

**Standard Code of Rules (SCOR) – Walking Football  
SEASON 2026-2027**

**Approved at the AGM  
July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2026**

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**The Standard Code is mandatory for: (a) all Competitions at Regional NLS Feeder League level and below, and (b) all competitions at Tier 7 and below of The FA Women's Pyramid, and (c) all mixed adult football Competitions authorised by The FA.**

## 1. 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 League.

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

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

"League" means the Thames Valley Walking Football League ('TVWFL').

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

"Fees Tariff" means a list of fees approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the League 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 League Committee for any breach of the Rules, as set out at Schedule A.

"Ground(s)" means the ground(s) or venue(s) on which the league's team(s) plays its League Matches.

"League Committee" means in the case of a League which is an unincorporated association the League committee elected to manage the running of the League.

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

"Officer" means an individual who is appointed or elected to a position in a Club or League 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 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 League is played each year until the date on which the last competitive fixture in the League is played.

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

"Sanctioning Authority" means the Berks & Bucks County Football Association Limited ['BBFA'].

"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 League.

“SGM” means a special general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the League. “Team” means a team affiliated to a Club, including where a Club provides more than one team in the League 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.

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

## GOVERNANCE RULES

### 2. LEAGUE NAME, CONSTITUTION

2.A The League will be known as the Thames Valley Walking Football League (‘TVWFL’) (or such other name as the League may adopt). The Clubs participating in the League must be members of the League. A Club which ceases to exist, or which ceases to be entitled to play in the League for any reason whatsoever shall automatically cease to be a member of the League.

2.B This League shall consist of Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

2.C The geographical area covered by the League membership shall be within a 75-mile radius of Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre SL7 1RR.

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

2.E All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed as a member of the League to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the League Committee in relation to them subject to the provisions of Rules 7 and 10.

2.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 League.

2.G All Clubs must be affiliated with an Affiliated Association.

This League shall apply annually for sanction to the Sanctioning Authority and the constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped in divisions.

#### 2.H Inclusivity and Non-discrimination:

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

The League and each Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognizing that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community.

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

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

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

2.K Recognising that clubs are entitled to enter any of their teams playing in the league in any other competitions, it must be accepted that this must be done by agreement with the league to avoid fixture clashes. If an unforeseen clash may occur, league fixtures will take priority.

To prevent fixture clashes, Clubs are required to report details of their participation in any external leagues or competitions to the League immediately upon scheduling, with a strict deadline of one month prior to the affected League fixture.

2.L At the TVWFL League AGM or an 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.

2.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 League will obtain the prior approval of the Sanctioning Authority. This League will ensure that, where permission is given, Teams from a Club operating in the same division are run as separate entities with no interchange of players other than by transfers of registration in accordance with these Rules.

2.N Under the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulations 2018 (as implemented, adapted or modified under the Data Protection Act 2018) the League is a Data Controller. Although most data about players and league officers is collected by the FA on the Club Portal, the League may also collect some limited data, provided by members to help in the efficient administration of the league when corresponding by phone, e-mail or otherwise. The information members may give may include their name, date of birth, address, e-mail address, phone number, gender, and the contact details of a third party in case of emergency. The league may also ask for relevant health information, which is classed as special category personal data, for the purposes of their health, wellbeing, welfare and safeguarding. Where the league holds this data, it will be with the explicit consent of the player.

Where the League needs to collect personal data to fulfil league responsibilities and this is not provided, it may not be possible to honour or administer the membership. The reason the League needs players' and members' personal data is to be able to run the league and arrange matches; to administer memberships and provide the membership services players are signing up to when they register with the league. The lawful basis for processing this personal data is that the league has a contractual obligation to teams and players as participant or member to provide the services they are registering for.

### 3. CLUB NAME

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

#### 4. ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

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

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

4.B The season 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.

4.C A Club shall not participate in this League until the entry fee and annual subscription have been paid.

4.D Clubs must ensure that all their teams participating in the League are recorded as affiliated on the Club Portal for the forthcoming Playing Season before the AGM. Clubs must advise the League 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 League. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

4.E New teams or clubs applying for membership shall be reviewed by the League committee and placed on a waiting list with a view to allowing them to fill any appropriate gaps that may exist or arise. This process may involve playing a match against an existing team of known standard and allocating an appropriate division.

#### 5. LEAGUE, NOMINATION, ELECTION

5.A The League Committee shall comprise up to 11 Members consisting of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and other roles as defined at the time who shall all be elected at the AGM. The League Committee shall comprise of no more than two Members from each Club. Other members may be seconded to meet need from time to time.

5.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 31st December each year.

All other candidates for election as Officers of the League or members of the League Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the secretaries of two Clubs, not later than one month before the AGM 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.

5.C The League 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 a majority of the members of the League Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the League Committee.

All meetings of the league may be held in person or online as circumstances dictate.

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

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

5.F For the smooth, flexible and fair operation of the league, any contingency not covered in this document shall be addressed by a set of **standing orders** which can be varied by agreement with the clubs from time to time.

## 6. POWERS OF THE LEAGUE

6.A The League 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 League Committee for ratification. The League Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the League and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of The FA or Affiliated Association.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.E All decisions of the League Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7.

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

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

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

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

6.I 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.

6.J A member of the League Committee appointed by the League to attend a meeting or League Match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the League.

6.K The League Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the League between the League AGM or SGM called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Playing Season.

6.L The business of the League as determined by the League Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

6.M 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).

## 7. PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

7.A All questions of eligibility, qualification of Players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the League Committee or a sub-committee duly appointed by the League Committee.

Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities will not be entertained by the League Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee prior to the commencement of the Match.

7.B Except in cases where the League Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests, and complaints (which must contain full details of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within 7 days (excluding Sundays) of the League Match or occurrence to which they refer.

A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except with the permission of the League Committee. A member of the League 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.

7.C 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 before the protest or complaint being heard.

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

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

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

A notice of appeal against a decision of the League Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority, with a copy sent to the Secretary, within 14 days of the League 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.

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

## 8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8.A The AGM shall be held not later than August 31<sup>st</sup> each year. At this meeting the following business (in the following order) shall be transacted provided that at least 75% of members are present and entitled to vote: -

- 01 To receive and confirm the minutes of the preceding AGM.
  - 02 To receive and adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts.
  - 03 Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
  - 04 Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Season.
  - 05 Election of Officers of the Competition and the League Committee members.
  - 06 Appointment of auditors/verifiers.
  - 07 Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14).
  - 08 Fix the date for the commencement of the Playing Season(s).
  - 09 Fix the date for the end of the Playing Season.
- the 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.

8.B A copy of the duly approved balance sheet, statement of accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 14 days prior to the AGM together with any proposed Rule changes.

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

8.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.

8.E Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the League 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.

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

Chair decides.

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

8.H Any continuing Club can be represented at the AGM.

Any club that has submitted a valid application to join the League for the forthcoming season must have the opportunity to be put forward for membership and to have a vote taken on their membership application.

8.I Officers of the League and League 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)

## 9. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

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

9.B The League Committee may call an SGM at any time

9.C At least 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.

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

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

9.F Officers of the League and League 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.D)

## 10. AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

10.A 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).

10.B 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.

## 11. CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

11.A Any Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a Team from the League on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the League must notify the Secretary in writing of such intention by 31st March and 30th June respectively. 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.

11.B The League 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.

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

## 12. EXCLUSION OF CLUBS, TEAMS. MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS, LEAGUE COMMITTEE

12.A At the AGM or SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, notice of motion having been duly circulated on the agenda by direction of the League Committee, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to:

1. remove a member of the League Committee from office;
2. exclude any Club or Team from membership;

both of which must be supported by more than two thirds (2/3) of those present and voting.

A member of the League Committee or Club which is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

12.B At the AGM, or at an SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the League any club or team whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, provided this is supported by more than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

12.C Any Officer or member of a Club found guilty of a breach of Rule, other than field offences, shall be liable to such penalty as a General Meeting or League Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of 12.A and/or 12.B of this Rule.

12.D If players receive a red card during any league playing session, whether playing or supporting, they will be obliged to leave the immediate vicinity of the playing area for the duration of the session and be automatically banned in line with FA on field sanction regulations. This will include a ban across all age groups on that matchday in line with the suspension length. The length of the ban will be determined by the FA on Field Regulations and any further misconduct sanction by Berks and Bucks FA based on the severity of the incident.

## 13. TROPHY

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

"We (A) (name) and (B) (name), the Chair and Secretary of [ ] FC (Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of cup or trophy, and the cup or trophy having been delivered to us by the League, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the cup or trophy to the League Secretary on or before [ ]. If the cup or trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care, we agree to refund to the League 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.

13.B At the close of each Competition awards may/shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit. Any such awards or cups or trophies shall then belong to the winning team(s).

## 14. ALTERATION TO RULES

14.A Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the League AGM or at an 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.

14.B Notice of proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the League AGM shall be circulated to the Clubs with at least 14 days' notice. The proposals and proposed amendments to these proposals shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the League AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present and entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

14.C Notice of proposed alterations by member clubs together with any proposals by the League Committee [and mandatory FA amendments or additions when available] to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by 31st March each year.

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 AGM.

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.

Only proposals for change accepted by the Sanctioning Authority may be put to a vote at AGM.

## 15. FINANCE

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

15.B All expenditure shall be approved by the League Committee.

15.C The financial year of the League will end on 31 July.

15.D The books, or a certified balance sheet, of the League shall be prepared and shall be audited/verified annually by a suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

15.E Monthly reports on the financial situation shall be prepared and shared with the League Committee

## 16. INSURANCE

16.A All Clubs must have valid public liability insurance cover of at least ten million pounds (£10,000,000) or such figure as may be specified by the sanctioning authority at all times.

16.B All Clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Players' personal accident insurance cover must be in place prior to the Club taking part in any Competition Match and shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time to time by the Sanctioning Authority. In instances where The FA is the Sanctioning Authority, the minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which a Club affiliates.

16.C Clubs must provide the Secretary with their current season CFA affiliation number each year to provide evidence of this cover. Failure to comply with Rules 16(A) or 16(B) will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

## DISSOLUTION

17.A Dissolution of the League 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.

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

17.C The League Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:

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

If a League ends for any reason, trophies or other awards will either be given back to the donor — if specific conditions require it — or handled according to the decision of the Sanctioning Authority.

## **MATCH RELATED RULES**

### **18 QUALIFICATIONS OF PLAYERS**

18.A A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has been registered through the Player Registration System (Club Portal) and is aged 50 years of age for males and 40 years of age for females. However, females can play in the mixed leagues 10 years above their chronological age category. This is detailed below:

Females aged 40-49 can play for M50s

Females aged 50-54 can play for M50, M60

Females aged 55-59 can play for M50, M60, M65

Females aged 60+ can play for M50, M60, M65, M70

Any registration that is not fully and correctly completed will 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 via the Player registration System, the registration will not be processed.

For Clubs registering Players by the Player Registration Process, Clubs must access the Player Registration System (Club Portal) to complete the registration process. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- 18.B
1. Contract players are not permitted in this Competition.
  2. Each Club must have at least 6 Players registered 7 days before the start of each Playing Season.
  3. For insurance reasons, a maximum of 25 players shall be set for any given squad, with a maximum of 9 allowed to take part on match day.

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

18.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.

18.D A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered and included in the annual team fee.

18.E The League 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 League 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.

18.F It shall be a breach of rule for a Player to:

1. Play for more than one Club in the same division in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.
2. Having registered for one Club in the same division, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season except for the purpose of a transfer.
3. Submit a registration through the Player Registration System for registration that the Player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

18.G

(i) The League Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rules 18(G) (ii) and (iii) below.

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

(iii) The League 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 with or intending to be registered with.

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

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

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

18.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 receiving 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 League Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or 7 days after receipt of such transfer.

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

18.I A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition for the final Matchday in any season except by special permission of the League Committee.

18.J Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.

18.K A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding League Match i.e., a play-off (as specified in Rule (22.A) unless the Player has played 2 League Matches (League and/or Cup) for that Team in the current Playing Season. Exceptions to the Rule will be considered (and approved or rejected) by the League Committee on a case-by-case basis.

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

(ii) The League Committee may vary the sanction as it relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18L.2 only in circumstances where the ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate or where the ineligibility is related to the Player's status.

(iii) Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 18L.2 above, the League Committee may also, at its discretion:

- a) Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed; or
- b) Levy penalty points against the Club in default.

18.M Players cannot transfer between teams in the same club more than once per playing season and remain subject to Rule 22 (L), unless agreed by the League Committee.

**Internal Transfers:** \* Moving Up: Players may move to a higher division team twice; on the third occasion, they must transfer permanently to that team.

- I. Moving Down: Players moving to a lower division team must transfer with immediate effect.
- II. Same-day play: Allowed only if teams are in different divisions, players are dual registered, and squads are 7 players or fewer on the day.
- III. Same Division: Transfers between teams in the same division during a season are prohibited without written agreement from the committee.

18.N 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 (Club Portal) giving the reasons for the request. The League may either approve or decline the request.

## 19 CLUB COLOURS

19.A Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from outfield Players.

19.B No Outfield Player shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.

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

19.D 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

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

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

The duration of games may be varied to suit on-the-day conditions.

Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition. All teams must supply at least two match quality size balls of appropriate size on matchdays.

20.B In accordance with the Laws of the Game for Walking Football, the minimum number of Players that will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is 5.

20.C The League 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.

20.D The League 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 League Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the League 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 League Committee shall rule that neither Team will be awarded any points for that Competition Match, and it shall not be replayed. No fine(s) can be applied by the League Committee for an abandoned Competition Match.

A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the FA Walking Football Laws of the Game use up to 3 repeat substitute Players in any Competition Match.

20.E 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 League of the on-field discipline of their teammates.

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

## 21 REPORTING RESULTS

All results shall be noted by the match referee and passed to a league Officer for recording.

## 22 DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

22.A In the event of two or more Teams being equal on points at the end of the Playing Season, rankings shall be determined by:

1. Goal difference
2. Most goals scored
3. Most wins
4. Head-to-head result(s)
5. Drawing lots or tossing a coin

22.B Promotion and relegation shall normally be automatic but a team may reject promotion, at the discretion of the committee, and the committee may, at its discretion, promote a replacement team.

## 23 MATCH OFFICIALS

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

23.B 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.

23.C 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.

23.D Match Officials will be paid their fees by the league immediately after the Competition Match.

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

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

23.G Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the League Rules free of charge.

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

## SCHEDULE A

| FEES TARIFF |                          |             |
|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| RULE NUMBER | DESCRIPTION              | MAXIMUM FEE |
| 4 B         | SEASON TEAM SUBSCRIPTION | £50.00      |

| FINES TARIFF |                                                                                                   |                                        |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| RULE NUMBER  | DESCRIPTION                                                                                       | MAXIMUM FINE                           |
| 2 I          | FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES                                                             | £100.00                                |
| 2 K          | UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO OTHER LEAGUES                                                    | £100.00                                |
| 3            | FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME                                               | £30.00                                 |
| 4 E          | FAILURE TO ENSURE TEAMS ARE RECORDED AS AFFILIATED IN THE CLUB PORTAL                             | £100.00                                |
| 5 E          | COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS                                 | £25.00                                 |
| 6 I          | FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE LEAGUE COMMITTEE                                     | £25.00                                 |
| 6 J          | FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME                                                   | DOUBLE THE ORIGINAL FINE UP TO £100.00 |
| 8 H          | FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM (CONDUCTED ONLINE, if set)                                       | £25.00                                 |
| 9E           | FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM (CONDUCTED ONLINE, if set)                                       | £25.00                                 |
| 10           | FAILURE TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES                                                          | £10.00                                 |
| 11 A         | FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE                                           | £25.00                                 |
| 11 B         | FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES                                                             | £40.00                                 |
| 13 A         | FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY                             | £25.00                                 |
| 16 C         | FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE                                                            | £100.00                                |
| 18 A         | FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER                                                            | £40.00                                 |
| 18 B 3       | FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE SEASON COMMENCING          | £25.00                                 |
| 18 F         | REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS, OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM        | £25.00                                 |
| 18 G 2 &     | REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES                                                                       | £100.00                                |
| 18 K         | FIELDING MORE THAN THE PERMITTED NUMBER OF PLAYERS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SENIOR LEAGUE MATCHES | £100.00                                |

|      |                                               |        |
|------|-----------------------------------------------|--------|
| 18 M | PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER                  | £15.00 |
| 19 F | DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS | £10.00 |
| 19 G | FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS                      | £10.00 |
| 19 G | FAILURE TO HAVE DIFFERENT NUMBER SHIRTS       | £10.00 |
| 20 G | NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND                          | £5.00  |