ALDERSHOT & DISTRICT

FOOTBALL • LEAGUE

(Founded 1894)

LEAGUE HANDBOOK

SEASON 2026/2027

www.adfl.org.uk

LEAGUE OFFICERS & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Fourth Wednesday of each month, August to May

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Second Week in June

IMPORTANT NOTICE

CLUBS ARE WARNED THAT THEY MUST NOT:-

Play matches with unaffiliated Clubs/Teams (FA Rule B4(a))

Play a match in which one of the competing teams is a scratch team and in which gate money is taken except as provided by FA Rule B6.

Play matches in the 'closed season' except as provided for by FA Rule B8

Taking part in Competitions (Cup, League or small sided Tournaments or Leagues without first ascertaining that sanctions have been obtained from the Hampshire Football Association or the County Association in whose area the Competition operates.

The attention of the Club Secretaries and Players is drawn to F.A. Rules 18 - 21 relating to Players, in particular Rule C2 dealing with 'Notice of Approach' which is applicable in all cases and not merely Clubs within the same County Association or Competition.

AND THAT

It is illegal to play matches or make a collection for charitable objects without first obtaining the sanction of their County Association.

RULES OF THE ALDERSHOT & DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE

DEFINITIONS

1. (A) In these Rules:

"Affiliated Association" means an Association accorded the status of an Affiliated Association under the Rules of The FA.

"AGM" shall mean the annual general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

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

"Club Portal" means the system used by Clubs to affiliate teams as determined by The FA from time to time.

"Competition" means the Aldershot & District Football League.

"Competition Match" means any match played or to be played under the jurisdiction of the Competition.

"Contract Player" means any Player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play under a written contract of employment with a Club.

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

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

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

"Ground" means the ground on which the Club's team(s) plays its Competition Matches.

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

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

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

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

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

"Player" means any Contract Player, Non Contract Player or other Player who plays or who is eligible to play for a Club.

"Player Registration System" means the FA system to register players as determined by the FA from time to time.

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

"Rules" means these rules under which the Competition is administered.

"Sanctioning Authority" means the Hampshire County Football Association Limited.

"Scholarship" means a Scholarship as defined in The FA rules.

"Season" means the period of time between an AGM and the subsequent AGM.

"Secretary" means such person or persons appointed or elected to carry out the administration of the

Competition.

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

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

"The FA" means The Football Association Limited.

"Virtual Meetings" means meetings held electronically.

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

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

GOVERNANCE RULES

COMPETITION NAME, CONSTITUTION

2. (A) The Competition will be known as "Aldershot & District Football League" (or such other name as the Competition may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A Club which ceases to exist or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.

(B) This Competition shall consist of not more than 60 Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

(C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be within that portion of Hampshire as bounded by a line from the West Sussex border at Hill Brow <Grid Ref: SU788263> (south-east of Liss) to, but not including, Old/New Alresford <SU600345>, thence to east of Hook <SU741542> and northwards along the River Whitewater to just east of Riseley on the Berkshire border <SU741634>, and other such Clubs admitted subject to the approval of their parent Association.

(D) The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Management Committee in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of The FA.

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

(F) The Rules are taken from the Standard Code of Rules (the "Standard Code") determined by the FA from time to time. In the event of any omissions from the Standard Code then the requirements of the Standard Code shall be deemed to apply to the Competition.

(G) (i) All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association.

(ii) This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Sanctioning Authority and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding fourteen in number.

(H) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

(i) The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (to include those contained in the Equality Act 2010).

(ii) This Competition and each Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community.

(ii) Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.

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

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

(K) Clubs shall not enter any of their teams playing in the Competition in any other Competitions (with the exception of FA, parent County Association Cup, and Aldershot Divisional FA Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee of the Competition. 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.

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

(M) Only one team from a Club shall be permitted to participate in a single division unless there is no viable alternative because of logistical issues and/or reasons linked to participation and geographical boundaries in which case the Competition will obtain the prior approval of the Sanctioning Authority. This Competition will ensure that, where permission is given, teams from a Club operating in the same division are run as separate entities with no interchange of players other than via transfers of registration in accordance with these Rules.

CLUB NAME

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

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

4. (A) Applications by clubs for admission to the Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same club must be made in writing to the Secretary and must be accompanied by the Entry Fee as set out in the Fees Tariff, which shall be returned in the event of non-election but not if the club withdraws its application..

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

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

(B) The annual subscription shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff for each Team. It shall be payable by a date set by the Management Committee.

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

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

(E) Clubs must ensure that all its teams participating in the Competition are recorded as affiliated on the Club Portal for the forthcoming Playing Season by 1st July. 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) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and a minimum of one member (but no more than three members), who shall all be elected at the AGM.

(B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination provided that the Officer notifies the Secretary in writing not later than 30th April in each year.

All other candidates for election as Officers of the Competition or Members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two Clubs, not later than 15th May in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the AGM.

[Note: Members with a minimum of 15 years' service to this Competition may be invited to become Life Vice Presidents. Other persons may be nominated by the Management Committee to be Vice Presidents.]

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

On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Management Committee.

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

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

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

6. (A) The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and may delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decision of all sub-committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of the 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 upon each Club (including any club which may have withdrawn during the Season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the Season.

[Note: The discussions, statements of members, evidences of witnesses and other members within and before the Management Committee is deemed privileged. The Committee shall have the power to censure or suspend from the Committee any member proven to be guilty of a breach of this Rule.

Any Member of the Management Committee shall have the permission of the Committee to obtain a player team check with names, signatures and date of birth at any match under the control of this Competition.]

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

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

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

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

(i) Accept the charge and submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or

(ii) Accept the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or

(iii) Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or

(iv) Deny the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case at a hearing before the Management Committee.

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

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

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

With the exception of Teams playing at Step 7 of the National League System, the maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Competition must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

The maximum fine for a breach of Rule by a Team playing at Step 7 of the National League System is £500.

No participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

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

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

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

(G) Fifty percent (50%) of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any sub-committee thereof.

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

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

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

(K) A Member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.

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

[Note: A member of the Management Committee failing to attend three consecutive Committee Meetings without an acceptable explanation shall be deemed to no longer be a member of the Committee.]

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

(N) The Competition shall not cancel, postpone, or withdraw an entire programme of Competition Matches (e.g. all Competition Matches, or all Competition Matches within a single age group or division, taking place over a single day/week) without prior written approval from the Sanctioning Authority, except in exceptional circumstances of a serious nature (in which event, the Competition must provide notification of cancellation, postponement or withdrawal to the Sanctioning Authority at the same time as affected Teams).

PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

7. (A) (i) All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee, or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee.

(ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the Competition Match.

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

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

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

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

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

(E) The Management Committee shall also have the power to compel any party to 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.

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

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8. (A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than the second Saturday in June in each year. At this meeting the following business (in the following order) shall be transacted provided that at least 51% of Members are present and entitled to vote:-

(i) To receive and confirm the minutes of the preceding AGM.

(ii) To receive and adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts.

(iii) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies

(iv) Constitution of the Competition for ensuing Season

(v) Election of Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members.

(vi) Appointment of Auditors/Verifiers

(vii) Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14).

(viii) Fix the date for the commencement of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition

(ix) Fix the date for the End of the Playing Season

(x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an AGM.

Clubs currently in membership of the Competition shall be entitled to vote on items 1 to 3 above.

Those clubs set to be accepted as Clubs in accordance with item 3 above shall be entitled to attend the AGM, but cannot vote on items 1-3 above.

All Clubs (i.e. those Clubs currently in membership of the Competition and those accepted as Clubs in accordance with item 3) shall be entitled to vote on items 4 to 10 above.

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

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

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

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

(F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.

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

(H) (i) Any continuing Club must be represented at the Annual General Meeting. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

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

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

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

The Management Committee may call a SGM at any time.

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

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

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

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

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

10. Membership of the Competition shall constitute an agreement between the Competition and a Club to be bound by and comply with these Rules (including any decision of the Management Committee made pursuant to these Rules)

Any change of Chair, Secretary or Directors of the Club must be notified to the parent County Football Association to which the Club is sanctioned and to the Secretary of this Competition.

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

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP 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 must notify the Secretary in writing by 31st March each Season. This does not apply to a Club moving in accordance with Rule 22(B). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

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

(D) Should any Club with two or more teams wish to withdraw one of its teams after the start of the season, they shall withdraw the lesser Team, except by special approval of the Management Committee.
A Club/Team shall not withdraw from this Competition and form under another name in a lower Division without the sanction of the Management Committee and the requirements of Rule 18(H).

EXCLUSION OF CLUBS OR TEAMS, MISCONDUCT, CLUBS, OFFICIALS, PLAYERS

12. (A) At the AGM or SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, notice of motion having been duly circulated on the agenda by direction of the Management Committee, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to (i) remove a member of the Management Committee from office; (ii) exclude any Club or Team from further membership, both of which must be supported by more than two thirds ($^2/_3$) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A member of the Management Committee or Club which is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

(B) At the AGM, or at a SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provision of Rule 9, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the

Competition any Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by more than two thirds ($^2/_3$) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is subject to the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

(C) Any official or member of a Club proved guilty of a breach of Rule, other than field offences, shall be liable to expulsion or such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of clause (A) and/or (B) of this Rule.

(D) Any club or team found to be using the term 'academy' in their name or associated social media will not be accepted into the league or, if already a member club, will have their membership immediately revoked if they are found to be using the term during the season

TROPHY

13. (A) The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the cup or trophy:

"We A (name) and B (name), the Chairman and Secretary of [] FC (Ltd), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of cup or trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the cup or trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before 1st February. If the Cup or Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair."

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

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

ALTERATION TO RULES

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

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

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or SGM shall be submitted to the Sanctioning Authority or the FA (as applicable) at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting or by 1st April whichever is sooner.

FINANCE

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

(B) All expenditure in excess of £100 shall be approved by the Management Committee.

(C) The financial year of the Competition will end on 30th April.

(D) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be verified annually by some suitable person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

INSURANCE

16. (A) All Clubs must have valid public liability insurance cover of at least 10 million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.

(B) All Clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Players' personal accident insurance cover must be in place prior to the Club taking part in any Competition Match and shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined

from time to time by the Sanctioning Authority. In instances where The FA is the sanctioning

Authority, the minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which the Club affiliates.

Failure to comply with Rule 16(A) or 16(B) will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

DISSOLUTION

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

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

(C) The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:

(i) Any surplus assets, save for a trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or Affiliated Association or The Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by the resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the Sanctioning Authority.

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

MATCH RELATED RULES

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

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

(i) Registered through Player Registration System. Registrations will be accepted on match days provided the player registration has been submitted to the Competition before 11am. To register a player on a match day after 11am, then the player(s) should be registered in accordance with Rule 18(A)(ii).

Or

(ii) signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink on a match day prior to playing which is countersigned by an Officer of the Club, and witnessed by an Officer of the opposing Club, and submitted to the Competition within two days (Sundays excluded) subsequent to the Competition Match. The player shall not play again on a subsequent match day until the Club is in possession of the approval of the Competition. A maximum of four Players up to 1st October in each season and thereafter only two Players may be registered in accordance with this paragraph 18(A)(ii);

For Clubs registering players under Rule 18(A) (ii) registration forms will be provided in a format to be determined by the Competition.

Veterans Divisions Teams only: A player shall have attained the age of 35 years to be eligible to play in a team in a Veterans Division. For the purposes of player registration, Veterans Divisions shall be regarded as separate from other open age Divisions of the Competition. This will allow a player from a Veteran's Team to also play in an open age team for a different Club. A player registering for both open age and Veterans Clubs will need to complete a separate registration or submit a registration through WGS for each Club.

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

(B) (i) Contract players are not permitted in this Competition with the exception of those Players who are registered under Contract with the same Club who have a team operating at steps 1 to 6 of the National League System, or Tiers 1-4 of the Women Pyramid System.

It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any Player registered to the Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any player aged 10 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland, and Ireland.

Each Team must have at least 12 Players registered by 31st July of each Playing Season. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

In the event of a Non-Contract Player changing their 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 18.8.1.

Players aged under 18 are not permitted to play in a mixed adult football Competition.

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

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

(E) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes.

In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club 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.

(F) It shall be a breach of Rule for a player to:-

(i) Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being

transferred

(ii) Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season except for a purpose of a transfer, or where the Competition adopts rule 18.P

(iii) Submit a signed registration form or submit a registration through player registration system for registration that the player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

(G) (i) The Management Committee shall accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rules 18(G)(ii), (iii), (iv) & (v) below (as applicable).

(ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player or may fine any Player at their discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) who has been charged and proved guilty of registration irregularities (Subject to Rule 7).

(iii) The Management Committee shall have power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 7) subject to the right of appeal to the Sanctioning Authority. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the Player is registered or intending to be registered with.

Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition.

(iv) For a player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18(G)(iii) but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the Player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition would be empowered to consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

(v) In respect of a mixed adult football Competition, the Management Committee shall refuse the registration of any Player that is not aged 18 or above.

(Note: Action under Rule 18(G)(iii) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and then only in cases of the Player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any case be subject to an appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or FA. All decisions must include a period of restriction. For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the Competition into disrepute can only be considered where the player has received in excess of 112 days' suspension, or 10 matches in match based discipline, in any competition (and is not restricted to the Competition) in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.)

(H) Subject to compliance with FA Rule C when a Club wishes to register a Player who is already registered with another club it shall submit a transfer form (in a format as determined by the Competition) to the Competition accompanied by a fee as set out in the Fees Tariff.

Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to the club for which the player is registered. Should this Club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the Player concerned within 3 days of receipt notification. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within 3 days, the Competition Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or 3 days after receipt of such transfer.

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

(I) A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 31st March except by special permission of the Management Committee.

(J) Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.

(J) A register containing the names of all players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Registrations Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of an Officer of the Club at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.
In the event of a Non Contract Player without a written contract changing their status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition 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)(i).

(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 five Competition Matches for that Team in the current Playing Season.

(L) A Team shall not include more than 4 players who has/have played in one or more senior Competition Matches during the current season unless a period of 21 days has elapsed since they played. 21 clear days is counted by excluding the day when the relevant Player last played and the day when the Player intends to play again.

For the purposes of this Rule a senior competition(s) is/are: Combined Counties League, Wyvern Combination League, Hampshire Premier League, Wessex League, Hellenic League, Western League, Southern League, Isthmian League, Football Conference, The Football League, The Premier League, plus equivalent competitions operated in other County Associations.

Where a Team fields a Player in a Competition Match or Matches in breach of this Rule, the Management Committee may determine that it has fielded an ineligible player and that the provisions of Rule 18.N shall apply.

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

(ii) The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18(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)(i) above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion order one or more of the following:

(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; and/or

(b) Deduct points from the record the Club in default up to a maximum of 3 points; and/or

(c) Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).

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

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

(ii) The availability of children must be cleared with the Head Teachers (except for Sunday leagues competitions).

(iv) To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16.

(O) No more than 4 players who have played for a Team in the Senior Division (in all competitions) eight times or more during that season shall be eligible to play in a lower Division Team except by permission of the Management Committee.

Where a Team fields a Player in a Competition Match or Matches in breach of this Rule, the Management Committee may determine that it has fielded an ineligible player and that the provisions of Rule 18.M shall apply.

CLUB COLOURS

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

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

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

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

Any team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents the colours in which they will play (including the colour of the goalkeeper's jersey) at least

five days before the Competition Match.

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

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

PLAYING SEASON, CONDITIONS OF PLAY, TIME OF KICK-OFF, POSTPONEMENTS, SUBSTITUTES

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

Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their Grounds in a playable condition. All 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 the 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 must be tested (by a FIFA accredited test institute) every three years and the results passed to The FA. The FA will give a decision on the suitability for use and add the pitch to the Register.

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

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

The times of kick-off shall be fixed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs prior to the scheduled date of the Competition Match with written notification given to the Competition at least 7 days prior.

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

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

No overhead netting is allowed for 9x9 and 11x11 affiliated matches.

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

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

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

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

(C) An Officer of the home Club must give notice in writing 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 clear days prior to the playing of Competition Match. The opposing Club must confirm receipt and give notice of its kit colours (including goalkeeper) at least three 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.

(D) In accordance with the Laws of the Game, the minimum number of Players that will constitute a team for a Competition match is seven. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

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 team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence:- First Team, Reserve Team, A Team.

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

(iv) In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Fixtures Secretary within 14 days the Management Committee shall have power to order the Competition Match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and the Clubs involved agree, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(v) The Management Committee shall review all Competition Matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a Competition Match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Team or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the Competition Match to the opponent. In cases where a Competition Match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule neither Team will be awarded any points for that Competition Match and it shall not be replayed. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned Competition Match.

(vi) If a Competition Match is abandoned each participating Club must give notice to the Competition by the deadline set out in rule 21(B). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(vii) The Management Committee shall review any Competition Match that has taken place where either or both Teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by the FA or Affiliated Association. In each case the Team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible players in accordance with Rule 18(N) above. Where both teams were under suspension the game must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.

(viii) A Club may request a maximum of two non-playing dates for each of its Teams in a Playing Season. A Club requesting a non-playing date shall do so in writing to the Fixtures Secretary no less than 28 days preceding the non-playing dates requested. The non-playing date(s) will only be considered as accepted upon written confirmation from the Fixtures Secretary.

(ix) A Club sharing its ground with a Cricket Club must notify the Fixtures Secretary in writing the dates when their ground will be unavailable due to cricket taking priority over the ground by August 1st in each Playing Season.

(x) A Club having a higher Team in another competition must notify the Fixtures Secretary of the higher team(s) fixtures for each month by the 14th of the month preceding the month's fixtures.

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

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

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

The referee and 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 15 minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a Player not so named may not take place in that Competition Match. Where a Team fields a Player in a Competition Match or Matches in breach of this Rule, the Management Committee may determine that it has fielded an ineligible player and that the provisions of Rule 18(M) shall apply.

A player who has been named as a substitute before the start of the Competition 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.

Teams shall exchange team sheets with each other and supply the Match Officials with a copy of their team sheet no less than 15 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time for each Competition Match.

(G) The half time interval shall be of 10 minutes duration, but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

(H) The Teams taking part in a Competition Match shall identify a Team captain who shall wear and armband and shall have responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of their teammates. Failure to comply with this Rue will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(I) Where a suspension imposed in relation to a:
1) Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations); or
2) The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children or Regulations for Safeguarding Adults at Risk

upon a Club or team 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 by [Time] [1 or 2] 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 Results Secretary must receive within two days of the date played, the result of each Competition Match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the Team Players (in block letters) and also the referee markings required by Rule 23, or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) Both Clubs shall notify the result of each Competition Match to the Results Secretary by one hour after the end of the match. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by an Officer of the Club, or as prescribed by the Competition and submitted to the Results Secretary within two days of the match.

[Note: For all cup matches, including matches in County Cups and Aldershot Divisional Football Association Challenge Cups, both Home and Away Clubs shall notify the result of the match as above.

All Clubs shall use the "Full-Time" SMS or FA Matchday results reporting service, which shall be deemed suitable notification of the match result. In the event of non-receipt of the SMS results message from the Full-Time service, the match result shall be reported directly to the Results Secretary within the timescale above.

Each Club shall award sportsmanship marks to their opponents in each match and include these marks on the match result notification.]

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

22. (A) Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn Competition Match. The teams gaining the highest number of points in

their respective divisions at the end of the Playing Season shall be adjudged the winners. Competition Matches must not be played for double points.

In the event of two or more teams being equal on points at the end of the Playing Season, rankings shall be determined by the following criteria, in the order of priority in which they appear:

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.

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

(B) Automatic promotion may be applied for the first two Teams and automatic relegation may be applied for the last two Teams in each division except as provided for hereunder, subject to the provisions of Rule 2(L).

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

(ii) Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the Playing Season may be filled on any of the following ways:

(a) retention of otherwise relegated Teams(s); or

(b) additional promotion of the next ranked Team(s) from the division below; or

(c) election.

(iii) The last two 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) Save for where Rule 2(M) applies, when a senior Team is relegated to a lower division of which the reserve (or other less senior) Team of the same club is a member, or entitled to be a member, such reserve (or other less senior) Team must accept relegation to, or retain its position in, the next lower division; and should the senior Team be relegated to the lowest division the reserve (or other less senior) Team of the same Club automatically retires from the Competition.

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

(C) Not applicable to this Competition.

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

(E) Where a promotion and/or relegation link exists between Competitions three Clubs, providing they meet the appropriate ground grading criteria, will be able to make application to the Hampshire Premier League Competition at their AGM. Should the champion Club not wish for promotion or, alternatively, not have the necessary grading criteria, then the second or third placed Club will be eligible under the same conditions.

(F) The Management Committee shall have the power to exclude any Team from entering the Senior Division if their pitch and/or facilities are not to the standard required, as below:

Any Team participating in the Senior Division shall have the minimum pitch measurements of 110yards (100 metres) long by 70 yards (64 metres) wide.

Adequate separate changing rooms for each Team and Match Officials plus washing/showering facilities for the visiting Team and Match Officials.

REFEREES

23. (A) Registered referees (and assistant referees where approved by The FA or County FA) for all

Competition Matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Authority.

(B) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed referee the appointed senior assistant referee shall take charge and a substitute assistant referee appointed by the competing Teams. In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that Competition Match, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any Competition Match.

(C) Where assistant referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club assistant referee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

(E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Authority, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff inclusive of travel expenses

Match Officials will be paid their fees by the home Club before the Competition Match. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

[Note: Where assistant referees are officially appointed to a Competition Match, their fees shall be shared equally between both Clubs, except where assistant referees have been specifically requested by either Club, then that Club shall be responsible for paying both of the assistant referees.]

(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 Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Ground, their full fee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

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

[Note: Any Club awarding a referee less than 60 marks is required to submit a report as to the reason for the low marks to the Competition within 7 days of the match.]

(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 County FA.

(J) The referee shall submit a report Form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the Competition Match, the number of Players in each team and the time of kick-off to the Results Secretary within two days of the Competition Match.

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

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

SCHEDULE A

FEES TARIFF

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
4 (A)	Club Entry Fee (Existing Club)	£30
	Club Entry Fee (New Club)	£50
4 (B)	Annual Subscription – per team	£20
	League Cup Entry Fee	£0
	Aldershot Divisional FA Affiliation (per club)	£20
	Aldershot Divisional FA Cup (per team)	£20
18 (D)	Player Registration Fees (First 20 Players)	£60
18 (D)	Additional Player Registration Fee (over 20) – per player	£5
18 (H)	Transfer fee	£15

FINES TARIFF

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
2 (I)	Failure to Comply with FA Initiatives	£35
2 (K)	Unauthorised entry of teams into competitions	£70
3	Failure to obtain consent for a change of club name	£25
4 (C)	Failure to pay a deposit	£70
4 (E)	Failure to ensure teams are recordrd as affiliated in the Club Portal	£25
5 (E)	Communications conducted by persons other than nominated officers	£25
6 (H)	Failure to comply with an instruction of the Management Committee	£70
6 (I)	Failure to pay a fine within the required timeframe	£70
8 (H)	Failure to be represented at AGM	£80
9	Failure to be represented at SGM	£80
10	Failure to notify changes to signatories	£25
11 (A)	Failure to provide notice of withdrawal before deadline	£120
11 (B)	Failure to commence/complete fixtures	£120
13 (A)	Failure to submit the required written agreement regarding the trophy	£25
	Failing to return the trophy by the specified date	£30 + 50p per day
16 (A)	Failure to have the required insurance	£25
16 (B)	Failure to have the required insurance	£25
18 (A)	Failure to correctly register a player	£25
18 (B)(ii)	Failure to have the required number of registered players prior to the season commencing	£30
18 (F)	Registering or playing for multiple clubs, or inaccurate completion of a registration form	£25
18 (G)(ii)	Registration Irregularities	£35

18 (M)	Playing an ineligible player	£120
18 (N)	Failure to give priority to school activities	£30
19	Delaying Kick Off due to no change of colours	£25
19	Failure to number shirts	£25
19	Failure to have different numbered shirts	£25
20 (A)	Delaying Kick Off due to failure to provide required goal nets, corner flags or balls	£25
20 (B)	Failure to play matches on the date fixed	£120
20 (C)	Failure to provide details of a fixture	£25
20 (D)	Playing match with less than required number of players	£5 per player
20 (E)(i) & (iv)	Failure to play fixture	£120
20 (E)(vi)	Failure to notify the league of an abandonment within 24 hours	£30
20 (H)	No Captain's Armband	£15
21 (A)	Late result notification form	£30
21 (B)	Failure to provide result	£30
21 (C)	Result notification not signed by appropriate signatories	£30
23 (C)	Failure to provide Club Assistant Referee	£25
23 (E)	Failure to pay match officials' fees and expenses	£35
23 (F)	Failure to pay match officials where a match is not played	£30
23 (H)	Failure to provide referee's mark	£20

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SCHEDULE A

Fees Tariff
Fines Tariff

RULES OF THE ALDERSHOT & DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP COMPETITIONS

NAME AND CONSTITUTION

1. (A) The Competitions shall be known as:

(i) The Aldershot Football League Mike Smith Memorial Challenge Cup
The Aldershot Football League Division One Challenge Cup
The Aldershot Football League Division Two Challenge Cup
The Aldershot Football League Division Three Challenge Cup

(ii) The Aldershot Football League Veterans Division Challenge Cup
The Eric Perrin Salver
The Aldershot Football League Supplementary Cup

(B) The winners of the Competition shall be presented with a Cup or Trophy which shall be held by that Club for the coming season and shall not be won outright and become the property of any Club. The President, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Secretary of the League shall be the legal holders of the Trophies. League Rule 13 applies in total.

In the event of an additional Division of the League being established, it shall be open to the League to arrange further Cup Competitions.

All Clubs in membership of the League shall enter the appropriate Cup competitions of the League.

(C) Each Club entering teams shall pay fees (£25 all divisions) as decided at the Annual General Meeting and will be paid on or before 31st July each year as part of the Annual Subscription.

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

2. (A) All players of competing teams must be properly registered in accordance with League Rule 18 and to qualify to play in all cup games must have been accepted by the League as a registered player for that Club at least one day prior to the original date of the tie.

To qualify for the semi-final and final, a player must have played at least three (3) matches, excluding friendlies and small-sided competitions in the current season for any team from the Club they represent which plays its matches within the Aldershot and District Football League.

Qualification of players shall be determined by players whose names appear on returned match cards to the League. Matches in which a player is named as a substitute but does not take to the field of play shall not be counted. County and Aldershot Divisional Football Association Cup matches qualify. No player is permitted to sign on the day of the match.

(B) No player shall be allowed to play for more than one Club in this League Cup competition during the same season. In addition a player who has played in a more senior Saturday Cup Competition cannot play for a lower Club/Team. For the purposes of the Rule the "more senior" shall be decided by the Hampshire Football Association's Precedence of Competitions together with Saturday Cup competitions of equal or stronger status outside this County. For the matter of this Rule it shall mean that the Mike Smith Memorial Cup being higher that Division One/Two and Division One being higher than Division Two and so on. However, it shall be permissible for a Club to enter its team / teams in a higher standard County Cup and Aldershot Divisional Football Association Invitation Cup that its League position indicates without jeopardising its status in its own Aldershot & District Football League Divisional Cups. No player is eligible to play in this Leagues Division One or lower cup Competition having played in the Aldershot Divisional Football Association Saturday Senior Challenge Cup or Saturday Intermediate Challenge Cup.

Where a Club has teams playing in more than one of the Cup Competitions defined in Cup Rule 1(A)(i), a player having played for the more senior team shall not be permitted to play for a lower team if he has played eight or more games in the current season for the more senior team (not including Cup Competitions as defined in Cup Rule 1(A)(i)).

In those Cup Competitions where a Club has more than one team, a player having played for the more senior team shall not be permitted to play for the lower team / teams if he has played eight or

more games in the current season for the more senior team (not including Cup Competitions as defined in Cup Rule 1(A)(i)).

Any team found guilty of playing an unregistered/ineligible player or players may be removed from the Competition and fined and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(C) In cases of postponed or replayed matches, only such players as were eligible at the time originally fixed for playing the tie shall be allowed to play or as the Management Committee may decide in special cases. A player who has been suspended may play in postponed or replayed ties after their term of suspension has expired.

(D) For the purposes of player qualification, Cup Rule 2(B) shall not apply to the Veterans Division Challenge Cup, nor shall matches played in the Veterans Division Challenge Cup count with regard to Cup Rule 2(B).

No player shall play for more than one Veterans Club in this Competition. Any team found guilty of playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players may be removed from the cup Competition and fined and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

ARRANGEMENT OF MATCHES

3. (A) All matches shall be played on the ground of the first named Club on dates determined by the Management Committee except the semi-final ties and the final tie which shall be played on a date and ground determined by the Secretary. In all matches upto the Semi-Final both home and away clubs will equally share the pitch fees and the Officials fees. For Semi-Finals, both home and away clubs will equally share the pitch fees and the match referee fees. If neutral assistants are appointed these fees will be paid by the Competition.

The share of match expenses payable by the away club is limited to a maximum of £70 for pitch fees and official fees.

(B) In all cup games, if the game is drawn at the full time, the game shall be decided by penalty kicks as per Hampshire and Football Association Rules.

N.B. In the event of light failing before the end of the taking of kicks from the penalty spot, the result shall be determined by the toss of a coin or the drawing of lots.

(C) Matches abandoned through circumstances over which neither team has control except as defined in Cup Rule 3(B) shall be replayed in its entirety.

(D) Any team failing to keep an arranged tie shall be charged with the unfulfilled fixture and may be liable to be fined and/or forfeit the match.

(E) No team will be allowed to play with less than seven players.

(F) All Cup matches shall kick off 45 minutes earlier than League matches as set at the Annual General Meeting, unless otherwise agreed with the Fixtures Secretary.

(G) The Club first drawn will be the home Club. In the event of their ground not being available for any reason, the tie shall be played on the ground of their opponents. This game shall be recognised as a home game for the first named team. In the event of neither ground being available, the tie shall be played on the ground of the first named team at the earliest available date as arranged by the Fixtures Secretary.

SUPPLEMENTARY CUP COMPETITIONS

4. (A) The Supplementary Cup Competitions shall be:

(i) The Eric Perrin Salver

(ii) The Aldershot League Supplementary Cup

The Eric Perrin Salver shall be considered the more senior of these two competitions.

(B) These Competitions are by invitation as decided by the Management Committee to supplement the normal League programme if time allows in the season. The Competition shall be played in two pools as two divisions of numbers of teams available as defined by the Invitation of the Management Committee, with the normal League Rules of player qualification, points and kick-off times. The two highest placed teams in each pool (as defined in League Rule 22(A)) shall play in the semi-finals. The

winner of pool 'A' shall have home advantage and will play the runner-up of pool 'B', and the winner of pool 'B' shall have home advantage and will play the runner-up of pool 'A'. Both the semi-finals and final shall be played as per Cup Rule 3(B). The format of the Competition may be changed by the Management Committee due to the number of entries and time available when the two pool format is impractical.

(B) This Competition is played in accordance with Cup Rule 2 as to the qualification of players.

(C) Cup Rules 3(C); (D); and (E) shall apply to both competitions. Cup Rule 3(F) shall apply to the knockout stages of these competitions.

CLUB COLOURS

5. League Rule 19 will apply for any change of colours in all ties except the final tie when the Secretary will notify Clubs concerned in the possible clash of colours.

WITHDRAWALS

6. Any Club withdrawing from the Cup Competition will be fined the maximum of £20.

REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES

7. League Rule 23 applies except with 23(E) shall apply with the following additions:

The Referees Appointments Secretary (Saturdays) shall appoint a Referee and two neutral Assistant Referees for all ties including the Final tie, subject to availability.

The Referees and Assistant Referees fee and expenses for all ties shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting. No fees are to be paid in the final tie, but suitable souvenirs will be provided.

Referees' fees for all ties up to and including the semi-final tie shall be shared equally between the home and away Clubs. The home Club shall be responsible for paying the referee and shall reclaim the equal share from the away Club.

If neutral Assistant Referees are appointed in any tie excluding the semi-final tie, then their fees and expenses shall be shared equally by both Clubs.

If neutral Assistant Referees are appointed in any tie semi-final tie, then their fees and expenses shall be met by the Competition.

FINAL TIE

8. The ground for the final ties should (subject to availability) be an enclosed ground, with facilities for taking a gate. All receipts taken shall be retained by the League, less expenses.

LEAGUE RULES

9. The following League Rules shall apply in all Cup Competitions, except as laid out for the Supplementary Cup competitions:

Rules 6 (less F, G, and J), 7, 13, 18, 20 (less E (i),(ii),(iii)), 21.

All questions of eligibility qualification of players as well as all other matters in dispute shall be left to the Management Committee or Sub-Committee whose decision is final.

LEAGUE CUP FEES & FINES TARIFF

Cup rule no.	Details		Amount £
1 (C)	Entrance Fee – included in league fees		25.00
6	Withdrawal from Cup Competition	max	30.00