25
4 (B)	CLUB/TEAM ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£45 per Team
4 (C)	MEMBERSHIP DEPOSIT	£25
7 (C), 7 (E), 7(G)	PROTEST/APPEAL FEES	£10

18 (D)	PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE	£0
18 (H)	TRANSFER FEE	£10 for the first transfer and £25 for the second
23 (E)	REFEREE FEES	£45
23 (E)	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES	£15

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FINES TARIFF

FINES TARIFF		
RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
2 (G)	FAILURE TO AFFILIATE	£10
2 (I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	Withdrawal of Team
2 (K)	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	£10
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	£10
4 (C)	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£10
4 (E)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE AFFILIATION NUMBER/DETAILS FORM	£10
5 (E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£10
ND 5.1	FAILURE TO ATTEND SECRETARY TRAINING	Suspension of Club
ND 5.2	FAILURE TO ATTEND PRE-SEASON MANAGERS MEETING	£25
6 (H)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT	£10
6 (I)	COMMITTEE FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	Fine Trebled
8 (H)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£25
9	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM	£25
10	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES	£10
11 (A)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE	£50
11 (B)	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£250 (MAX)
13 (A)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£10
ND 13.1	TROPHY RETURN	£50 per item
16 (A)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	Suspension of club
16 (B)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	Suspension of club
18 (A)	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£10
18 (B) (ii)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE SEASON COMMENCING	£10
18 (F)	REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS, OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM	£10
18 (G) (ii)	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£10
18 (M)	FIELDING MORE THAN THE PERMITTED NUMBER OF PLAYERS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SENIOR COMPETITIONS MATCHES	£25 and loss of game if won or drawn
18 (N)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£25 and loss of game if won or drawn
18 (O)	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£10
ND 18.4	PLAYING UNDER AN ASSUMED NAME	£100 per player
ND 18.5	TEAM SHEET CLERICAL ERRORS	£10 per error
19	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS	£10
19	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS	£10
ND 19.1	FAILURE TO WEAR REGISTERED SHIRT & SHORTS COLOURS	£10
20 (A)	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT	£10
20 (B)	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	£10
20 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£10
20 (D)	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS	£10

20 (E) (i)	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	£25 for Intermediate teams, £50 for Senior teams and £75 for Premier teams if the match was scheduled for a date before April 1st in the current season. If scheduled for a date in April or May the fines are as follows, £50 for Intermediate teams, £100 for Senior team and £150 for Premier teams. 3 points are deducted and game awarded to opposing team
20 (E) (iii)	FAILING TO GIVE NOTICE OF POSTPONED FIXTURE	£10
20 (E) (iv)	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	LMC DECISION
20 (H)	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£10
ND 20.1	FAILURE TO PROVIDE FIRST AID KIT	£10 per offence
ND 20.2	PLAYING ON UNALLOCATED GROUND	£20
ND 20.3	MUTUAL POSTPONEMENTS	£10
ND 20.4	ABUSE OF BAD WEATHER PITCH DECISIONS	£40
ND 20.6	PLAYING OF FIXTURES IN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER	Charge Rule 20 (E) (i)
ND 20.7	SHIRT NUMBERS ON TEAM SHEET	£10
ND 20.8	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH RESPECT HANDSHAKE	£10
21 (A)	LATE OR ERROR/S ON TEAMSHEET OR FULL-TIME STATS	£10
21 (B)	LATE OR INCORRECT SMS RESULT	£10
21 (C)	RESULT NOTIFICATION NOT SIGNED BY APPROPRIATE SIGNATORIES	£10
ND 21.1	AWAY TEAM INCORRECT RESULT REPORTING	£10
23 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£10
23 (E)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES	£10
23 (F)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£10
23 (H)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£10
ND 23.1	REFEREE PAYMENT IN CASH	£10
ND 23.2	FAILURE TO SUPPLY LETTER IN SUPPORT OF REFEREE MARKING	£10
ND 25.1	FAILURE TO MAKE GROUND AVAILABLE	£25
ND 25.6	INELIGIBLE PLAYERS	£20 per player
ND 25.6	FAILING TO PLAY TIE	£25 increasing to £75 for the semi-final and final