

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, or S.C.O.R, is mandatory for all competitions at Regional Feeder League level and below, plus Tier Seven and below of The F.A Women’s Pyramid.

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 F. A.

DEFINITIONS

1. (A) In these Rules:

“**Affiliated Association**” means an Association accorded the status of an affiliated Association under the Rules of The F.A.

“**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.

“**Club Portal**” means the system used by Clubs to affiliate teams as determined by The F.A from time to time.

“**Competition**” means the East Berkshire Football League.

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

“**Contract Player**” means any player (other than a player on a scholarship) who is eligible to play under a written contract of employment with a Club.

“**Deposit**” means a sum of money deposited with the Competition as part of the requirement 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.

“**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 Rules as set out at Schedule A.

“**Ground**” means the ground on which the Clubs 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. 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 Referee(s) 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 F.A from time to time.

“Player” means any Contract Player who has not played for the club he is contracted to during the current season, Non-Contract Player or any other Player who plays, or who is eligible to play, for a Club.

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

“Playing Season” means the period between the date on which the first competitive fixture in the Competition is played each year until the date on which the last competitive fixture in the Competition is played.

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

“Sanctioning Authority” means the Berks and Bucks Football Association Limited.

“Scholarship” means a Scholarship as defined in The F.A Rules

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

“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 (1) Team in the Competition in accordance with the Rules.

“Team Sheet” means a form provided by the Competition on which the names of the Players taking part in a Competition match are listed.

“The FA” means The Football Association limited”

“Virtual Meetings” means meetings held electronically.

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

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

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

GOVERNANCE RULES

COMPETITION NAME AND CONSTITUTION

2. (A) This Competition shall be known as the East Berkshire Football League, incorporating the “Ascot and District Football League” founded in 1903, the “Maidenhead and District Football League”, founded in 1927, and the Slough and District league.
- (B) This Competition shall consist of not more than seventy-two (72) Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority.
- (C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be within a radius of twenty-five (25) miles from Windsor Guild Hall.

- (D) The administration of the Competition under these Rules shall be carried out by the Management Committee in accordance with Rules, regulations and policies of The F.A.
- (E) All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a Member of the Competition, to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee in relation to them, subject to the Provisions of Rule 7.
- (F) The Rules are taken from the Standard Code of Rules (the “Standard Code”) determined by The F.A 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) (i) All Clubs shall be affiliated to an Affiliated Association.

(ii) This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Berks and Bucks County Football Association and the constituent Teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in Divisions.

Premier Division: The Premier Division shall consist of not more than fourteen (14) Teams. The Management Committee shall determine the constitution for the ensuing season and have the power to invite Clubs to join.

Other Divisions: The constituent Teams, shall be grouped into Divisions, not exceeding sixteen (16) in number. The Management Committee shall determine the constitution of the Divisions.

Status: All Teams in the Premier Division shall be of County Intermediate status, and either County Intermediate or County Junior status for all other Divisions.

(H) Inclusivity and Non-Discrimination

(i) This Competition and each Member Club shall 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 shall make every effort to promote quality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise.

(iii) any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation shall be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning authority for investigation.

- (I) Clubs shall comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The F.A which are adopted by the Competition including but not limited to, England Football Accredited and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff (£100).
- (J) All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children and Regulations for Safeguarding Adults at risk as determined by The F.A 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. A Club must immediately inform the Competition of the details of any fixture(s) in any other competition in which the Club has entered, for which written consent of the Management Committee has been obtained.

(i) Teams who have been accepted into membership of the East Berkshire Football League shall not compete in more than two (2) approved external Cup Competitions and the County Football Association Competitions, except with the written consent of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(ii) Teams within the League constitution can enter a maximum of two Cup Competitions from Ascot & Fielden (EBFL), Maidenhead Norfolkian (external), and Slough Town (external) regardless of the Division the team competes in within the constitution. This applies to both Junior and Senior sections of the Cup Competitions.

(L) At the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have the 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 (1) Team from a Club shall be permitted to participate in a single Division unless there is no viable alternative because of logistical issues and/or reasons linked to participation and geographical boundaries.

This Competition shall obtain the prior approval of the Sanctioning Authority.

This Competition shall ensure that, where permission is given, Teams from a Club operating in the same Division are run as separate entities, with no interchange of players other than by transfers of registration in accordance with these Rules.

CLUB NAME

3. Any Club wishing to change its name shall obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority following consultation with the Competition. In the event that permission is granted, the Club shall advise the Competition Secretary.

Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DEPOSIT

4. A(1) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition, or the entry of additional Team(s), shall be made in writing to the General Secretary and shall be accompanied by an Entry Fee (£60.00 per Team) in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This fee shall be returned in the event of non-election. Applications should be received by the General Secretary before the end of May.

A(II) Existing member clubs who wish to continue playing in the EBFL next season should notify the General Secretary of their intention in writing by email, or on "D" Form, before the end of May. Failure to do so may prevent their inclusion.

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 General Secretary by 31st May, and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee for each Team as set out in the Fees Tariff. This fee shall be returned in the event of non-election.

Applications, of which due notice has been given and accepted by the Management Committee, shall be received at the AGM, or SGM, if confirmed by the majority of the accredited voting members present.

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

(B) The Annual Subscription shall be (£100.00 per Team), in accordance with the Fees Tariff, payable within fourteen (14) days of the Annual General Meeting to the General Secretary. Failure to comply shall incur a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(C) In the event of any issue concerning the membership of any Club within the Competition, the Management Committee may require a Deposit to be paid by, or on behalf, of the Club, on such terms and for such period as it may in its entire discretion think fit.

Each Club shall within fourteen (14) days of election pay a Deposit (£100.00 per Team) as set out in the Fees Tariff, which shall be returnable to Clubs on leaving the Competition provided they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all orders of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£20.00) 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) Club must advise ensure that all its teams participating in the Competition are recorded as affiliated on the Club Portal for the forthcoming Playing Season by the following date []. Clubs must advise the Competition Secretary in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, its Officers and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

5. (A) (i). The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and a minimum of one member (but no more than [] members), who shall all be elected at the AGM.

(ii) The Officers of the Competition shall be the President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Registration Secretary, Referees Secretary, Fixture

Secretary, Results Secretary, Rules Revision Secretary, Club Fines officer and Welfare Officer to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. (N.B. Verifiers of Accounts are not Officers).

- (B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination providing that the Officer notifies the Secretary in writing not later than May 1st in each year.

All candidates for election as Officers or, Members of the Management Committee, shall be nominated to the General Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two (2) Member Clubs not later than May 1st in each year. The names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being no nominations for any office, by the date stated in the earlier part of this Rule, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting.

- (C) The Management Committee shall meet a minimum of twice a season or, as and when required.

On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds 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 shall be conducted through their nominated Officers. Failure to comply with this Rule shall incur a fine (£20.00) 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 the power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of The Football Association or Affiliated Association.
- (B) Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained, the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call on each Club 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 (1) vote at all such meetings. No Member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly relating to that Member, to the Club so represented or, where there maybe a conflict of interest. (This shall apply to the procedure of any Sub-Committee). In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.
- (D) The Management Committee shall have the power to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules, and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition. Any action by the

Competition shall be taken within twenty-eight (28) days of the Competition being notified.

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

- (i) Accept the charge and/or submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee; or
- (ii) Accept the charge and notify the Competition 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; or
- (iv) Deny the charge and notify the Competition that it wishes to have a hearing before the Management Committee.

Where the Club charged fails to respond within seven (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 a reply of the Clubs (whether in writing or 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 Seven of the National League System, the maximum fine permitted for any breach of Rule is £250.00 and, when setting any fine, the Management Committee shall insure 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 Seven of the National League System is £500.00.

No Participant under the age of eighteen (18) can be fined.

All breaches of the Laws of the Game, or the Rules and Regulations of The F.A shall be dealt with in accordance with F.A Rules by the appropriate Sanctioning Association.

- (E) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16.

Decisions of the Management Committee shall be notified in writing to those concerned within seven (7) days

- (F) A minimum of fifty percent (50%) of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee or any Sub-Committees.

- (G) The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the Management Committee or, the membership of the competition, between the Annual General Meeting or Special Meeting called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the playing season. This is subject to the provisions of the National League System Regulations or Women's Football Pyramid Regulations (which shall take precedence if applicable).
- (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 shall incur a fine (not exceeding £50.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (I) Subject to a Clubs right of appeal in accordance with Rule Seven, all fines and charges shall be paid within fourteen (14) days of the date of notification of the decision. Any Club failing to do so shall be fined (a sum not exceeding £50.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine, including the additional fine, within a further fourteen (14) days shall 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. Mileage may be claimed at a rate not exceeding £0.40 per mile.
- (K) The business of the Competition, as determined by the Management Committee, may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.
- (L) The Management Committee may call a meeting of Clubs for administrative purposes only. All Clubs shall send a representative to such meetings. Twenty (20) members shall form a quorum, of which five (5) shall be Officers of the Competition. Clubs failing to be represented shall be fined (£50.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (M) The Management Committee shall have the power to appoint Vice Presidents from time to time, in recognition of service to football within the East Berkshire Football League.
- (N) Members who have served as Officers of The Competition for not less than twenty (20) years shall be entitled to have Life Membership conferred on them.
- (O) Any Management Committee Member who shall, without sufficient reason be absent, without permission of the Management Committee, from three (3) consecutive meetings, and/or Standing Committee for which they are a member, shall be deemed to have resigned their position on the Management Committee.

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 shall not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the Referee prior to the commencement of the match.

(B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which shall contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) shall be lodged with the Secretary within three (3) 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 (£25.00) 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 both parties.

(D) All parties to a protest or complaint shall receive a copy of the submission and shall be afforded the opportunity to make a statement a least seven (7) days before to the protest or complaint being heard.

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

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

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

(F) An intention to appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority, with a copy sent to the Secretary, within 7 days of the Management Committee providing written notification of its decision.

A notice of appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority, with a copy sent to the Secretary, within 14 days of the Management Committee providing written notification of its decision, accompanied by the relevant fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff), which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority.

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 Sub-Committee duly appointed by the Management Committee. The Clubs or Players protesting, appealing, claiming or complaining shall send a copy of such protest, appeal, claim or complaint and deposit a fee (£50.00) in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This fee shall be forfeited in the event of the protest, appeal, claim or complaint not being upheld, and in these circumstances may, in addition, be ordered to pay the costs at the direction of the Management Committee.
- All such protests claims complaints and appeals shall be received in writing by the Secretary within fourteen (14) days of the event or decision causing any of these to be submitted.
- (I) The League to backdate charges raised against Clubs for breaches in League Rules, and without the need for opposition to submit a protest/complaint, also covered by Rule 6.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8. (A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than June 30th in each year. At this Meeting, the following business shall be transacted provided that at least seventy five (75) percent of Members are present and entitled to vote:-
- (i) Confirm the Minutes of the last Annual General meeting.
 - (ii) Adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts from the previous season or accounting period.
 - (iii) Election of new clubs.
 - (iv) Approve the Constitution for the ensuing season.
 - (v) Election of Competition Officers and Management Committee Members.
 - (vi) Appointment of Verifier of accounts.
 - (vii) Adoption of alteration to Rules, if any. (See Rule 14)
 - (viii) Agree the date for the beginning of the playing the season and kick-off times applicable to the Competition.
 - (ix) Agree the date for the end of the Playing Season (save for Step 7 which shall be determined by The FA).
 - (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted by the Chairman as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.
- (B) A copy of the duly audited/verified Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting, together with any proposed Rule changes.
- (C) A signed copy of the duly verified Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Berks and Bucks County Football Association within fourteen (14) days of its adoption by the Annual General meeting.
- (D) Each Member Club shall be empowered to send two (2) delegates to an Annual General

Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one (1) vote only. Fourteen (14) days' notice shall be given of any Annual General Meeting.

- (E) Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the season being concluded or, who are not continuing Membership, shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the season being concluded.
 - (F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of hands, or count of emails or virtual responses (for virtual meetings). This is unless a ballot be demanded by at least fifty (50) percent 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 (1) Club.
 - (H) 1 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.(£50)
2. Any club that has submitted a valid application to join the Competition for the forthcoming season must have the opportunity to be put forward for membership and to have a vote taken on their membership application.
- (I) Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an Annual General Meeting, but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a Club (see Rule 8.G).
 - (J) Where a Competition is an incorporated entity, the Officers of the Competition shall ensure that the Articles of Association of the Competition are consistent with the requirements of these Rules.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

9. On receiving a requisition, signed by two-thirds of the Clubs in membership, the Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting.
The Management Committee may call a Special General Meeting at any time.

At least seven (7) days' notice shall be given of either meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting. Each Club shall be empowered to send two (2) delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one (1) vote only as shall members of the Management Committee.

Any Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting shall incur a fine (£50.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all Special General Meetings, but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a Club (see Rule 9.D).

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.

“We A _____ of _____ (Chairman) and B _____ of _____ (Secretary) of the _____ Football Club have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the East Berkshire Football League and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, if elected or accepted into membership, to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7.”

The Agreement shall be signed:

- (i) Where a Club is an unincorporated Association, by the Club Chairman and Secretary; or
- (ii) Where a club is an incorporated entity, two (2) Directors of the Club.

Any change of the Chairman, Secretary or Directors of the Club, as named on the above Agreement, shall be notified to the Berks & Bucks Football Association to which the Club is sanctioned, and to the Secretary of this Competition.

Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, OR 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, shall 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 shall result in a fine (£100.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff, and the loss of the Team deposit.

- (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 (£50.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (C) Notwithstanding the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 6(I), in the event of a Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50.00, the Management Committee shall be empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.

- (D) In the event that a Team non-fulfils on a fixture, a maximum of 2 matches, there fixtures could then be withdrawn until the end of the current season under the Powers of Management of the Management Committee. A Team could also be withdrawn from the following competitions: EBFL League Cup, EBFL Presidents Cup, Ascot & Fielden Cup and Maidenhead Norfolkian Cup

(E) If a Team withdraws from the EBFL, then they are automatically to be withdrawn from the following competitions: EBFL League Cup, EBFL Presidents Cup Ascot & Fielden Cup and the Maidenhead Norfolkian Cups

If a Team fails to play 50% of its league fixtures, it will be removed from the competition.

**EXCLUSION OF CLUBS & TEAMS,
MISCONDUCT OF CLUB, OFFICERS, PLAYERS & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

12. (A) At the Annual General Meeting, or Special General Meeting 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 powers to: (i) remove a member of the Management Committee from office; (ii) exclude any Club or Team from membership, both of which shall be supported by more than two-thirds 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 Annual General Meeting, or Special General Meeting 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, providing this is supported by more than two-thirds of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.
- (C) Any Officer or member of a Club found guilty of either a breach of Rule, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a Player or Players of another Club in the Competition to join them, shall be liable to such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Rule 12(A) and / or Rule 12(B).

TROPHY

13. (A) The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the Cup or Trophy:-

We, A _____ and B _____, the Chairman and Secretary of _____ F.C. members of and representing the Club, having been declared winner of _____ Cup or league Trophy, and the Cup or league Trophy 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 1st.

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 shall result in a fine (£50.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

A DEPOSIT OF £150 IS ALSO REQUIRED AND WILL BE RETURNED ONCE THE CUP HAS BEEN RETURNED TO THE COMPETITION WITH NO DAMAGE

- (B) At the close of each Competition awards may be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

There shall be sixteen (16) mementoes awarded to both the Champion and second placed Team in each Division. The Competition shall advise those Clubs and Players who have played 2/3 (two-thirds) or more League matches and are eligible for an award.

Two (2) extra mementoes may be applied for subject to a Player having played at least two-thirds of the Competition matches and, sanction having been granted from the County Association.

The Club shall be responsible for payment of additional mementoes.

ALTERATIONS TO RULES

14. Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Association, shall be made to these Rules only at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. Any alteration made during the playing season to the Rule relating to the qualification of Players shall not take effect until the following season, except in exceptional circumstances where approved by Sanctioning Authority and The FA.

Notice of the proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the General Secretary by 28th February in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 15th April, and any amendments to these proposals shall be submitted to the Secretary by 30th April.

The proposals and proposed amendments to these proposals shall be circulated to Clubs with notice of the Annual General Meeting. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if more than two-thirds of those present, and entitled to vote, are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the Sanctioning Authority or The Football Association (as applicable) at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the date of the meeting.

FINANCE

15. (A) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank, or other financial institution, the funds of the Competition shall be lodged.

- (B) All expenditure in excess of £100.00 shall be approved by the Management Committee.

Payment of expenditure may also be made by the Treasurer using Bank Transfer method, Online or Banking APP

- (C) The financial year of the Competition shall end on May 31st.

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

General Meeting.

- (E) The presentation of a cheque which is subsequently dishonoured by the Competition bankers, the Club involved shall incur the amount charged by that bank and shall be charged any expenses incurred by the Competition in respect of the dishonoured cheque. There will also be a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

INSURANCE

16. (A) All Clubs shall have valid Public Liability Insurance cover for a minimum of ten (10) million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.
- (B) All Clubs shall have valid personal accident cover for all players registered with them from time to time. The players' personal accident insurance cover shall 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 Football Association is the Sanctioning Authority, the minimum recommended cover shall be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which a Club affiliates. Failure to comply with Rule 16(A) or Rule 16(B) shall result in a Fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

DISSOLUTION

17. (A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a Special General Meeting by a majority of three quarters of the members present, and shall take effect from the date of the relevant Special General Meeting.

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.

- (B) 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, affiliated Association, The Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the sanctioning Association.

(ii) If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a Trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the Donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the sanctioning Association may decide.

MATCH RELATED RULES

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

18. (A) A Player is one who, being in all other respect eligible has;

- (i) Registered through the Player Registration System and received approval from the Competition, except in the case of a Player who has been registered on the day of a match. For any Players registered on the day of the match, a Club Officer shall email the Competition Registration Secretary with details of the registration prior to the scheduled kick-off time in order for the Player to be eligible to play in that match. The Player shall not play again in any subsequent match in the Competition until the Club has registered the Player through The FA Player Registration System and is in possession of the approval from the Competition. A maximum of two (2) Players may be registered in this manner.

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. This must be submitted to the Competition within two (2) days (Sundays excluded) subsequent to the Competition match. The Player shall not play again in a subsequent match in the Competition until the Club has registered the Player through The FA Player Registration System and is in possession of the approval of the Competition. A maximum of two (2) Players may be registered in this manner.

Any registration that is not fully and correctly completed shall be returned to the Club unprocessed, and the player classed as unregistered. If a Club attempts to register a player via the Player Registration System, but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information, the registration shall not be processed.

For Clubs registering Players under Rule 18(i), registration forms shall be provided in a format to be determined by the Competition. For Clubs registering Players by the Player Registration System, Clubs shall access the Player Registration System in order to complete the registration process.

Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

1. (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, or Tiers 1-4 of the Women Pyramid System.

(ii) 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.

- (iii) Each Club shall have at least Fifteen (15) Players registered for each Team ten (10) days before the start of each Playing Season. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Each Team to register 25 players free of charge ,then from the 26th registration a £10 fee will be charged. This fee will come in blocks of 25 players registered

- (iv) In the event of a Non Contract Player changing his status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, or with a Club in another Competition, their registration as a Non Contract Player will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 18.B.1.

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 (1) day after receipt of such transfer.

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

(v) Players over the age of sixteen (16) may apply for registration in this Competition by completing the official East Berkshire Football League process, along with the East Berkshire Football League Parental Consent form. Incomplete or incorrect registrations shall not be processed. The registration document of players, who are under eighteen (18) years of age at the time of signing, shall incorporate any known serious medical conditions of the player as well as emergency contact details of the players parents or guardian. For players under the age of eighteen (18), a Parental Consent Form is to be completed alongside the Registration Form.

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

(D) 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 in the Competition, the valid registration submitted first shall take precedence. The Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

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

- (i) Play for more than one (1) Club in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.
- (ii) Having signed for one (1) Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season, except for the purpose of a transfer, or where the Competition adopts Rule 18.P.

(iii) Submit a signed registration form as per Rule 18(A)(ii) or, submit a registration through the Player Registration System, that the Player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(F) (i) The Management Committee shall accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rules 18(F) (ii) and (iii) below.

(ii) The Management Committee shall have the power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player or, may fine any Player at their discretion (sum not exceeding £100.00) 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 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) A Player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18(F) (iii), but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion, shall be considered to be under a probationary period of twelve (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 may consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

(Note: Action under Rule 18(F) (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, shall in any event, be subject to an Appeal to The Sanctioning Authority. All decisions shall 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 one hundred and twelve (112) days' suspension, or ten (10) matches in match based discipline, in any Competition (and is not restricted to the Competition) in a period of two (2) years or less from the date of the first offence.)

(G) Subject to compliance with FA rule C, when a Club wishes to register a Player who is already registered with another Club, it shall submit a transfer notification to the Competition via the Player Registration System accompanied by a fee (£10.00) in accordance with the Fees Tariff. Such transfer shall be referred to the Competition by 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, with three (3) days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within three (3) days, the Registration Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the

Player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date after receipt of such transfer registration counterfoil.

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

No Player shall be permitted more than one (1) transfer in a season except by special permission of the Management Committee.

- (H) A Player may not be registered for a Club, nor transferred to another Club in the Competition, after March 31st except by special permission of the Management Committee.
- (I) 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.
- (J) A register containing the names of all Players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Registration Secretary (whole game system database) 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 (1) Season only.

- (K) A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding Competition Match (as specified in Rule 22(A)) unless the Player has played six (6) Competition Matches for that Team in the current Playing Season.
- (L) A Player having played a total of three (3) or more matches in any of the following Competitions: The FA Cup, The FA Trophy, The FA Vase, County Senior Cup Competition, Isthmian League, Southern League, Spartan South Midlands League, Hellenic League, Combined Counties or any other League of equal status (STEP 6 and above) during the current season, SHALL ONLY BE eligible to play in the Premier Division and Division One of the East Berkshire Football League. Any infringement of this Rule shall be dealt with under Rule 18(M).
- (M) (i) Subject to Rule 18(M) (ii), any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in the 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 twelve (12) points, and have levied upon it a fine (not exceeding £50.00 per Player) 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(M) (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.M.1 above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion, order one or more of the following (if appropriate):

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

(N) The following Rule applies to Competitions involving Players in full-time secondary education:

(i) Priority shall be given at all times to activities of school and school organisations. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(ii) The availability of children and young people shall be cleared with the Head Teachers (except for Sunday Leagues Competitions).

(iii) To play open age football the Player shall have achieved the age of sixteen (16).

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

If a Player's registration is cancelled he/she will not be eligible to re-register in the Competition for a period of [x] days from the date of cancellation.

CLUB COLOURS, CLUB NAME

19. (A) Every Team shall register the colour and design of its shirts, shorts and socks with the Secretary by 1st July and the Competition Secretary who shall decide as to their suitability.

(B). Any team wishing to change the colour(s) and/or design(s) of its shirt(s) and short(s) during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the Competition Secretary in advance of making that change.

(C) Goalkeepers shall wear colours, which distinguish them from other Players and the Match Officials.

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

(E) Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents of the colours in which they shall (including the colour of the goalkeepers jersey) at least four (4) days before the Competition Match.

(F) If in the opinion of the Referee, two (2) Clubs have the same or similar colours, the Home Team shall make the change. Should a Team delay the scheduled time of kick-off for a Competition Match by not having a change of colours, they shall be fined (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

- (G) Shirts shall be uniquely numbered, failing which a fine (£1.00 for each shirt not numbered) shall be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**PLAYING SEASON, CONDITIONS OF PLAY,
TIMES OF KICK-OFF, POSTPONEMENTS AND SUBSTITUTES**

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

Clubs shall take all reasonable precaution to keep their Grounds in a playable condition. All Competition Matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee. If through any fault of the Home Team a match has to be replayed, the Management Committee shall have power to order the venue to be changed.

The Management Committee shall have power to decide whether a pitch and/or facilities are suitable for Competition Matches, and to order the Club concerned to play its Competition Match(es) on another ground.

Artificial Football Turf pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition providing they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA's Register of Football Turf pitches.
<https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register>

All Football Turf Pitches used shall be tested (by a FIFA accredited test institute) every three (3) years and the results passed to The Football Association. The Football Association shall 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 Regional NLS Feeder Leagues all matches shall have a duration of ninety (90) minutes. All other competition matches shall have a duration of ninety (90) minutes unless a shorter time (not less than sixty (60) minutes) is mutually arranged by the two (2) Clubs, in consultation with the Referee, prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves. Two (2) matches involving the same two (2) Teams can be played on the same day providing the total playing time is not more than one-hundred & twenty (120) minutes.

The Times of kick-off shall be agreed at the Annual General Meeting, and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two (2) competing Clubs, and the Competition.

Referees shall order matches to commence at the appointed time and shall 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 not provided. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

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

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

The Home Team shall provide at least two (2) footballs fit for play to the Referee at least fifteen (15) minutes before kick-off time. The Referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. Teams who fail to comply shall incur a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff, per football not provided.

Goal nets and corner flag posts shall be used and Teams who fail to comply shall incur a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff for each not provided.

The Fixture Secretary shall arrange all fixtures for Saturdays (Mondays and/or Wednesdays and/or Bank Holidays) during the season. Each Team shall play Home and Away Matches with each other in its Division. The Competition shall give at least five (5) days' notice of any new fixture in writing to the Secretary of the Home and Away Clubs. This Competition's fixtures shall take precedence over all friendly matches. In exceptional circumstances, as agreed by three (3) members of the Management Committee, rearranged matches may be advised verbally to both Clubs no later than seventy-two (72) hours prior to scheduled kick-off.

Each Team shall be permitted two (2) free dates per Season, provided these are requested in writing to the Fixture Secretary at least three (3) weeks in advance of the relevant dates.

The Home Club shall provide suitable Dressing Room accommodation for both Teams and Match Officials, each with suitable washing or showering facilities and toilet facilities, and these remain open before and afterwards.

The following requirements apply to All EBFL Member Clubs

- The pitch shall be a minimum of one-hundred (100) yards in length and sixty (60) yards in width.
- Each side (Both sides) of the pitch shall be enclosed for the duration of the match either with permanent posts or rails, or by roping off. Failure to comply shall result in a fine (£30.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- Suitable showering and separate changing facilities shall be provided for both Teams and the Match Officials.
- A person from the Home Club shall be available to meet the Away Club/Match officials, and ensure that the changing rooms are open at least forty-five (45) minutes before kick-off.

Before each match both Teams shall complete a Match Report Sheet with the following information:

- Date of Match
- Division or Cup Match
- Each Team's name and colours.
- Player's full names (in block letters) against the shirt or short number that they are wearing for the match.
- Referee's name.
- Date of Match Confirmation and Name of Club
- A person from the Home Club shall be available to meet and greet the Away Club/Match Officials and ensure that the changing rooms are open at least forty-five (45) minutes before kick-off. And remain open afterwards.

Each Club shall hand the Team Sheet to the Referee, and a representative of their opponents, in the Referees Dressing Room fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off. Failure to comply shall result in a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

A Club Representative may request to see and verify their opponents' Registration Cards via Full time or matchday/club portal prior to the scheduled/agreed kick-off time. Failure to comply with such instruction shall deem the Player(s) ineligible to play in the match.

If the above request is made, no Player shall be permitted to take part in any match in this Competition until their Registration Card(FULL TIME printout) is verified with their opponents prior to entering the field of play anytime up to the end of the match.

Any League Officer, or Management Committee Member, may attend matches without prior warning, and check the photo identities, registration cards and signatures of Players against their registration forms at any time. The Management Committee shall deal with any registration irregularity.

- (B) Except by permission of the Management Committee, all Competition Matches shall be played on the dates originally agreed but, priority shall be given to The Football Association and parent County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches shall be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a Competition Match, with the consent of the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

- (C) The Secretary of the Home Club shall give notice in writing/telephone/email/sms of full particulars of the location of, and access to the ground, and time of kick-off to the Match Officials and the Secretary of the opposing Club at least five (5) clear days(Monday no later than 9pm) prior to the playing of the match.

If a Match Official or opposing club secretary has not confirmed receipt, then the notice is regarded as not confirmed/ not seen or read. A person from the Home Club shall be available to meet and

greet the Away Club/Match Officials and ensure that the changing rooms are open at least forty-five (45) minutes before kick-off. The Away Club shall seek and acknowledge receipt of such particulars. If not so provided, the Away Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition.

An Officer of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the Ground, time of kick-off and kit colours (including goalkeeper) to the Match Officials and an Officer of the opposing Club at least five [5] clear days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. The opposing Club must confirm receipt and give notice of its kit colours (including goalkeeper) at least five [5] days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. If either is not provided, the relevant 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.

Clubs shall not telephone Clubs, Officers or Officials after 21:00 hours.

Match Day	Confirmation by 21:00 prior to match day.
Saturday	Monday
Monday	Wednesday
Wednesday	Friday

Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Clubs reported for late confirmation incur a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

It is the responsibility of the Home Club to ensure that their facilities are available and to make the necessary arrangements with their Landlords or Local Authority. In the event of a match not being played due to the lack of such arrangements, Rule 20(E) shall apply.

Note: This Competition is not responsible for making arrangements with Local Authorities. This Competition does supply several Local Authorities with a copy of our fixtures however, this is for information purposes only and shall not be interpreted as satisfying the booking requirements that any Local Authority may have in place.

Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall incur a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff for each one not informed.

- (D) In accordance with the Laws of the Game, the minimum number of Players which shall constitute a Team for a Competition Match is seven (7). Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£10.00 for each missing player) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

In accordance with the Laws of the Game, the minimum number of Players which 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.

If there are insufficient eligible Players in order to commence the match, in accordance with the Laws of the Game, then the match shall be forfeited and dealt with under Rule 20(E).

Providing there are sufficient eligible Players to commence the match prior to the scheduled/agreed kick-off additional Players, up to eleven (11) may be added to the Team Sheet providing they are verified with their opponents prior to taking part in the match. Failure to comply, the additional Players shall be considered ineligible and dealt with under Rule 18(M).

- (E) (i) Home and Away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement, both Teams shall submit an “Un-played Fixture Report” to the Fixture Secretary within three (3) days of the match. Failure to comply shall result in a fine (£5.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

The Management Committee shall have power to inflict a fine (not exceeding £50.00), in accordance with the Fines Tariff, deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the match in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents, or otherwise deal with them except by the award of goals.

Notwithstanding the foregoing Home and Away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or, on the opponent's ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

Any Club placed under suspension by either the County F.A. or by the East Berkshire Football League, shall have clearance from said suspension not later than twenty four (24) hours prior to the scheduled kick-off. Clubs in default shall forfeit the match and be fined (a minimum of £10.00 and up to a maximum of £50.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Any match which is awarded by the Management Committee shall be deemed to have been played.

£20 1ST Offence/£30 second/£50 Third

Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement, the Management Committee shall:

- a. award the points from the Competition Match in question to the Club’s opponent (without the awarding of goals)

OR

- b. order the Competition Match to be rescheduled. The Management Committee shall also have the power to order the rescheduled Competition Match to be played on a neutral ground or, on the opponent Club’s Ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

In addition, the Management Committee may at its discretion order one or more of the following (if appropriate):

- a. impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff),
- b. deduct points from the defaulting Club,
- c. order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents.

(ii) Any Club with more than one (1) Team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixture within the Competition, in the following order of precedence:- First Team, Reserve Team, A Team. Clubs in breach of this requirement shall incur a fine (not exceeding £50.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff or otherwise dealt with by the Management Committee.

(iii) Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a Competition Match has been postponed for

any reason shall, without delay, give notice to the Fixture Secretary, Referee Secretary, assistant referee secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials. Any Club failing to comply shall incur a fine (£75.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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 competition Fixture Secretary and competition Referee Appointment Secretary (Assistant Referee Secretary), the secretary of the opposing club and the match officials.

(Notification shall not include e-mail on the day of the match). Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine in accordance with the fine tariff.

If a Club wants to postpone a fixture on the day of the match, the league will have the right to arrange a pitch inspection by a qualified Match Official. This is to inspect the pitch if no confirmation from council/landlord or landowner has been received by the match official/referee secretary and/or fixture secretary by 10.am on the day of the match. Only when this procedure has been followed does a club inform the Secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials of the postponement.

If a Club is unable to raise a team on the day of the match, they must inform the following by Midday (12pm), (by Whatsapp or messaging): Referee Secretary, Assistant Referee Secretary, Results Secretary, Fixture Secretary and General secretary

Failure to comply with the above and the team that postpones, or is unable to fulfil, will automatically be fined half the match fees as follows: £25 single referee or £65 if all 3 officials have been appointed. Its the responsibility of the above officers, and clubs, to ensure the match officials are contacted. There will be no fines if this procedure is followed.

(iv) In the event of a Competition Match not being played, or abandoned, owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two (2) Clubs, and approved by the Competition. Failing such agreement, and notification to the Fixture Secretary within three (3) days, the Competition shall have the power to order the match to be played 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.

Where a Competition Match has been abandoned for any reason, both Clubs must, within 24 hours, give notice to the Competition. 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 order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand.

In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one (1) Team or its Club member(s), they shall award the points for the match to the opponents.

In cases where a match is abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams or their Club Members, the Management Committee shall Rule all points for the match as void.

No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match.

(vi) The Management Committee shall review any match that has taken place where either or both Teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by the Association or Affiliated Association. In each case, the Team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible Players, in accordance with Rule 8(N) above. Where both Teams were under suspension the game shall be declared null and void.

If a Club is suspended by the Competition or County FA, and the suspension is not lifted Twenty four (24) hours prior to the match, the fixtures of that Club shall be postponed until such time as written correspondence has been received from the County FA confirming that the suspension has been lifted. All matches shall be dealt with under Rule 20(E).

(vii) Every Club shall play its best available qualified Team, or Teams, in all matches in the Competition.

(Note: The intention of this Rule is not to interfere with normal Team selection by Clubs, but to prevent Clubs deliberately fielding a weakened Team in order to unreasonably reserve Players for another game or, to boost the strength of another or lower Team.

It is NOT intended that Clubs SHALL field higher Team Players in lower Teams when the higher Team has no engagement. If, in the opinion of the Management Committee, the substance or spirit of the Rule is obviously being disregarded, the Club or Clubs concerned may be called to account for its/their actions and shall be subject to such decisions as the Management Committee may determine, despite the fact that Rule 18 has not been infringed.

- (F) A Club may at its discretion, and in accordance with the Laws of the Game, use (5) substitute Players in any match in this Competition, who may be selected from five (5) Players. A player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace any player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

The referee and a representative of the opposing Club shall be informed of the names of the Players taking part in the Match (including the substitutes) not later than five [5] 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 selected, appointed or named as a substitute before the start of the match, but does not actually play in the game, shall not be considered to have been a Player in that game within the meaning of Rule 18 of this Competition.

- (G) The half time interval shall be of five (5) minutes duration, but shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the Referee.

- (H) The Teams taking part in a Competition match shall identify a Team Captain, who shall wear an armband, and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of their team mates. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (i) Where a suspension imposed in relation to a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) upon a Club by The FA or Affiliated Association is not lifted, and/or the Club does not provide confirmation from The FA or Affiliated Association that such suspension is lifted to the Competition Secretary within two days before a fixture, that fixture will be treated as an unfulfilled fixture and dealt with in accordance with Rule 20(E).

REPORTING RESULTS

21. A The Competition must receive, within two days (excluding Sundays and Bank Holidays) of the date played, the result Match Return via Full Time 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.H, or any other information required by the Competition such as goal scorers, substitutions and cautions. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

The Management Committee shall have power to take such action as they deem suitable against a Club, which submits an incomplete form/FA Full time submission, or incorrect information.

If a match report sheet has been reported as not being received or incomplete at a Management Meeting, and has not been received after fourteen (14) days of the publication of the minutes within which the offence was notified, then an additional fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff shall be levied. The Club shall be suspended from this Competition until all outstanding information has been received.

The suspension shall take effect twenty-one (21) days after the publication of the Management Committee minutes within which the offence was notified.

All matches within the suspension shall be dealt with under Rule 20(E) (i).

(B) Both Clubs shall use SMS FA Full Time / FA Match day as directed by the Competition to notify the result of each Competition Match by 18:00 in respect of Saturday matches and by 21:00 in respect of midweek matches. This shall include the results of external competition matches i.e. County Cups, League cup/presidents and Challenge cups etc. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff

Clubs no longer need to confirm auxiliary Cup competition results via personal SMS to the Results Secretary (FULL TIME is suffice in all cases).

Result is defined as abandoned, postponed, not played, or match result. If a match has been postponed and the postponing Club has notified this Competition in accordance with Rule 10(F), then there is no requirement for either Team to submit the result.

(i) Saturday matches by 18:00.

(ii) Evening Matches by 21:00.

Failure to comply shall result in a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

When participating in an External Cup Competition, the result shall be sent by SMS FULL TIME TEXT/FA Matchday within the time frames detailed above. This is in addition to any requirements of the Competition concerned, and applies to all East Berks Football League Teams (Home and Away).

Failure to comply shall result in a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (C) The Match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by an Officer of the Club, or as prescribed by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

22. (A) Team ranks within the Competition shall be decided by points with three (3) points to be awarded for a win and one (1) 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 shall not be played for double points.

In the event of two (2) 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 (2) or more Teams still be equal the Team which scored the most goals during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.

In the event of the two (2) Teams still being equal the Team which has the better playing record against the other Team in their head-to-head Competition Matches during the season shall be placed highest.

If the records of two (2) 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.

the following criteria, in the order of priority in which they appear:

(NB: for Regional Feeder Leagues, criteria 1 & 2 are mandatory, for all other Competitions they are optional):

1. [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).
2. In the event of two or more Teams being equal, the Team which has scored the most goals during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.
3. In the event of two or more Teams being equal, the Team that has won the most matches during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.
4. In the event of two or more Teams 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.

One-off fixture or play-off games as determined by the League management committee

(B) Automatic promotion and relegation shall be applied for the first two (2) and last two (2) Teams in each Division, except for below, subject to the provisions of Rule 2(L).

(i) Should one (1) or more Teams withdraw from any Division after the Fixtures have 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 season may be filled in any of the following ways:

(a) retention of otherwise relegated Team(s).

(b) additional promotion of the next ranked Team(s) from the Division(s) below.

(c) election.

(iii) The last two (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 shall except relegation to, or retain its position in the next lower Division. 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 Management Committee, to the next highest Team or Teams in the Division concerned.

(vi) Teams who occupy the bottom two (2) places in the Premier Division shall be eligible for re-election, but may be relegated to the Division below. Clubs who do not comply with the grading criteria (See Rule 20(A) shall also be relegated to the Division below.

(vii) The Team who wins Division 1 and wishes to be promoted to the Premier Division shall have to make application by the 1st. May

(viii) 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.

MATCH OFFICIALS

23. (A) Registered Referees (and Assistant Referees where approved by The Football Association or County Football Association) for all Competition Matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Authority.

(B) (i) 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.

(ii) 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 sixteen (16) shall not participate either as a Referee or Assistant Referee in any open age Competition.

(B) Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (not exceeding £20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff

The Management Committee may, if they consider it desirable, or upon application by the two (2) competing Clubs, appoint Assistant Referees, if available, to any match. Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee. Failure to do so shall incur a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff being imposed on the defaulting Team.

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

(E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the sanctioning Association, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a fee, inclusive of expenses, for Referee in the Premier Division £50.00. All other Divisions £50.00 - Assistant Referee £40.00 (in accordance with the Fees Tariff).

Each Club shall pay the Officials their fees fifteen (15) minutes prior to the start of the match. The cost of the Officials for all Competition Matches shall be shared equally by both Teams. If a Club fails to pay their share, they shall be fined the appropriate fee in addition to paying the said fees. Clubs failing to pay Match Officials prior to the start of the Competition Match shall incur a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Clubs failing to pay Match Officials shall be deemed as serious misconduct and the fine shall be the equivalent to the number of Match Officials present, in addition to paying the original fees.

Match Official(s) Arrival Time Nomination: Match Official(s) to arrive at the venue 45 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time.

(F) In the event of a Competition Match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to half fee.

Where a Competition Match is not played owing to one (1) Club being in default the Home Club shall pay the Officials, if they reasonably attend the ground, their full fee.

If it is the away side at fault, then the Management Committee should recover the fees paid out by the home side and refund them. Failure to comply shall result in a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff being imposed.

- (i) Should a fixture be cancelled within 24 hours of kick off, the losing team in the event of a forfeit decision, compensates the officials with 50% of the match fee.
- (G) A Referee not keeping their engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may reported to the Affiliated Association with which he or she is registered.
- (H). 23 h) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The Football Association, award marks to the Referee for each Competition Match. The names of the Referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed Form provided, and submit on FULL TIME. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff or dealt with, as the Management Committee shall determine. Marking must be in line with FA guidance and league instructions
- Any Club marking a Referee Sixty (60) or less shall send a report to the Competition Referees Appointment Secretary within three (3) days of the match outlining the reasons for the mark. Failing to submit a report shall incur a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Marking must be in line with FA guidance and league instructions.
- (I) The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the Form provided by the prescribed date each season, shall submit a summary to the Sanctioning Authority.
- (J) The Referee shall submit a report form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the Competition Match, the number of Players in each Team, date of confirmation, marks for general conduct, number of cautions/dismissals and the time of kick-off to the Referees Secretary within two (2) days of the Competition Match.
- (K) Clubs, Referees and Assistant Referees shall be supplied each season, with an electronic copy of the Competition Rules.

CUP COMPETITION RULES

1. (a) The name of the Competition shall be the East Berks League Cups Competition and shall consist of three (4) separate Cups, competed for annually, namely:

Titles of the Cups shall be:

League Cup

President's Cup

Challenge Trophy

Ascot & District (Fielding) Cup

(b) Control of the Cup Competitions shall be vested in the Management Committee of the East Berks Football League and, except where specifically referred to in these Cup Rules, the Rules of the East Berks Football League shall apply.

(c) The Management Committee shall make and publish the draw for each round. The Club that is first drawn shall be considered the Home Club and shall have Home ground advantage in all rounds up to and including the Quarter-Final ties.

2. Entry Fee

The Entry Fee for each Cup shall be included in the Annual Subscription in accordance with League Rule 4(B).

3. Entry Qualification

League Cup: The Competition shall be open to all member Clubs in the League at the start of the season. Clubs in the Premier Division shall be exempt until the last thirty-two (32).

President's Cup: The Competition shall be open to member Clubs in Division One and below.

Challenge Trophy: The Competition shall be open to member Clubs at the discretion of the Management Committee.

Ascot & District (Fielding) Cup: Is open to all clubs in the EBFL and clubs of an equivalent level from other leagues.

Clubs who have Reserve Teams competing in the League shall have the option to enter only one (1) Team in each Cup Competition.

Clubs with a first team and a reserves side can be drawn against one another in EBFL Cup competitions EXCEPT the Presidents cup, which is for Division One and lower.

Clubs who have more than one team can enter all teams in the Ascot & District (Fielding) Cup.

4. Qualification of Players

(a) Players registered in accordance with League Rule 18 shall be eligible to play in these Cup Competitions however, a Player who has played in any of these Competitions shall be Cup-tied according to the following Rules.

(i) Clubs with more than one (1) Team.

For Clubs who operate more than one (1) Team in different Divisions, the Cup-tied Rules are based upon the Divisional status of each Team within the current constitution of the Competition.

(ii) A Player who has played in the League Cup for a Team which normally competes in the higher Division, is not permitted to play for the lower ranked Team in the same Competition.

(iii) A Player who has played in the League Cup for a Team which normally competes in the lower Division, is permitted to play for the higher ranking side in the same Competition, however once this occurs, the Player shall be Cup-tied to the higher ranking Team.

(iv) A Player who has played in the President's Cup for a Team which normally competes in the higher Division, is not permitted to play for the lower ranked Team in the same Competition.

(v) A Player who has played in the President's Cup for a Team which normally competes in the lower Division, is permitted to play for the higher ranking side in the same Competition, however once this occurs, the Player shall be Cup-tied to the higher ranking Team.

(vi) A Player who has played in the League Cup for a Team which normally competes in the Premier Division shall not be permitted to play in the President's Cup.

(vii) A Player registered after 31st January in each year shall NOT be eligible to play in this seasons Competition.

(b) Transfers

(i) A Player, who has played for a Club in the League Cup, shall be Cup-tied to that Club for the current season.

(ii) A Player who has played for a Club in the President's Cup shall be Cup-tied to that Club for the current season.

(iii) A Player who has played in the League Cup for a Team which normally competes in either the "Premier Division" shall not play in the President's Cup for his new Club.

(iv) A Player who has played for a Club in the President's Cup, is permitted to play in the League Cup for his new Club.

(c) Ineligible Players

Any Teams playing an unregistered or ineligible Player or Players shall incur a fine (£50.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff and dealt with by the Management Committee who may, at its discretion, award the tie to its opponents.

5. Semi and Final Ties

In a Semi-Final or Final tie, no Player shall be allowed to play unless he has played at least THREE (3) matches for that Team in the East Berkshire Football League, i.e. League, League Cup or Presidents Cup matches qualify in that season.

Teams competing outside of the EBFL can only have players who have played at least (4) matches for that team, playing in the Semi-Final and Final of the Ascot & District (Fielding) Cup.

In the Semi-final and Final ties, the competing Clubs shall submit by Recorded Delivery or e-mail, not later than seven (7) days before the match, to the opposing Club and the Registration Secretary a list of Players full names and registration number, from which their Team shall be selected. Failing to comply a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff shall be imposed.

Where a Club wishes to object to the qualification of any Player named in the list, it shall do so by Recorded Delivery or email, not less than three (3) days before the match, to the Registration Secretary, stating the reasons why.

Semi-Finals and the Final of Cup Competitions shall be played on neutral grounds.

6. Kick-Off Times

The kick-off time for matches shall be:

September & October	14:00 hours
November, December & January	13:30 hours
February, March & April	14:00 hours

The Management Committee shall determine the kick-off times for Final matches.

7. Playing Time

The duration of the game shall be two (2) equal periods of forty-five (45) minutes. In the event of a draw at full-time, the winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the International Board recommended procedures.

8. Results

In accordance with League Rule 21.

Note: Clubs in Cup Finals are not required to telephone the result to the Results Secretary.

9. Match Officials and Fees

The Referees Secretary shall appoint officials for all rounds. The cost of the Match Officials shall be borne equally by both Clubs.

All rounds including the Final shall be:

Referee	£50.00
Assistant Referee	£40.00
4th Official (if appointed)	£40.00

The officials appointed to the Final Match shall be paid the appropriate match fee, by the Competition. They shall also be awarded a memento of the occasion.

10. Final Match

The League shall arrange all Cup Finals, who shall take all proceeds from the match. The League shall provide suitable match balls for all Final Ties.

11. Un-played Matches

In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement, both Teams shall submit an "Unplayed Fixture Report" to the Fixtures Secretary within three (3) days of the match. Failure to comply shall result in a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff. The Management Committee shall have power to inflict a fine (not exceeding £50.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff, award the match to the non-defaulting Club, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals. The Management Committee shall have power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground, or on the opponent's ground, if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

The Management Committee shall review all matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. In cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one (1) Team or its Club member(s), they shall be empowered to award the match to the opponents and/or take what other action they may deem necessary.

If a club postpones a fixture for the second time then the fixture will be automatically reversed to the away club by the fixture Secretary and referee sec if the away pitch is available.

12. The winners of the respective Cup Competition shall sign an agreement in accordance with League Rule 13, and sixteen (16) mementoes shall be awarded to the Winners and Runners-up.

League and President's/all Cup Final Protocol

The following arrangements are not part of the Cup Rules

Administration

The Management Committee shall arrange all Cup Finals, and shall be the beneficiaries of any profits, after all expenses have been paid. The General Secretary is responsible for the production of the Match Programme.

Admission

The admission fee shall be established by the Management Committee and is applicable to all in attendance except as listed below:

Management Committee Members
Match Officials appointed to the Final
Guests as identified by the Management Committee

Each Club shall be issued with twenty-five (25) passes, to be used by the Players and Club Officials of the competing Clubs. These passes are to be used for admission to the ground and to the reception after the match.

Arrival Times

Teams, Match Officials and Management Committee members shall be at the ground one (1) hour prior to kick-off. According to the Cup Draw the Team shown as the "Home" Team shall use the Home dressing room. The Fixtures Secretary shall advise the Teams accordingly.

Team Colours

Both Teams shall wear their listed first choice colours. Should there be a clash of colours, the "Home" Team shall change. The General Secretary shall have the final decision regarding Team colours. The Team colours shall be decided in advance for inclusion in the match programme.

Match Report Sheets

In accordance with Rule 21, both Teams shall complete a Match Report Sheet. The Registration Secretary shall be responsible for verifying the Match Report Sheets against the Registration Forms, and shall conduct the exchange of Match Report Sheets forty-five (45) minutes before kick-off. The Referee's copy of the Match Report Sheet shall be made available for the PA announcements. The White copy shall be given to the Results Secretary.

Referee and Assistant Referees

The Referees Secretary shall meet the Match Officials and brief them on their duties. The fourth official is to administer all substitutions, and to control the dugout and technical area. The Referees Secretary shall be responsible for obtaining the names of the substitutes from each Team and supplying them to the fourth official. Five (5) of the five (5) named substitutes may be used.

Meeting the Guest(s)

Both Teams shall be ready fifteen (15) minutes before kick-off and shall walk out together, followed by the Match Officials. Two (2) lines shall be formed headed by the Match Officials, and the three (3) Teams shall be introduced to the guest(s), accompanied by the Chairman.

Dugout (Technical Area)

Each Team shall have a maximum of five (5) substitutes and three (3) supporting staff in the "dug out". Only one (1) person is permitted to stand in the technical area at any time. No alcohol is permitted in the "dug out", and the use of foul and or abusive language is not permitted. The fourth official is responsible for the technical areas and "dugouts" and shall report any indiscretions to the match Referee or Management Committee as appropriate. Any Club that fails to respond to the instructions of the fourth official or an Officer of the League, then the League shall charge the Club with misconduct and shall be dealt with accordingly by the Management Committee.

Presentation of Trophies

When the match has been concluded the presentation of trophies shall be as follows: Match Officials, Man of the Match (if applicable), Runners-Up then Cup Winners.

Reception

The Players and Officials from each Club and the Match Officials are invited to join the Management Committee for a buffet reception after the match. In order to control the numbers and to ensure that only those entitled attend, each Club is responsible for ensuring that only those that are pass holders attend the buffet

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

CARE OF ABOVE UNDER THE EBFL WELFARE OFFICER AS VOTED IN AT THE CURRENT AGM GOT SEASON 2025-26

FEES TARIFF

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
4 (A)	CLUB ENTRY FEE	£60.00 per Team
4 (B)	CLUB/TEAM ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£100.00 per Team
4 (C)	DEPOSIT	£100.00 per Team
7 (C), (F), (H)	PROTEST/APPEAL FEES	£50.00
18 (G)	TRANSFER FEE	£10.00
23 (E)	REFEREES FEES	£50.00 Premier Division £50.00 other Divisions
23 (E)	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES	£40.00

FINES TARIFF

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
2 (G)	FAILURE TO AFFILIATE	£20.00
2 (I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£100.00
2 (K)	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITION	£20.00
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	£20.00
4 (B)	FAILURE TO PAY ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£20.00
4 (C)	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£20.00
4 (E)	FAILURE TO <u>ENSURE TEAMS ARE RECORDED AS AFFILIATED IN THE CLUB PORTAL</u>	£50.00
5 (E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICER	£20.00
6 (H)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£50.00

6 (I)	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£50.00
6 (M)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT ATA MEETING	£50.00
8 (H)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£50.00
9	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM	£50.00
10	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES	£20.00
11 (A)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE 31 ST MARCH	£100.00
11 (B)	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£50.00
13 (A)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£50.00
15 (E)	DISHONoured CHEQUE	£20.00
16 (A)	FAILURE TO HAVE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£20.00
16 (B)	FAILURE TO HAVE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£20.00
18 (A)	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£20.00
18 (B) (iii)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE SEASON COMMENCING	£20.00
18 (E)	REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS, OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM	£20.00
18 (F)	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£100.00
18 (L)	FIELDING MORE THAN THE PERMITTED NUMBER OF PLAYERS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SENIOR COMPETITIONS MATCHES	£50.00 per Player
18 (M)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£50.00 per Player
18 (N)	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£20.00
19(F)	DELAYING KICK-OFF DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS	£20.00
19(G)	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS	£1.00 per Shirt
20 (A)	FAILURE TO SUPPLY TEAM SHEET	£20.00
20 (A)	FAILURE TO SUPPLY GOAL NETS AND CORNER POSTS	£20.00
20 (A)	FAILURE TO ROPE PITCH (ALL MEMBER CLUBS)	£30.00
20 (A)	DELAYING KICK-OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED FOOTBALLS	£20.00
20 (B)	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	£20.00
20 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£20.00
20 (D)	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS	£5.00 per Player
20 (E) (i), (ii), (iii)	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	£75.00
20 (E) (iv)	ABANDONMENT OF MATCH (REF RULE 20 (E)iv	£50.00
20 (H)	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£20.00
21 (A)	LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION FORM	£20.00
21 (B)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT	£20.00

21 (C)	RESULT NOTIFICATION NOT SIGNED BY APPROPRIATE OFFICER	£20.00
23 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£20.00
23 (E)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS FEES AND EXPENSES	£20.00
23 (F)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£20.00
23 (H)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREES MARK	£20.00