



**SIL**

**SUFFOLK & IPSWICH  
FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

# RULES 2019/20

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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.

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, 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. 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 SUFFOLK & IPSWICH 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 Suffolk 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.

## **GOVERNANCE RULES**

### **COMPETITION NAME, CONSTITUTION**

2.

- (A) The Competition will be known as SUFFOLK & IPSWICH 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 approved by the Sanctioning Authority.
- (C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be 40-mile radius of Ipswich and within the county of Suffolk.
- (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 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 16 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.
  - (l) 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.

(A.R.2(I)1) As an FA Charter Standard League this Competition requires all its Clubs to have achieved FA Charter Standard League status by 2020. The League management committee may expel any club that has failed to apply for Charter Standard status by this date. New Member Clubs have one year to apply for the Charter Standard club award. The League has the right to refuse membership to a Club if it fails to demonstrate commitment to achieving the award.

This Competition and its Clubs shall support the FA's Respect programme. As such it recognises that everyone in football has a collective responsibility to create a fair, safe and enjoyable environment in which the game can take place. A Respect League values the contribution of match officials, players and spectators and ensures that they are treated with courtesy and fairness by opposing players, club officials and spectators. The League and its Clubs will seek to play fixtures in a fair, competitive but not antagonistic environment.

- (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.

(A.R.2N) Only bona fide first teams of Member Clubs shall be allowed to play in the Senior Division, Division 1, Division 2 or Division 3

(A.R.2.0) The Intermediate Divisions shall consist of the Reserve teams of Clubs in the Senior Division and Division 1, qualifying Reserve Teams of Clubs in Divisions 2 and 3, 'A' teams of Clubs that would otherwise be playing in Division 3 or above and Reserve teams of Clubs meeting the Ground and Headquarters in the County of Suffolk requirement and playing in the Eastern Counties League, on request and subject to League Rules. They will be arranged in three Divisions as decided at the Annual General Meeting.

(A.R.2P) The headquarters of the Competition shall be at the office of the General Secretary.

## **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.  
(A.R.3.1) Clubs must obtain permission from the League of any change of venue for its matches. Matches must not be played on pitches that have not been approved by the Competition

## **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 by 1<sup>st</sup> May

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.~~

The Annual Subscription shall be £200 per senior team and £170 per junior team for Charter Standard (CS) clubs and £250 & £220 respectively for non-CS clubs payable in three instalments as per the agreed split. Each instalment must be paid by 15th July 30th September and 31st December. Clubs failing to pay any of the three payments by the required dates shall be fined £30 for any of the offences.

When clubs have achieved CS during the season a pro rata rebate will be returned to the club

- ~~(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 15<sup>th</sup> July 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.
- (F) (A.R.4F) At any League meetings, each Club must be represented by the Club Secretary or any Deputy whose name appears on the Club Application and Directory Form to be returned to the General Secretary 14 days before the Annual General Meeting.

Any Club failing to comply with this rule shall be fined a sum of £50 for each offence; furthermore, any Club not returning its new season Club Application and Directory Form by the required date will have its late Directory Form dealt with as a new application to join the Competition. This includes new entry fee and deposit. The Club will however retain its team's status in the Competition.

## **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 May Management Committee Meeting 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 May Management Committee Meeting 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.

## **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) 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.
  - (M) (A.R.6M) By ballot, annually, the records of one Senior Club and one Club from each of the Junior Divisions will be required for inspection by the Management Committee. These records to consist of those that the Football Association and this League require by their Rules and must include a record of meeting

minutes, financial books including back up documents and bank statements, record of players, including matches played, together with proof of Club AGM and audited accounts.

- (N) (A.R.6N) All new Clubs entering the League will be required to have their records inspected during their first season by the Management Committee. The records should be consistent with the requirements set out under Rule 5(M).
- (O) (A.R.5O) Clubs must seek the approval of the League as well as the Suffolk County Football Association for any kit sponsorship arrangements. Permission will be required for each new arrangement. Clubs failing to conform may be fined up to £40.
- (P) (A.R.6P) A newly appointed Club Chairman or Secretary or in the case of a new Club both Chairman and Secretary shall attend a League briefing given by the Officers of the League, normally on the Thursday following the AGM. The aim of the meeting is to enable new Chairmen and Secretaries to carry out their duties in as efficient a manner as possible. Failure to attend such a meeting will lead to a fine of £50.

## **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 7 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 14 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.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

8. (A) The AGM shall be held not later than 30<sup>th</sup> June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least two thirds of members are present and entitled to vote:-
- a. To receive and confirm the minutes of the preceding AGM.
  - b. To receive and adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts.
  - c. Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
  - d. Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Season.
  - e. Election of Officers of the Competition and the Management Committee members.
  - f. Appointment of auditors.
  - g. Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14).
  - h. Fix the date for the commencement of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.
  - i. Fix the date for the end of the Playing Season (save for Step 7 which shall be determined by The FA).
  - j. 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 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.

© A signed copy of the duly audited 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

(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.

## **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.



## **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 [ 2019/20] 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 Suffolk 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.

(A.R.10.1) The above agreement shall be part of the League's Club Agreement Form. This form will also require the Treasurer and any Press Secretary, Programme Editor and Team Manager(s) to sign the Club Agreement Form.

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

(A.R.10.2) Irrespective of the number of teams, only one Club Secretary will be recognised by the League as being responsible for all business relating to the said Club and League.

(A.R.10.3) Any change of Club Secretary and/or address must be

notified in writing to the General Secretary and the Suffolk County FA officials as stated in SCFA rules. Any change in Chairman, Press Officer or Team Manager(s) shall be notified to the General Secretary within 7 days. In default of this clause, the offending Club shall be fined £10.

### **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 14 days

AR11A1 All Clubs wishing to remain in membership of the Competition for the following Season must confirm their intention to do so by 15th July by return of a Club Agreement Form.

(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.

©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, 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.

## **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 [ ] 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 March 1<sup>st</sup>. 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.

Failure to return the cup or trophy by the due date, engraved and cleaned will result in a fine of £50

(A.R.13.B) The League may award, annually, suitable souvenirs to persons who have rendered meritorious service to Clubs within the League for a period of not less than 25 years, in an executive but non-playing capacity. They should contain a record of service of the individual and must be signed by three persons holding office with Clubs in membership of the League. A panel of three Trustees, appointed for the purpose by the AGM will consider each application

or recommendation. The Trustees will make recommendations to the Management Committee for approval. Presentation of the award will be made by an Officer of the League at a reception, or function arranged by the recipients own Club and with the League's Officers and Management Committee present, or at the AGM of the League.

The Award shall be engraved as follows:-

Presented to ..... by the Suffolk & Ipswich League in recognition of long and meritorious service to Association Football

### **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 30<sup>th</sup> April in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 14 days before] and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 7 days before]. 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.

AR 14.1 Each Member Club shall be deemed to have given its assent to the foregoing Rules and agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee subject to Rule 16. Each Member Club must abide by any issued Football Association Code of Conduct.

### **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 £1500 shall be approved by the

Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.

©The financial year of the Competition will end on 15<sup>th</sup> May.

(D)The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be audited 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 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.

## **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.

## **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 two 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 [ 0 ] Players may be registered in accordance with this paragraph 18(A)(ii);  
or
- (iii) registered through WGS.

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.

The League uses WGS only for the registration process. The weekly deadline for registrations and transfers is 9pm on Thursdays

- (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 15 Players per team registered 3 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.

(A.R18C.1) Clubs are to send in a list of debtors to the Players' Registration Secretary by the end of May to assist with the registration process

In the cases where a player questions the debt amount, the club shall provide evidence of how the debt is accrued. Failure to produce the required breakdown within 7 days of the request shall result in the debt being nullified as unsubstantiated and the registration process can proceed.

Kit will only be considered part of a player's debt if the club provides a signed acknowledgement from the player accepting his responsibility to return the kit upon leaving the club

(A.R.18 C2) All clubs wishing to sign a 'new' player, i.e. a player who was not registered with the club at the end of the previous season, must first check with the Players' Registration secretary to see if that



person is free of football debt before accepting the registration form.

(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 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)(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) by WGS 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.

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

- (I) A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 31<sup>st</sup> March except by special permission

of the Management Committee.

- (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 Players' 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 [ two ] Competition Matches for that Team in the current Playing Season.
- (M) A Team shall not include more than 1 Players who has/have taken part in 0 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 a senior competition(s) is the Football League.

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

(N)

- (iv) 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:
  - 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).

(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.

- (ii) The availability of children must be cleared with the Head Teachers (except for Sunday leagues competitions).
- (iii) To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16.

## **CLUB COLOURS**

19. Every Club must register the colour of its shirts, socks and shorts with the Secretary by 15<sup>th</sup> June 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 goalkeeper's jersey) at least [4] days before the Competition Match.

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

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

**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.

AR 20(A)(1) The Annual General Meeting shall determine the date for the commencement of the season.

Normally, the commencement of the SIL Playing Season shall be as follows: Senior Division – Second last Saturday in August Division 1 and Intermediate Division A – Last Saturday in August Other Divisions – First Saturday in September’

Normally, the end of the Competition shall be the first Saturday in May, but should unforeseen circumstances arise the Management Committee have the right to order an extension of the season but not later than the 3rd Saturday in May.

(A.R.20A.2) After the publication of fixtures for the season thirty-five days notice must be given of closed dates and any request to postpone a fixture. This rule does not apply to Senior Division teams who cannot close dates or postpone a fixture (except if another fixture takes priority) after the publication of the fixtures without the approval of the Fixtures Secretary. Teams can close a maximum of 2 dates during the course of a season.

(A.R.20A.3) From 1st April annually, until the end of the season’s

competition, unless a Club has closed a date in accordance with Rule A.R.20A.2 the Fixtures Secretary may, by giving at least five days' notice, instruct when a match must be played.

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.

The latest times for kicking-off league matches shall normally be (except for evening kick-offs) 2.30pm from August to October clock change and from February to May 2.00pm from October clock change to January. League Cup matches will kick off 30 minutes earlier

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.

- (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).

- (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 4 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. 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.

(A.R.20E.1) In the event that a home Club's ground is not available for any reason, it is the duty of the home Club to find a suitable alternative with the agreement of the Fixtures Secretary.

(A.R.20E.2) If a match is postponed for ANY reason both Clubs must keep their players available until the Clubs have discussed the cancelled fixture with the Fixtures Secretary. If the Fixtures Secretary is unavailable then the matter should be discussed with another League Officer. If a match is postponed because of an unfit pitch the home club must complete Form SIL1 to reach the Fixtures Secretary within 7 days (Sundays excluded) of the postponement. Any Club failing to make a correct return shall be fined £10.

(A.R.20E.3) Postponed match fines are as follows:-

£150 for all Senior matches

£60 for all other divisions

Clubs found guilty of failing to keep an engagement without a satisfactory explanation shall, in addition to paying any fine be deducted 2 points, and also pay to the opponent Club such compensation as the Management Committee shall approve. Any such detailed claims should reach the General Secretary within 5 days of the match date. Any compensation order must be paid within 14 days of the order being placed.

- (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 secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials.

The Fixture Secretary must be consulted first before releasing your players.



- (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.

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.

- (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 substitute Players of whom not more than 5 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 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.

Sin bins operate in this league

(G) The half time interval shall be of 15 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 his team mates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(A.R.20H.1) The Competition shall require all players and club officials to have signed the FA's Respect Codes of Conduct and produce these if so requested by the League Management Committee.

Prior to each match the participating teams and officials shall conduct the 'Respect' handshake.

## **REPORTING RESULTS**

21. (A) The Players' Registration Secretary must receive within [4 ] 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 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.
- (C) Fulltime must be completed within 4 days of the match
- (D) The Home Club shall SMS the result of each Competition Match to the Fulltime by 5.15pm. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Failure to do so will incur a fine of £20 for a first offence with incremental increases of £5 for each subsequent offence during a season and/or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide. This rule also applies to away teams in SCFA matches where the home team is from another League.

## **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 ] Teams and automatic relegation shall be applied for the last [ 2 ] Teams in each division except as provided for hereunder, subject to the provisions of Rule 2(L).

Subject to meeting the necessary ground and administration requirements the following promotions will be applied:-

- Top two teams in Divisions 1-3 will be promoted to Senior Division and Divisions 1-2 as appropriate
- Top two teams in Intermediate Divisions B and C and will be promoted to Intermediate Divisions A and B as appropriate
- Top two bona fide first teams in Division 4 (provided they finish in the top 4) will be promoted to Division 3 and the top two non-first teams will be promoted to Intermediate C. The following relegations will be applied:-
  - Bottom two teams in Senior Division, Divisions 1-2 will be relegated to Divisions 1-3 as appropriate
  - Bottom two teams in Intermediate Divisions A and B will be relegated to Intermediate Divisions B and C as appropriate
  - Bottom two teams in Division 3 and bottom two teams in Intermediate C will be relegated to Division 4.

The Management Committee (subject to AGM approval) reserves the right to alter the above in order to equalize numbers in each of the divisions.

- (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 [2] 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 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. In the event of a team withdrawing from the Competition after completing 75% or more of its fixtures then each outstanding match will be declared a walkover victory for the opposition who would gain 3 points from a 0-0 scoreline

## **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.

(A.R.23B.1) The Management Committee may, if they consider it desirable, or upon application by the two competing Clubs, appoint Assistant Referees, if available, to any match.

(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 inclusive of travel expenses.

Match Officials will be paid their fees 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 expenses only. 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. 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 non-appearance, may be reported to the Affiliated Association with which he or she is registered.

(A.R.23G.1) Referees shall notify clubs if they cannot make the appointment sent to them by said club by phone or e-mail. Failure to do so may result in them being reported to the appropriate County Association

(AR 23 G.2) It mandatory that the Referee gives each team a 'crime sheet' after every match.

(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.

In the event of a mark below 61 given to referees, a low mark form needs to be completed and forwarded to the Referees' Appointment Secretary

(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 Referees' Secretary within two days of the Competition Match.

#### Sportsmanship Awards

K) The League publishes a Sportsmanship Award Table based on the following: - red & yellow cards issued by Referees and misconduct reports against your player(s) and club. Details of the scheme are issued separately. The Club that finishes bottom (Senior and Junior combined) at the end of the season shall be fined £150, suspended to the end of the following season. The fine would be withdrawn if the Club has an overall placement improvement of at least 15 places. With no such improvement the fine must be paid within 14 days issue of the new season's table and by issue of an invoice.

## SCHEDULE A

FEES TABLE		
RULE	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
4 (A)	CLUB ENTRY FEE	£50
4 (B)	CLUB/TEAM ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£250
4 (C)	DEPOSIT	£15
7 (C) 7	PROTEST/APPEAL FEES	£25
18 (D)	PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE	£0
18 (H)	TRANSFER FEE	£10
23 (E)	REFEREE FEES	£45 Spr £35 inc
23 (F)	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES	£30 Spr £25

FINES TABLE		
RULE	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM
2 (G)	FAILURE TO AFFILIATE	£100
2 (I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£100
2 (K)	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO	£100
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE	£
4 (C)	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£10
4(E)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE AFFILIATION NUMBER/	£50
5(E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS	£100
6 (H)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT	£100
6 (I)	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED	£50
8 (H)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£50
9	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM	£50
10	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO	£50
11(A)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF	£120
11 (B)	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£120
13 (A)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£20
16(A)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£100
16(B)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£100
18 (A)	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£100
18 (B) (ii)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE SEASON	£100
18 (F)	REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A	£100



18 (G)	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£100
18 (M)	FIELDING MORE THAN THE PERMITTED NUMBER OF PLAYERS WHO HAVE	£100
18 (N)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£100
18(O)	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL	£100
19	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO NO CHANGE OF	£50
19	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS	£50
20(A)	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO	£50
20 (B)	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE	£150
20 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£20
20 (D)	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED	£60
20 (E)	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	£150
20 (H)	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£100
21 (A)	LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION FORM	£100
21 (B)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT	£100
21(C)	RESULT NOTIFICATION NOT SIGNED BY	£50
23 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT	£100
23 (E)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND	£50
23 (F)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A	£50
23 (H)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£100

## **SCHEDULE B – INDEX**

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### **GOVERNANCE RULES**

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Rule 3 Club Name

Rule 4 Entry Fee, Subscription, Deposit

Rule 5 Management, Nomination, Election

Rule 6 Powers of Management

Rule 7 Protests, Claims, Complaints, Appeals

Rule 8 Annual General Meeting

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Rule 10 Agreement to be Signed

Rule 11 Continuation of Membership, Withdrawal of a Club

Rule 12 Exclusion of Clubs, Teams. Misconduct of Clubs, Officers, Players, Management Committee

Rule 13 Trophy

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### **MATCH RELATED RULES**

Rule 18 Qualification of Players

Rule 19 Club Colours

Rule 20 Playing Season. Conditions of Play, Times of Kick-Off. Postponements. Substitutes

Rule 21 Reporting Results

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### **SCHEDULE A**

Fees Tariff

Fines Tariff

## **APPENDIX A – REPRESENTATIVE GAMES AND LEAGUE KNOCK-OUT CUPS**

The Inter League Match Co-Ordinator shall choose the manager(s) for a representative game and the manager(s) will be empowered to choose the

team

General (A) The Morrison Freight Cup is for teams in the Senior Division and Divisions 1-2 and teams in Division 3 that have Reserve teams in Intermediate C or Division 4 plus any other Division 3 team that elects to play in the competition in preference to the Divisional Cup. Senior Division Clubs will enter at the last 32 stage. The Travel Plus Tours Cup is for Reserve teams in Intermediate Divisions A and B plus any Reserve teams in Intermediate C that elect to play in the competition in preference to the Divisional Cup The Divisional Cup is for teams in Divisions 3 not playing in the Morrison Freight Cup, all teams in Division 4, Intermediate C teams that do not elect to play in the Travel Plus Tours Cup and 'A' teams playing in Intermediate B.

(B) Clubs can elect not to enter a team into their designated League Cup competition. Any such election is to be made before the first cup draws are made and will be subject to a £35 fee.

(C) The rules of these competitions are in accordance with the Rules of the Suffolk & Ipswich Football League and the Laws of the Game with the exception of the following amendments:

(D) All matches excluding the Finals to be played on the ground of the first drawn Club, unless not possible for weather or unsuitable facilities. Should the first drawn Club's pitch be unfit for play then they should make every endeavour to find an alternative venue. Should their opponent's pitch be available, fit for play and offered with no pitch hire fee, then if the first drawn team decline to switch venue they may be charged with failing to fulfil the fixture and, if found guilty, removed from the competition.

(E) Attempts should be made to use a cordoned off pitch in all Morrison Freight Cup matches from the 3rd Round.

(F) The Suffolk & Ipswich League will make all arrangements for the Finals.

Scratched Match (G) A team not fulfilling its drawn cup match on the scheduled date shall forfeit the game to its opponents and be fined £150 (Senior team) or £60 (Junior team). This does not apply if the fixture was postponed owing to adverse weather or ground conditions or because the team was involved in a SCFA competition.

Conditions of Play (H) All matches will be played to conclusion on the day. If

the scores are equal after 90 minutes, then 15 minutes each way extra time will be played. If the scores are still equal, the match will be decided on penalties in accordance with

International Board ruling on the subject. A Club causing a match to be unfinished in accordance with Rules will be 'struck out' of the competition.

Times of Kick-Off (I) August to October clock change, February to May 2.00pm October clock change to January 1.30pm

Referees (J) Expenses as Rule 22(F). Fees as follows:- Morrison Freight Cup Up to 3rd Round - £35 Morrison Freight Cup 3rd and subsequent Rounds, excluding Final - £45, except where Junior clubs play each other when fee will be £35 Travel Plus Tours Intermediate and Divisional Cup, excluding Final - £35 Assistant Referees in all League Cups up to 3rd Round - £25 Assistant Referees in all League Cups 3rd and subsequent Rounds, excluding Final - £30

(K) Match Official Expenses in League Cup matches to be shared equally between the two participating Clubs.

(L)The League will be responsible for Match Official expenses in the Finals. No fee will be payable but they will be presented with a memento of the occasion.

Trophies

(M)The winning team in each competition will receive the appropriate League Knock-Out Cup while both the winners and runner-up will each receive seventeen mementoes, including one for the Team Manager

(N)Any player 'sent off' in any final will not be presented with a memento (further reference will be made to the Management Committee)

Qualification of Players

(O)In the Morrison Freight Cup no player shall play for more than one Club team per season in this competition, except for a goalkeeper in an emergency. The goalkeeper must play in that position and permission for this must be obtained from the Players' Registration Secretary prior to the game. Player promotion from the Travel Plus Tours Cup or Divisional Cup is permissible but the player cannot revert back to the lower competition after obtaining a Morrison Freight Cup qualification. The playing of any ineligible

player will lead to the guilty team being excluded from the competition and fined £30.

(P) In the Travel Plus Tours Cup no player shall play for more than one Club team per season in this competition, except for a goalkeeper in an emergency. The goalkeeper must play in that position and permission for this must be obtained from the Players' Registration Secretary prior to the game. Player promotion from the Divisional Cup is permissible but the player cannot revert back to the lower competition after obtaining Travel Plus Tours Intermediate Cup qualification. The playing of any ineligible player will lead to the guilty team being excluded from the competition and fined £30.

(Q) In the Divisional Cup no player shall play for more than one Club team per season in this competition, nor have played in the Morrison Freight Cup or Travel Plus Tours Cup, except for a goalkeeper in an emergency. The goalkeeper must play in that position and permission for this must be obtained from the Players' Registration Secretary prior to the game. The playing of any ineligible player will lead to the guilty team being excluded from the competition and fined £30.

## APPENDIX B – STAR RATINGS

### Four Star Rating - Senior Division

1. Playing strength to Senior standard (Clubs should finish first or second in Division One – any other application subject to approval by the Management Committee)
2. Clubs must provide separate toilets and dressing rooms for each team, dimensions minimum 12 square metres excluding showers to include showers with a minimum of three working showerheads which must be located adjacent but not necessarily in the changing area and must not be accessible to the general public. Separate dressing room for match officials must have showers and toilet facilities ensuite or adjoining. Toilet facilities for both Ladies and Gentlemen separate to those used by the Players and Match Officials must be available for public use within the ground. Shared toilet and shower facilities are not acceptable
3. The playing area of the pitch shall be of grass (see rule 10B) and shall be to the Suffolk County Football Association Senior Cup rules (100 metres x 64 metres minimum). The playing area shall be completely cordoned off on all four sides by rope and/or railings

which all spectators must be behind. The ropes or railings must be no closer to the touch line than 2 metres.

4. A minimum of 20 metres between pitches must be available when a Senior match is being played.
5. A proven sound administration
6. A Committee to deal efficiently with Club matters with a member to welcome visiting teams and officials.
7. Complimentary refreshments to be provided to players and match officials at halftime, while refreshments, tea, coffee etc. must be made available for spectators.
8. First aid equipment must be available at all matches. It is recommended that all Senior Clubs have a qualified First Aider.
9. The players starting the match must wear shirts individually and distinctively numbered 1-11 displayed on the back of the shirt and substitutes must wear 12-17. All players must wear the number allocated to them on the team sheet. Shirts and socks must be distinctive from their opponents.
10. Teamsheets containing the names of the players intending to be played (which may only be changed in exceptional circumstances for matches in the Senior Division, and from the 3rd round of the Morrison Freight Cup) will be presented to the match referee in the referee's dressing room by both Clubs together, 30 minutes before the stated kick-off time. The four forms shall be signed by a recognised Club Official. An additional copy is made available for the 'Press' and both player's first and surnames must be entered.
11. The home Club shall provide two match balls and will ensure that a suitable football pump and adaptor is at the ground. The home Club will also have available Assistant referee flags.
12. The Technical Area extends 1m on either side of the designated seated area and extends forward up to a distance of 1m from the touch line. In all matches, the number of the Club's players and officials seated on the team benches in the Technical area must not exceed 8. A trainer's hut or dug out to seat a minimum of 8 (0.5 metres per person) must be provided for each team.

13. Clubs failing to retain their listed standards shall be fined a minimum of £10 and a maximum of £50 per offence and could lose Senior status.

14. Only one team official may convey tactical instructions to the players during the match and must return to his position after doing so. Both team officials, who shall be identified to the match officials, and nominated on the official team sheet, must remain within the confines of the technical area, and they must behave in a responsible manner. Breaches of this rule by occupants of this area will be reported by the Referee, who shall have the power to impose sanctions as deemed fit.

Note for Referees. Referees are instructed to report any Senior Club who fails to meet any of the standards included above and the League's continuing support of the Referee on the league's Senior Division could be in question if referees fail to make reports where necessary (in accordance with Law 5).

Three Star Rating - Division One 1. Clubs must provide separate toilets and dressing rooms for each team, dimensions minimum 12 square metres excluding showers, to include either showers or bath, preferably ensuite, but at least adjoining. Toilet facilities to be available in the players' area. Separate dressing room for match officials must have showers and toilet facilities ensuite or adjoining. Ladies and men's toilets must be available for other personnel within the Club's grounds.

2. The playing area of the pitch shall be of grass (see rule 10B)

3. A proven sound administration

4. A Committee to deal efficiently with Club matters with a member to welcome visiting teams and officials.

5. First aid equipment must be available at all matches..

6. The players starting the match must wear shirts individually and distinctively numbered 1-11 displayed on the back of the shirt and substitutes must wear 12-17. All players must wear the number allocated to them on the team sheet. Shirts and socks must be distinctive from their opponents.

7. The home Club shall provide two match balls and will ensure that a



suitable football pump and adaptor is at the ground. The home Club will also have available Assistant Referee flags.

8. Team Sheets containing the names of the players intending to be played will be presented to the match referee in the referee's dressing room by both Clubs together, 30 minutes before the stated kick-off time. The three forms shall be signed by a recognised Club Official.

9. Designated spectator area opposite the manager/coach areas to be marked 2 metres from the touch line by means of rope, cones or a white line.

10. Clubs failing to retain their listed standards shall be fined a minimum of £10 and a maximum of £50 per offence and could lose their Division One status.

#### Two Star Rating – Other Divisions

1. Clubs must provide separate dressing rooms minimum 12 square metres with washing facilities and toilets for both teams and for the referee(s)

2. The playing area of the pitch shall be of grass (see rule 10B)

3. A proven sound administration

4. A Committee to deal efficiently with Club matters with a member to welcome visiting teams and officials.

5. First aid equipment must be available at all matches.

6. The players starting the match must wear shirts individually and distinctively numbered 1-11 displayed on the back of the shirt and substitutes must wear 12-17. All players must wear the number allocated to them on the team sheet. Shirts and socks must be distinctive from their opponents.

7. The home Club shall provide two match balls and will ensure that a suitable football pump and adaptor is at the ground. The home Club will also have available Assistant Referee flags.

8. Team Sheets containing the names of the players intending to be played

will be presented to the match referee in the referee's dressing room by both Clubs together, 30 minutes before the stated kick-off time. The three forms shall be signed by a recognised Club Official.

9. Designated spectator area opposite the manager/coach areas to be marked 2 metres from the touch line by means of rope, cones or a white line.

10. Clubs failing to retain their listed standards shall be fined a minimum of £10 and a maximum of £50 per offence.

## APPENDIX C - CHILD PROTECTION

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 behaviour which is improper and brings the game into disrepute.

2. In these Regulations the expression "Offence" shall mean any one or more of the offences contained in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 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.

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 proceed 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 brought to an end.

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