



CHELTENHAM ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Handbook Proudly Sponsored by



2026/27 Season Competition Yearbook

Welcome to the 2026/27 Season

As we look ahead to the start of the 2026/27 campaign, it is my absolute pleasure to welcome all players, managers, club officials, match officials, and supporters to another thrilling season of the Cheltenham Association Football League.

Since our foundation in 1900, this league has been a cornerstone of grassroots football in and around Cheltenham. Over 125 years later, that proud tradition continues. From our highly competitive top flight to the fiercely contested lower divisions, the Cheltenham League remains a vital stepping stone in the local football pyramid, providing competitive Saturday football and serving as a key feeder to the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League.

A league is only as strong as its member clubs, and this year we are thrilled to expand our footballing family. Please join me in extending a very warm welcome to AFC Cheltenham and St Pauls United, who are joining the competition for the 2026/27 season. We are also welcoming new teams from Bibury, Cheltenham Saracens, and FC Lakeside.

We wish all of our new arrivals the very best as they embark on their inaugural campaigns with us, and we look forward to the fresh competition and energy you will bring to the pitch.

This handbook is designed to be your definitive guide for the months ahead. Inside, you will find the complete set of league rules and useful plain English guides. We ask that all club secretaries, managers, and captains familiarise themselves with its contents to ensure the season runs smoothly both on and off the pitch.

I want to take this opportunity to extend my deepest gratitude to the volunteers who make weekend football possible. To the fixture secretaries, ground staff, kit washers, and committee members: your tireless dedication is the foundation upon which this league is built.

A special word of appreciation must also go to our match officials. Referees and assistants are the lifeblood of the beautiful game. I strongly urge every club to uphold the highest standards of respect, sportsmanship, and fair play on the touchline this season. Let us ensure that the Cheltenham League continues to be an environment where referees feel supported and the game can be enjoyed by all.

Whether your club is fighting for promotion, aiming for cup glory, or simply proud to be fielding a side each week, I wish you a fantastic, competitive, and memorable season of football.

John Hunt

Chairman



Officers and Competition Officials

President

Ian Swales

Joined: 2012 Elected: 2023

Vice-President

Terry Onions

Joined: 2002 Elected: 2026

Chairperson

John Hunt

Joined: 2002 Elected: 2020

Vice-Chairperson

Ben Hill

Joined: 2003 Elected: 2015

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Joined: 2010 Elected: 2010

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Hon. General and Charities Treasurer and Benevolent Scheme Secretary

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Hon. Fixtures Secretary

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Hon. Discipline Secretary

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Hon. Match Officials Secretary

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Management & Finance Committee

Di Johnson - Len Cole - Matt Roberts



Club Secretaries' Admin: Brief Guidance Notes

This brief guide provides a basic checklist of actions to take prior to matchday and on matchday itself. This guide does not replace the official League Rules but acts as a quick reference tool to help everything run smoothly and keep fines to a minimum.

Early Season & General Admin

- Registrations: Each team must have at least 11 players registered 7 days before the start of each Playing Season.
- Matchday Registrations: If registering a player on the day, you must email the Competition with the details 1 hour prior to the scheduled kick-off. Additionally, a paper form must be signed and witnessed by the opposition, it must be submitted within two days (excluding Sundays). A maximum of 2 players can be registered this way per match.

Home Fixtures Checklist

- Contact Opposition & Referee by email: You must provide full details of the venue, kick-off time, and kit colours at least 3 clear days before the match. In Addition you must copy the email to caflmtchnotifications@gmail.com
- Pitch & Equipment: Ensure the pitch is playable and that you provide goal nets, corner flags, and at least two match balls fit for play.
- Teamsheets: Hand a list of the first names and surnames (including substitutes) to the referee and a representative of the opponents at least 1 minute before the stated time of kick-off.
- Pay the Referee: Match Officials must be paid their fees and expenses by the home club before the match.
- SMS Result: You must notify the result via SMS within 180 minutes of the scheduled commencement time of the fixture.
- Match Return: Complete the Full-Time match return by 12 noon on the day that is 3 days after the completion of the fixture. The home team must also forward copies of the teamsheets for both teams to the Results Secretary within 3 days of the match.

Away Fixtures Checklist

- Confirm Details: You must confirm receipt of the home team's match details and declare your kit colours at least 2 days prior to the playing of the match.
- Teamsheets: Hand your list of players and substitutes to the referee and the home team at least 1 minute before kick-off.
- SMS Result: Both clubs (including the away team) are required to submit the result via SMS within 180 minutes of the scheduled kick-off.
- Match Return: Complete your Full-Time match return by 12 noon on the day that is 3 days after the fixture.

Postponements & Pitch Unavailability

- League Matches: If your home pitch is unplayable, you must inform the Assistant Secretary - Fixtures of the need to switch to your designated alternative pitch in enough time to ensure arrangements can be made.
- Charity Cup Matches (Strict Deadline): For Cup matches, you must notify the Assistant Secretary - Fixtures as soon as unavailability is known, and no later than 6:00pm two days before the fixture (unless caused by late weather issues outside of your control). Failure to meet this deadline will result in a fine and removal from the Cup.

The CAFL Benevolent Fund: Support When You Need It

We know that suffering an injury on the pitch can cause real stress off it, especially if it impacts your work or daily life. That is why the Cheltenham Association Football League runs a Benevolent Fund. If you are registered to play in our league, you are automatically a member of this scheme for the current FA season. We strongly encourage any player who suffers a qualifying injury to apply.

Financial Benefits Available

The scheme is designed to offer a helping hand during your recovery or in the event of a severe tragedy:

- Injury Support: Eligible players can claim £40 per week for up to ten weeks.
- Waiting Period: Please note that the first week of the injury is excluded from payments.
- Tragic Loss: A £500 payment is provided in the event of death.

Additional Support: Club Insurance

In addition to the League's Benevolent Fund, you may also be eligible to claim on your club's insurance. All member clubs are strictly required by league rules to hold valid personal accident cover for all registered players. We highly recommend speaking to your Club Secretary immediately after an injury to explore this secondary avenue for financial support.

Eligibility Criteria

To qualify for support from the Benevolent Fund, the following conditions must be met:

- You must be officially registered with the Cheltenham Association Football League.
- The injury (or death) must arise while you are actively playing in a Cheltenham League Match, a Cheltenham League Charity Match, or a County Cup Match.

How to Make a Claim (Strict 7-Day Deadline)

There is a very strict turnaround time for claiming your benefits.

- Act Fast: Claims must be made within seven days of the injury occurring.
- Get the Form: You must use the official claims form.
- Contact the Secretary: Forms can be obtained directly from the League Benevolent Scheme Secretary, Iain Smith, by emailing cafltreasurer2@gmail.com.



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PLEASE REMEMBER

ALL CHARITY CUP COMPETITION MATCHES ARE SUBJECT TO A SEPERATE SET OF RULES.

[LINK TO CHARITY CUP RULES - PAGE 27](#)



League Competition Rules

1. DEFINITIONS

1A

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 Cheltenham Association Football League.

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

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

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

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

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

“Ground” means the ground on which the Club’s Team(s) plays its Competition Matches.

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

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

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

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

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

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

“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 Gloucestershire County Football Association Limited.

“Scholarship” means a Scholarship as defined in The FA rules.

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

- 1B 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

2. COMPETITION NAME, CONSTITUTION

- 2A The Competition will be known as “Cheltenham Association Football League”. 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.
- 2B This Competition shall consist of not more than 34 Teams approved by the Sanctioning Authority.
- 2C The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be 40 miles.
- 2D 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.
- 2E All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a member of the Competition to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee in relation to them subject to the provisions of Rule 7.
- 2F 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.
- 2G
- 1 All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association.
 - 2 This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Sanctioning Authority and the constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding 13 in number.
- 2H Inclusivity and Non-discrimination:
- 1 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 (including those contained in the Equality Act 2010).
 - 2 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,
 - 3 Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.
- 2I 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.
- 2J All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children and Regulations for Safeguarding Adults at Risk as determined by The FA from time to time.
- 2K Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing in the Competition in any other competitions (with the exception of FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. A Club must immediately inform the Competition of the details of any fixture(s) in any other competition in which the Club has entered, for which written consent of the Management Committee has been obtained.
- 2L At the 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.
- 2M 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 by transfers of registration in accordance with these Rules.



3. CLUB NAME

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

4. ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

- 4A Applications by clubs for admission to the Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same clubs must be made in writing to the Secretary by 1st July 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 AGM or an SGM if confirmed by a majority of the accredited voting members present.
- When Rule 22.B is applied or a Team seeks a transfer or, is compulsorily transferred to another division, no Entry Fee shall be payable
- 4B The annual subscription shall be payable, in accordance with the Fees Tariff for each Team. It shall be payable at by a date set by the Management Committee.
- 4C 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.
- 4D A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the entry fee, annual subscription and deposit (if required) have been paid.
- 4E 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 the 14th August. 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.

5. MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

- 5A
- 1 The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and a minimum of one member (but no more than 5 members), who shall all be elected at the AGM.
 - 2 Officer wishing to continue in their role must notify the General Secretary by 30th March in each year.
 - 3 The Officers of the Competition shall be:
Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary – Fixtures, Assistant Secretary - Rule Infringements, Registration Secretary, Referee Secretary, Results Secretary, Club Liaison Officer.
The roles and responsibilities of each officer shall be maintained on the league website.
- 5B
- 1 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 March 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 30th April 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 for any office by the date stated in the earlier part of this Rule, nominations may be received at the AGM.
 - 2 Any member of the Management Committee that has achieved 21 years continuous service will be honoured with a Life Membership to the Competition as a mark of respect.
 - 3 All officers and ordinary members seeking election or re-election shall make a declaration of interests identifying any associations or affiliations with organisations that could constitute a conflict of interest with league business as stated in Rule 6C. A list of all declarations shall be maintained on the league website.

- 5C The Management Committee shall meet a minimum of twice a season or as and when required, 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.
- 5D 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.
- 5E All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Officers and then sent by their appointed CAFL Club secretary to the Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

6. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

- 6A The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all sub-committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of The FA or Affiliated Association.
- 6B Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained, the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each Season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call on each Club to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the Season.
- 6C Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management 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 so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest. (This shall also apply to the procedure of any sub-committee)
- 6D In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chair shall have a second or casting vote.
- 6E 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.J, 8.H, and 9, for all alleged breaches of a Rule the Management Committee shall issue a formal written charge to the Club concerned. The Club charged shall be given 7 days from the date of notification of the charge to reply. In such reply a Club may:
1. Accept the charge and /or submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee; or
 2. Accept the charge and notify the Competition Secretary that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or
 3. Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee; or
 4. Deny the charge and notify the Competition Secretary that it wishes to have 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.

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).

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.

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

The maximum fine permitted for a breach of a Rule by a Team playing at Regional NLS Feeder League level is £500.

No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

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

6F 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.

6G A minimum of 60% of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any of its sub-committees

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

6I 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.

6J Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision. Any Club failing to do so will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.

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

6L 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).

6M The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

6N 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

7A 1 All questions of eligibility, qualification of Players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee.

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

7B Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within 7 days (excluding Sundays) of the Competition Match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of their Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

7C No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the inquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

- 7D 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.
1. All parties must have received a minimum of 7 days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.
 2. Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should indicate such when forwarding the written response.
- 7E The Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Management Committee shall direct.
- 7F An intention to appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority, with a copy sent to the Secretary, within 7 days of the Management Committee providing written notification of its decision.
- A notice of appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority, with a copy sent to the Secretary, within 14 days of the Management Committee providing written notification of its decision, accompanied by the relevant fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff) which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority.
- Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee.
- 7G No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct
- 7H All protests, claims or complaints relating to these Rules and appeals arising from a Player's contract shall be heard and determined by the Management Committee, or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee. The Clubs or Players protesting, appealing, claiming or complaining must send a copy of such protest, appeal, claim or complaint and deposit a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff) which shall be forfeited in the event of the protest, appeal, claim or complaint not being upheld, and in these circumstances may, in addition, be ordered to pay the costs at the direction of the Management Committee.
- All such protests, claims, complaints and appeals must be received in writing by the Secretary within 14 days of the event or decision causing any of these to be submitted.

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 8A The AGM shall be held not later than 30th June in each year. At this meeting the following business (in the following order) shall be transacted provided that at least 60% of members are present and entitled to vote:-
1. Confirm the minutes of the last AGM.
 2. Adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts from the previous season or accounting period.
 3. Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
 4. Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Season.
 5. Election of Competition Officers and Management Committee members.
 6. Appointment of auditors/verifiers..
 7. Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14).
 8. Agree the date for the beginning of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.
 9. Agree the date for the end of the Playing Season (save for Regional NLS Feeder League which shall be determined by The FA).
 10. Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted by the Chair 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.

- 8B A copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet, statement of accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 14 days prior to the meeting, together with any proposed Rule changes.
- 8C A signed copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet and statement of accounts shall be sent to the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of its adoption by the AGM.
- 8D 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.
- 8E 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
- 8F All voting shall be conducted by a show of hands, 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 so decides.
- 8G No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Club.
- 8H
- 1 Any continuing Club must be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
 - 2 Any club that has submitted a valid application to join the Competition for the forthcoming season must have the opportunity to be put forward for membership and to have a vote taken on their membership application.
- 8I 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)
- 8J Where a Competition is an incorporated entity, the Officers of the Competition shall ensure that the Articles of Association of the Competition are consistent with the requirements of these Rules.

9. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- 9A On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call an SGM.
- 9B The Management Committee may call an SGM at any time
- 9C 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.
- 9D Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.
- 9E Any Club failing to be represented at an SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 9F 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.D)

10. AGREEMENT TO RULES OF THE COMPETITION

- 10A 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).
- 10B 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.

11. CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

- 11A 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 of such intention 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.
- 11B 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.
- 11C 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.

12. EXCLUSION OF CLUBS, TEAMS. MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- 12A 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:
- 12B (1) remove a member of the Management 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. 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.
- 12C 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 Competition any Club 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

13. TROPHY

- 13A All League and Cup trophies presented by the Cheltenham Association Football League are awarded on a permanent retention basis. Therefore, winning teams keep their respective trophies and are not required to sign a trophy return agreement.
- 13B At the close of each Competition awards may made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

14. ALTERATION TO RULES

- 14A Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the 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.
- 14B Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by 30th March in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 14 days before the AGM and any amendments to these proposals shall be submitted to the Secretary by 7 days before the AGM. The proposals and proposed amendments to these proposals 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 and entitled to vote and voting are in favour.
- 14C 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.

15. FINANCE

- 15A The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.
- 15B All expenditure in excess of £100 shall be approved by the Management Committee.
- 15C The financial year of the Competition will end on 1st April.
- 15D The accounting records or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be verified annually by a suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

16. INSURANCE

- 16A All Clubs must have valid Public Liability Insurance cover for a minimum of ten million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.
- 16B 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.
- 16C Failure to comply with Rule 16.A or 16.B will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

17. DISSOLUTION

- 17A Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at an SGM by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant SGM.
- 17B 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.
- 17C The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:
1. Any surplus assets (save for a trophy or any other presentation), remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or Affiliated Association or The Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the Sanctioning Authority.
 2. If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the Sanctioning Authority may decide.

18. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

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

1. Registered through the Player Registration System and received approval from the Competition. For any players registered on the day of a match, a Club Officer must email the Competition with details of the registration 1 hours prior to the scheduled kick off time in order for the player to be eligible to play in that match. The Player shall not play again in any subsequent match in the Competition until the Club has registered the player through The FA Player Registration system and is in possession of the approval from the Competition. A maximum of 2 Players may be registered in this manner. For Clubs registering Players under this Rule 18.A.1, Clubs must access the Player Registration System in order to complete the registration process.

Or

2. 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 in a subsequent match in the Competition until the Club has registered the player through The FA Player Registration System and is in possession of the approval from the Competition. A maximum of 2 Players may be registered in this manner. For Clubs registering Players under this Rule 18.A.2, registration forms will be provided in a format to be determined by the Competition.

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.

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

- 18B
- 1 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.
 - 2 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.
 - 3 Each team must have at least 11 Players registered 7 days before the start of each Playing Season. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
 - 4 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.B.1.
 - 5 Players aged under 18 are not permitted to play in a mixed adult football Competition.

18C 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.

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

18E 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.

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

- 1 Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.
- 2 Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season except for the purpose of a transfer, or where the Competition adopts rule 18.P
- 3 Submit a signed registration form as per Rule 18 A.2 or submit a registration through the Player Registration System that the Player had willfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

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

- 18G 1 The Management Committee shall accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rules 18.G.2 , 18.G.3 and 18.G.4 below (as applicable).
- 2 The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player or may fine any Player, at their discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 7).
- 3 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.
- 4 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.

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

A Player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18.G.3 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 may consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

(Note: Action under Rule 18.G.3 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.)

- 18H Subject to compliance with FA Rule C when a Club wishes to register a player who is already registered with another club it shall submit a transfer notification to the Competition via the Player Registration System. . A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff will be required.
- Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to the club for which the player is registered. Should this club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the player concerned within 3 days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within 3 days, the Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or 7 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.
- 18I A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 1st March except by special permission of the Management Committee
- 18J Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.
- 18K 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 50% Competition Matches for that Team in the current Playing Season.

- 18L A Team shall not include more than 2 Players who has/have played in 1 or more senior Competition Matches during the current Playing Season unless a period of 21 clear days has elapsed since they last 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 purpose of this Rule a senior competition(s) is/are all leagues above the Cheltenham Association Football League.
- 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.
- In addition, no Team shall include more than 2 Players who have taken part in half or more matches of a Team in a higher division in this competition during the current season unless a period of 21 clear days has elapsed since they played.
- Applications to play a Player who is not otherwise qualified to play under the terms of the above paragraph, must be made IN WRITING to the League, Registration, Assistant Secretary - Fixtures, Disciplinary Secretaries, AT LEAST 48hrs before the kick off time of the match in question by the Club Secretary, although in EXCEPTIONAL circumstances this time limit may be relaxed. The following details are to be submitted on such applications:
- i) The number of relevant Higher Classification fixtures completed.
 - ii) Dates of appearances by the player in question.
 - iii) Whether the higher team is playing on the date in question.
- Any player taking part in a match for which he is not eligible is liable to have his registration cancelled at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- 18M 1 Subject to Rule 18.M.2 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).
- 2 The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18.M.1 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.
- 3 Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 18.M.1 above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion order one or more of the following:
- 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 of 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).
- 18N The following clause applies to Competitions involving Players in full-time secondary education:
- 1 Priority must be given at all times to activities of schools and school organizations. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
 - 2 The availability of children and young people must be cleared with the Head Teachers or Principals (except for Sunday leagues competitions).
 - 3 To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16.
- 18O A Player who has played for a Team in the higher division 1 times or more shall not in that Playing Season be eligible to play in a lower division 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.

- 18P If a Club wishes to cancel a Player's registration within the Competition, it must make a request via The FA's electronic player registration system giving the reasons for the request. The Competition may either approve or decline the request.
- If a Player's registration is cancelled they will not be eligible to re-register in the Competition for a period of 14 days from the date of cancellation

19. CLUB COLOURS

- 19A Every team must register the colour and design of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 31st July and the Competition Secretary shall decide as to their suitability.
- 19B Any team wishing to change the colour(s) and/or design(s) of its shirt(s) and short(s) during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the Competition Secretary in advance of making that change.
- 19C Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all other Players and the Match Officials.
- 19D No Player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.
- 19E Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents of the colours in which they will play (including the colours of the goalkeepers jersey) at least 5 days before the Competition Match.
- 19F If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the away Team shall make the change. Should a Team delay the scheduled time of kick off for a Competition Match by not having a change of colours they will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 19G 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

- 20A All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board.
- Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their Grounds in a playable condition. All Competition Matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee. If through any fault of the home Team a match has to be replayed, the Management Committee shall have power to order the venue to be changed.
- The Management Committee shall have power to decide whether a pitch and/or facilities are suitable for Competition Matches and to order the Club concerned to play its Competition Match(es) on another ground.
- Artificial Football Turf Pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition provided they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA's Register of Football Turf Pitches - <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 Regional NLS Feeder Leagues, all Competition Matches shall have a duration of 90 minutes. All other Competition Matches shall have duration of 90 minutes unless a shorter time (not less than sixty (60) minutes) is mutually arranged by the two Clubs in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves. Two matches involving the same two Teams can be played on the same day providing the total playing time is not more than 120 minutes.
- The times of kick-off shall be agreed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs and the Competition. 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 not provided. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- No overhead netting is allowed for 9v9 and 11v11 affiliated matches
- Regional NLS Feeder Leagues: Overhead wires used to support pitch divider netting are removed for all affiliated matches at Regional NLS Feeder League level
- For those leagues which are not Regional NLS Feeder Leagues: Overhead wires used to support pitch divider netting are ideally removed for affiliated matches but if they cannot be removed then discretion is given to the match official to restart the match in accordance of the laws of the game.
- 20B Except by permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches must be played on the dates originally agreed but priority shall be given to The FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a Competition match with the consent of the Competition. 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).
- Any Club may, upon application to the Assistant Secretary - Fixtures, request two vacant possible fixture dates, per Team, during each Playing Season season, such application having been lodged with the Assistant Secretary at least 4 weeks prior to the date of the fixture in question.
- 20C An Officer of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the Ground, time of kick-off and kit colours (including goalkeeper) to the Match Officials and an Officer of the opposing Club at least 3 clear days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. The opposing Club must confirm receipt and give notice of its kit colours (including goalkeeper) at least 2 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.
- In addition home Club must copy the email, which they send, to the email address designated by the League for the receipt of such messages (caflmatchnotifications@gmail.com).
- Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 20D In accordance with the Laws of the Game, the minimum number of Players which will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is 7. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- 20E 1 Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall decide whether it should either:
- award the points from the Competition Match in question to the Club's opponent (without the awarding of goals)
- OR
- 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):

- impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff),
 - deduct points from the defaulting Club,
 - order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents.
- 2 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.
- 3 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 Assistant Secretary - Fixtures, Referee Secretary, the secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 4 In the event of a Competition Match not being played or being 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 Competition Failing such agreement and notification to the Competition within 28 days the Competition shall have the power to order the Match to be played on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition. The Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand.
- 5 The Management Committee shall review all Competition Matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that the Match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Team or its Club member(s) they shall award the points for the Match to the opponent. In cases where a Match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule that neither Team will be awarded any points for that Match and it shall not be replayed. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned Match.
- 6 If a Competition Match is abandoned, each participating Clubs must, give notice of the abandonment 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.

The Management Committee shall review any Match that has taken place where either or both Teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by The 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.M above. Where both Teams were under suspension the game must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.

- 20F A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use substitute Players in any Competition Match. A Club may name up to 5 substitute Players of whom not more than 5 may be used. A Player who has been substituted 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.
- The referee shall be informed of the names of the Players taking part in the Match (including the substitutes) not later than 5 minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a Player not so named may not take part 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 that game shall not be considered to have been a Player in that Competition Match within the meaning of Rule 18 of this Competition.

- 20G 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.

- 20H The Teams taking part in a Competition Match shall identify a Team captain who will wear an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management 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.
- 20I Where a suspension imposed in relation to :
1. a 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 17:00, 1 days before a fixture, that fixture will be treated as an unfulfilled fixture and dealt with in accordance with Rule 20(E).
- 20J If a Club's home pitch is not able to be used, because of adverse weather conditions, and the home Club has designated an alternative pitch for use in such circumstances, the venue of the match will be switched to the alternative pitch. The arrangements for the match to be played on the alternative pitch will be undertaken by the Assistant Secretary - Fixtures. Home Clubs failing to inform the Assistant Secretary – Fixtures of the need to switch to an alternative pitch in enough time to ensure that all necessary arrangements can be made will be charged with failing to fulfil a fixture under the provisions of rule 20 E1. If the home side has not designated an alternative pitch to be used, then the match will be postponed.

21.REPORTING RESULTS

- 21A The Competition Secretary must receive within 3 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.
- 21B The Home Club/both Clubs shall use SMS as directed by the Competition Secretary to notify the result of each Competition Match to the results Secretary within 180 minutes of the scheduled commencement time of the fixture. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 21C The match result notification, correctly completed by a responsible member of the Club and shall be entered on the FA's Full-Time (as prescribed by the Competition) facility by no later than 12 noon on the day that is 3 days after the completion of the fixture. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Any defaulting Club will then be notified by the Registration Secretary that it has a further five days to submit the correctly completed details to the FA's Full-Time facility.
- 21D
- 1 For all fixtures, each Club shall hand a list of the first names and the surnames of Players taking part in the fixture (including the names of nominated substitutes) to the referee and a representative of the opponents in the presence of the referee at least 1 minute before the stated time of kick off. This list should be signed by the club official in charge of the Team, the referee, and the representative of the opposition to whom the sheet is handed. Each Player named on the team sheet must be assigned a number and this number must be written on the sheet next to the player's name. The numbers on the shirts must correspond to the number the player has been given on the team sheet. No Player who is named on the team sheet and who was eligible to play in the match in question at the time that the team sheet was handed to the match referee shall be able to subsequently become ineligible for that match, for whatever reason.
 - 2 The home team shall be responsible for forwarding its copies of the Teamsheets for both teams for each fixture to the League Results Secretary within 3 days of the match.
- Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

22.DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

- 22A 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:
- (NB: for Regional NLS Feeder Leagues criteria 1 & 2 are mandatory; for all other Competitions they are optional):
1. Goal difference (where the goals scored against each Team shall be deducted from the goals scored by that Team and the Team with the most favourable goal difference shall be placed highest).
 2. In the event of two or more Teams being equal, the Team which has scored the most goals during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.
 3. In the event of two or more Teams being equal, the Team that has won the most matches during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.
 4. In the event of two or more Teams being equal, the Team which has the better playing record against the other Team in their head to head Competition Matches during the Playing Season will be placed highest.
 5. One-off fixture or play-off games as determined by the League management committee.
- 22B Automatic promotion shall be applied for the first 2 Teams and automatic relegation shall be applied for the last 2 Teams in each division except as provided for below subject to the provisions of Rule 2.L.
1. 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.
 2. Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the Playing Season may be filled in any of the following ways:
 - a. retention of otherwise relegated Team(s); or
 - b. additional promotion of the next ranked Team(s) from the division below; or
 - c. election.
 3. The last 2 Team 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.1 above.
 4. 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. 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. 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.
 5. 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.
 6. If a relegated team from the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League is accepted into The Premier League with no Team being promoted or withdrawing from that division, the division shall contain one additional team for the forthcoming season. The following season where necessary three teams shall be relegated in any divisions to regularise the number of teams in each Division.
- 22C NOT USED
- 22D 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.
- 22E NOT USED

23.MATCH OFFICIALS

- 23A 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.
- 23B 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 23C 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.
- 23D 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.
- 23E Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Authority, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee and travel expenses in accordance with the Fees Tariff.
Match Officials will be paid their fees and/or expenses 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.
- 23F 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 plus expenses. Where a 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.
- 23G A referee not keeping their engagement and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Association with which he or she is registered.
- 23H Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by the FA, award marks to the referee for each match. The name of the Referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the Full-Time Facility. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine. Clubs scoring a referee 60 marks or less must write a report for the reasons for the low score on Full-Time, plus a copy must be sent to the League & Referee Secretary. If in the opinion of the League, the report is not valid then the Club will be liable to be fined in accordance with the fines tariff.
- 23I The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided by the prescribed date each season, shall submit a summary to the Sanctioning Authority.
- 23J 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 Disciplinary Secretary within 2 days of the match.
In the absence of an officially appointed referee, the name of a single stand in referee, provided and mutually agreed by the two clubs in accordance with League Rule 23 B, shall be entered onto the Team sheets for both Home & Away Teams before the game (Printed in Block Capitals & signed by the named referee). The Teamsheets must then be signed by representatives of both the home side and the away side before the commencement of the match. The home club Secretary shall then submit the Teamsheets to the League's Results Secretary within 3 days of the match.
The name of the Single Referee should also be added to the Match Return on Full Time in the notes.
- 23K Not Used
- 23L Not Used
- 23M Separate dressing room accommodation and separate washing facilities must be provided for referees from the home and away Teams accommodation and washing facilities for each match played. These dressing rooms and washing facilities must not be shared by any Teams.

FEES TARIFF

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
4 A	CLUB ENTRY FEE	£100.00
4 B	CLUB/TEAM ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£30.00
4 C	DEPOSIT	£50.00
7 C,	PROTEST FEES	£15.00
18 D	PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE	£3.00
18 H	TRANSFER FEE	£7.00
23 E	REFEREE FEES	£32.00
23 E	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES	£26.00
23E	TRAVEL EXPENSES (PER MILE)	£0.45

FINES TARIFF

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
2 I	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£Not used
2 K	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	£50
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	£50
4 C	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£50
4 E	ENSURE TEAMS ARE RECORDED AS AFFILIATED IN THE CLUB PORTAL	£50
5 E	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£10
6 I	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£250
6 J	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£50
8 H	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£75
9E	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM	£75
10	FAILURE TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES	£50
11 A	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE	£25
11 B	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£100
13 A	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£Not used
16 C	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£250
18 A	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£50
18 B 3	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE SEASON COMMENCING	£20
18 F	REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS, OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM	£50
18 G 2	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£50
18 M	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£50

18 N	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£50
19 F	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS	£20
19 G	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS	£20
19 G	FAILURE TO HAVE DIFFERENT NUMBER SHIRTS	£20
20 A	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT	£20
20 B	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	£50
20 C	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£15 (max £45)
20 D	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS	£20
20 E 1,3 & 4	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	£60
20 E.6	FAILURE TO NOTIFY OF ABANDONMENT OF MATCH	£20
20 H	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£20
21 A	LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION FORM	£20
21 B	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT	£40
21C	RESULT NOTIFICATION NOT COMPLETED WITHIN THE TIME SPECIFIED	£50
21D 1	FAILURE TO EXCHANGE CORRECTLY COMPLETED TEAMSHEETS	£50
21D 2	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE TEAMSHEETS	£50
23 C	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£15
23 E	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES	£20
23 F	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£20
23 H	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£50
23M	FAILURE TO PROVIDE SEPERATE CHANGING AND/OR WASHING FACILITIES	£50

League Cup Competition

League Cup Rules

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1. DEFINITIONS

- 1A As League Rule 1 with the following addition to 1A:
- “Appropriate Competition Officer” means the Competition Secretary or another Officer formally designated by the Management Committee and notified to member Clubs for the purpose concerned.
- “Competition” means the ‘Cheltenham League Charities Competition’.
- “Section” means any one of the Junior Cup, Minor Cup, Primary Cup or Senior Cup.
- “Senior Cup” means the competition-wide Charity Cup section contested by eligible Teams as approved under Rule 2B.
- “Higher-Level Competition” means any Saturday open-age competition, league or division operating at a higher level than the Team for whom the Player is proposed to play, including any competition specifically listed by the Management Committee before the start of the Playing Season. For the avoidance of doubt, “Higher-Level Competition” does not mean the Charity Cup Senior Cup.
- “Higher-Level Team” means a Team participating in a Higher-Level Competition.
- “Appearance” or “played” means that the Player started the match or entered the field of play as a substitute. An unused substitute who does not enter the field of play is not deemed to have played.
- “Clear days” means complete calendar days between the date of the relevant event, including a registration or Appearance, and the date of the Competition Match. The date of the relevant event and the date of the Competition Match shall both be excluded.

2. NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

- 2B As League Rule 2 with the following amendments:
- 2 B** The Competition shall be divided into a number of sections corresponding to the number of divisions within the main Cheltenham Association Football League.
- These shall be known as the Divisional Cups and named the:
- Denis Barrett Junior Cup (for teams in the Premier Division)
- Bob Overington Minor Cup (for teams in Division 1)
- Primary Cup (for teams in Division 2)
- The format of these cups shall be determined at the AGM or an SGM based on the proposed league constitution. The decision regarding the cup format may be deferred should a majority of the voting members agree by a simple vote.
- If the format is deferred, it must be approved at an SGM and published to all Clubs no later than 14 days before the first draw.
- The published format must specify the number of rounds, treatment of byes, method of conducting the draw and any other arrangement affecting progression through the Competition.
- Once the first draw has taken place, the format shall not be altered except where necessary because of withdrawals or other circumstances outside the reasonable control of the Competition. Any alteration and the reasons for it must be communicated to all affected Clubs in writing.
- In addition, there shall be a single competition-wide section named the: Senior Cup
- The Senior Cup shall be contested by all teams within the competition in a simple knock out format.
- Participation in the Competition is restricted to Clubs that are members of the Cheltenham Association Football League.

3. CLUB NAME

As League Rule 3.

4. ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

4B

As League Rule 4, with the following additions to Rule 4B:

Entry into the Charity Cup Competition is mandatory for all member Clubs. Failure to enter all teams will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Each Club must pay an annual subscription in accordance with the Fees Tariff, which includes entry for one team.

Additional teams are subject to an additional fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff.

All entry fees must be paid by the date of the associated league invoice. Failure to do so may result in a fine as per the Fines Tariff and may lead to exclusion from the Competition.

Clubs with outstanding balances at the end of the financial year will be ineligible for re-election.

The mandatory-entry requirement shall not apply to a Team that has been prohibited from entering the Competition under Rule 20E for the relevant Playing Season. A Club shall not be fined for failing to enter a Team while that Team is subject to such a prohibition.

5. MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

As League Rule 5.

6. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

As League Rule 6.

7. PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS & APPEALS

As League Rule 7.

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As League Rule 8.

9. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

As League Rule 9.

10. AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

N/A

11. CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

As League Rule 11.

12. EXCLUSION OF CLUBS OR TEAMS MISCONDUCT, CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS

12D

As per League Rule 12 with the addition of the below:

12 D - Violent Conduct During Competition Fixtures

Where a Player or Club Official is found guilty by the Football Association, the relevant County Football Association or another competent football disciplinary authority of violent conduct arising from a Competition Match, the Management Committee may consider whether an additional Competition sanction is necessary to protect the integrity or proper administration of the Competition.

The Management Committee shall not reconsider the disciplinary authority's finding of guilt.

Before imposing a Competition sanction, the Management Committee must:

1. Provide the Club with written notice of the matter being considered;
2. Identify the possible Competition sanctions;
3. Give the Club a reasonable opportunity to make written representations;
4. Ensure that any Committee member with a conflict of interest takes no part in the decision; and
5. consider the seriousness of the conduct, its effect upon the fixture and whether the conduct involved or benefited the Team generally.

The Management Committee may:

1. Allow the result to stand;
2. Award the tie to the opposing Team;
3. Order the match to be replayed;
4. Declare the result void;
5. Expel the Team from the relevant Section; or
6. Make any consequential order required for the next round.

The decision and reasons must be communicated to the affected Clubs in writing and shall be subject to any right of appeal under League Rule 7.

Where the circumstances have already resulted in an order under Rule 20K, the Management Committee shall take that order into account when determining whether any additional Competition sanction is necessary. Nothing in Rule 20K shall prevent a later sanction under this Rule following a disciplinary finding by the relevant football authority.

13. TROPHY

13A

As League Rule 13 with the amendments below:

League Rule 13 A (Agreement to be Signed) is N/A.

For each Section, the League shall provide 18 mementoes to the winning Team and 18 mementoes to the runner-up Team.

The League shall also provide one trophy for each Section. Upon presentation, ownership of that trophy shall pass permanently to the Club responsible for the winning Team.

The trophy shall not be a perpetual trophy and shall not be subject to the return, custody or agreement requirements contained in League Rule 13A.

The transfer of ownership shall be subject to the result of the Final not subsequently being voided, reversed or otherwise set aside under these Rules.

If the winning Team's title is subsequently revoked, ownership of the trophy shall immediately revert to the League and the Club must return it within seven days of receiving written notice. The League may then present the trophy to any replacement winner determined under these Rules.



14. ALTERATION TO RULES

As League Rule 14.

15. FINANCE

As League Rule 15 with the additional clause below:

The Charity Cup finances shall be accounted for separately from the finances of the main League Competition.

For this Rule, “net proceeds” means all income received in connection with the Charity Cup Competition less properly incurred and documented Competition expenses approved by the Management Committee.

At least two-thirds of the net proceeds shall be donated to charities selected by the Management Committee. The entire remaining balance shall be transferred to the main League Competition funds.

Member Clubs may nominate suitable charities by any deadline published by the Management Committee.

The annual financial report presented at the AGM shall identify:

1. The Competition’s gross income;
2. Each material category of expenditure;
3. The resulting net proceeds;
4. Every charity receiving a donation and the amount donated; and
5. The amount transferred to the main League Competition funds.

15. INSURANCE

As League Rule 16.

17. DISSOLUTION

As League Rule 17.

18. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

As League Rule 18 with the additions below:

18F 18 F (Replacing League Rule 18 F)

The burden of proving a Player’s eligibility rests at all times with the Club wishing to field that Player.

A Player may play for one Team only in the Charity Cup Competitions during the Playing Season. This restriction applies across all Sections, including the Divisional Cups and the Senior Cup.

A Player becomes cup-tied when they start a Competition Match or enter the field of play as a substitute. Clubs must accurately identify all used substitutes on the team sheet and/or match return. Failure to do so may be treated as a false or misleading declaration and dealt with under Rule 18M and/or Rule 21F.

An Appearance in a Competition Match that is subsequently abandoned, declared void or ordered to be replayed shall continue to count for the purposes of this Rule unless the Management Committee expressly orders otherwise.

For the purposes of Rule 18L, references to a Higher-Level Competition or Higher-Level Team shall have the meaning given in Rule 1A.

1 General Eligibility – Higher-Level Appearances

A Player who has made no Appearance in a Higher-Level Competition during the current Playing Season shall satisfy this paragraph.

A Player who has made one or more Appearances in a Higher-Level Competition shall be eligible without special permission only where both of the following conditions are satisfied:

1. For every individual Higher-Level Team represented by the Player, the Player's number of Appearances is fewer than 50% of the completed main-league fixtures played by that Higher-Level Team; and
2. The Player's combined number of Appearances for all Higher-Level Teams is fewer than 50% of the completed main-league fixtures played by the Team for which the Player is proposed to play in the Competition Match.

Where the Team for which the Player is proposed to play has completed fewer than two main-league fixtures, a Player who has made one or more Appearances in a Higher-Level Competition shall require special permission.

Equality with the 50% threshold shall make the Player ineligible. Fractions shall not be rounded.

All calculations shall be made as at the date of the Competition Match. County Cup, League Cup, Charity Cup and other cup fixtures shall be disregarded.

For this Rule, a completed main-league fixture means a league fixture whose result stands on the relevant date. Any fixture that has been abandoned, voided or expunged shall not be included unless its result has subsequently been ordered to stand.

2 Requests for Permission

A Club may request special permission to play a Player who does not satisfy Rule 18L(1).

Every request:

1. Must be submitted in writing by the Club Secretary to the appropriate Competition Officer no later than 48 hours before the scheduled kick-off;
2. Must identify the Player, the Team and Section concerned, the relevant fixture and the eligibility requirement for which permission is requested;
3. Must contain complete and accurate details of the Player's appearances for every Higher-Level Team during the current Playing Season;
4. Will ordinarily be considered only where the relevant Higher-Level Team is scheduled to play at the same or an overlapping time; and
5. Shall be limited to a maximum of two Players for any Team in any one Competition Match.

Permission shall be valid only for the Player, Team, Section and Competition Match expressly identified in the written approval. It shall not apply to a replay, postponed or rearranged fixture, a later round or a different Section.

The decision shall be provided in writing to the requesting Club and the opposing Club before the fixture.

Where permission was granted because a Higher-Level Team was scheduled to play at the same or an overlapping time, the Management Committee may withdraw that permission if the circumstances supporting the application cease to exist.

If the Higher-Level Team's fixture is postponed after permission has been granted, permission shall remain valid only where:

1. The postponement was outside the control of the Club;
2. The Club notified the appropriate Competition Officer as soon as reasonably practicable; and
3. The Management Committee has not withdrawn the permission.

The absence of a response or decision shall not constitute permission.

3 Semi-Finals and Finals Eligibility

In addition to satisfying Rules 18F and 18L(1), a Player shall not play in a Semi-Final or Final unless all of the following requirements are satisfied:

1. The Player has made an Appearance for the Team concerned in more than half of that Team's completed main-league fixtures during the current Playing Season; or the Management Committee has granted written special permission under Rule 18L(4);
2. The Player has been continuously registered with the Club and eligible to play for the Team concerned for at least 60 clear days before the Competition Match;
3. The Player has not made an Appearance in a Higher-Level Competition during the 14 clear days before the Competition Match;
4. The Player is not cup-tied under Rule 18F; and
5. The Player is not suspended or otherwise ineligible under the Rules of the Football Association, County Football Association, League or Competition.

For the regular-player calculation in paragraph 1, County Cup, League Cup, Charity Cup and other cup fixtures shall be disregarded.

Special permission to satisfy the regular-player requirement shall not, by itself, waive any other requirement of this Rule.

4 Exceptions and emergency goalkeepers

The Management Committee may grant written special permission for a Player to bypass the regular-player requirement in Rule 18L(3)(1). Such permission shall not waive the 60-clear-day registration requirement or the 30-clear-day Higher-Level Competition restriction.

In exceptional circumstances, the Management Committee may grant written emergency goalkeeper dispensation for a goalkeeper to play in a Semi-Final or Final.

Emergency goalkeeper dispensation may expressly waive:

1. The regular-player requirement;
2. The 60-clear-day registration requirement;
3. The 30-clear-day Higher-Level Competition restriction; and/or
4. The advance squad-list deadline in Rule 21F.

The goalkeeper must:

1. Be registered with the Club and eligible to play for the Team before kick-off in accordance with League Rule 18. Dispensation may waive the 60-clear-day registration period but shall not waive the requirement for the goalkeeper to be registered before participating.
2. Not be suspended;
3. Not be cup-tied under Rule 18F; and
4. Satisfy every eligibility requirement not expressly waived in the written permission.

The request must explain why none of the goalkeepers already registered with and eligible for the Club is reasonably available. It must include satisfactory written, medical or other independently verifiable evidence.

Where the circumstances arise after the Rule 21F deadline, the Club must make the application as soon as reasonably practicable. No emergency goalkeeper may participate unless written permission has been granted before kick-off.

Except for an emergency goalkeeper where the written dispensation expressly provides otherwise, the 30-clear-day Higher-Level Competition restriction is absolute.

5 Postponed, rearranged and replayed matches

To play in a postponed, rearranged or replayed Competition Match, a Player must have been eligible:

1. On the original scheduled date; and
2. On the actual date on which the match is played.

Eligibility on the original scheduled date shall be determined using the registrations, appearances, suspensions, completed fixtures and other circumstances existing on that date.

Written special permission granted for the original scheduled date may be relied upon when determining eligibility on that date, but shall not automatically apply to the rearranged or replayed fixture. A fresh written application and approval shall be required.

For a Semi-Final or Final, the 60-clear-day registration requirement and 30-clear-day Higher-Level Competition restriction must be satisfied on both dates.

18M (Replacing League Rule 18 M)

Where a Team plays an unregistered or otherwise ineligible Player in a Competition Match:

1. The offending Team shall be expelled from the relevant Section;
2. The tie shall be awarded to the opposing Team;
3. The Club may be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff; and
4. Any false or misleading declaration may be dealt with separately under these Rules.

Where both Teams are expelled from the same tie, the Team that would have played the winner of that tie shall receive a bye. Where this occurs in a Semi-Final, the winner of the other Semi-Final shall be declared the winner of the relevant Section. Where this occurs in a Final, no winner shall be declared and the trophy shall not be awarded for that Playing Season.

If the breach is discovered after the next round has been drawn or played, the Management Committee may, so far as reasonably practicable:

1. Reinstatement of the non-offending Team;
2. Amend the draw;
3. Order a subsequent fixture to be played or replayed;
4. Award a subsequent tie;
5. Award a bye; or
6. Make any other consequential order necessary to preserve the integrity of the Competition.

Before making a consequential order affecting another Team, the Management Committee shall give the affected Clubs a reasonable opportunity to submit written representations.

The decision and reasons shall be communicated in writing and shall be subject to any right of appeal under League Rule 7.

19. CLUB COLOURS

19A As League Rule 19 with the addition below:

19 A For matches that are played on neutral grounds and where the team colours are the same or similar, both teams shall change.

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

As League Rule 20 with the additions/amendments below:

- 20A 1 All-Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board.
- Where two Teams from the same Club are drawn against each other, the fixture must be played. If either Team postpones, fails to fulfil, withdraws, concedes, refuses to play, fails to provide an available pitch when required, or otherwise causes the fixture not to be played without special permission of the Management Committee, both Teams shall be eliminated from the relevant Section.
- The elimination provision shall not apply where the fixture is postponed solely because of weather or circumstances outside the Club's reasonable control, provided the Club has complied with Rule 20J and the Management Committee has authorised the postponement or rearrangement.
- The date of the Semi-Finals and Finals and ALL OTHER ARRANGEMENTS in connection with these matches shall be made by the Management Committee. Final ties shall be played in Cheltenham unless otherwise ordered.
- The duration of each match shall be two periods of 45 minutes. In the event of the scores still being level after 90 minutes of play, the result of the match will be resolved by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game - Law 10.3.
- In addition, for all Semi-Final and finals ties, each competing Team shall be required to provide 3 match balls, fit for play, to the match referee at least 15 minutes before kick-off, for use during the game.
- 20A 2 For each Semi-Final or Final played at a neutral venue, each competing Club must pay the bond specified in the Fees Tariff to the League Treasurer no later than 48 hours before the scheduled kick-off.
- The bond shall be held as security against cleaning, damage or other reasonable costs arising from the Club's use of the changing rooms or venue facilities.
- Following the fixture:
1. Any undisputed balance shall be returned within 14 days;
 2. Any deduction must represent a reasonable and documented cost;
 3. The Club must be informed in writing of the reason and amount of any deduction; and
 4. Where responsibility is shared, any deduction shall be apportioned reasonably between the Clubs.
- If only one Club fails to pay the bond by the deadline, the fixture shall not be played, the defaulting Team shall be eliminated and the tie shall be awarded to the compliant Team.
- If both Clubs fail to pay for a Semi-Final, both Teams shall be eliminated and the winner of the other Semi-Final shall be declared the winner of the relevant Section.
- If both Clubs fail to pay for a Final, both Teams shall be eliminated, no winner shall be declared and the trophy shall not be awarded for that Playing Season.
- Payment shall not be treated as made until it has been received in the account specified by the League Treasurer.
- Payment of the bond shall not limit the Club's liability. Where reasonable and documented cleaning or damage costs exceed the value of the bond, the Club responsible shall pay the outstanding balance by the date specified in the League's written notice.
- Where the fixture is postponed or rearranged after payment has been received, the payment shall be credited towards the rearranged fixture unless it is refunded. A Club shall not be required to make the same payment twice unless reasonable costs have already been incurred and the Club has received a written breakdown of those costs.
- If a designated neutral venue is the regular home ground of either competing Team, the Management Committee may relocate the fixture or approve the venue for use. Its decision shall be communicated to both Clubs in writing and shall be binding, subject to any right of appeal under League Rule 7.
- 20B Same as League Rule 20 B, with the understanding that postponing a Charity Cup match will count as one of the two permitted postponements per Team, per season under the meaning of League Rule 20 B.
- Postponement requests will not be accepted for Semi-Final or Final fixtures.

Same as League Rule 20 E with the additions below:

The Competition shall conduct cup draws using the FA Full-Time automatic system. Fixtures shall be scheduled on the dates arranged by the Competition Secretary and, unless otherwise provided by these Rules, shall be played on the ground of the Club drawn first.

Unless Rule 20A applies to two Teams from the same Club, where only one Team fails to fulfil a Competition Match without special permission, that Team shall be eliminated, the tie shall be awarded to the opposing Team and the Club may be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Where both Teams fail to fulfil a fixture without special permission, both shall be eliminated and the Team that would have played the winner of that tie shall receive a bye.

Where both Teams fail to fulfil a Semi-Final, the winner of the other Semi-Final shall be declared the winner of the relevant Section.

Where both Teams fail to fulfil a Final, no winner shall be declared and the trophy shall not be awarded for that Playing Season.

Where a Team withdraws after entry has been accepted or fails to fulfil a fixture without special permission, the Management Committee may also prohibit that Team from entering the Competition in the immediately following Playing Season.

Any decision to prohibit entry must be made before entries for the following Playing Season close, must be communicated to the Club in writing with reasons and shall be subject to any right of appeal under League Rule 7.

A prohibition shall apply only to the Team concerned and not automatically to another Team belonging to the same Club.

If the home Team's pitch and any alternative pitch previously approved by the Competition are unavailable, the Club must notify the Assistant Secretary – Fixtures:

1. As soon as the unavailability is known; and
2. Except where the unavailability arises later because of weather or circumstances outside the Club's reasonable control, no later than 6:00pm two days before the fixture.

On receiving notice, the Assistant Secretary – Fixtures may switch the fixture so that the away Team becomes the home Team. The newly designated home Team shall be responsible for paying the referee and submitting the required match documentation.

If switching the fixture is not possible, the Assistant Secretary – Fixtures may designate another suitable venue. In that event, the originally designated home Team shall remain responsible for paying the referee and submitting the required match documentation unless otherwise directed.

Where a Club knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that its pitch and any approved alternative pitch would be unavailable but failed to provide notice by the applicable deadline, the Club shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff and the Team shall be removed from the Competition.

A Club shall not be removed or fined where:

1. The unavailability arose after the deadline because of weather or circumstances outside the Club's reasonable control; and
2. The Club notified the Assistant Secretary – Fixtures as soon as reasonably practicable after becoming aware of it.

The burden of demonstrating that the late unavailability was outside the Club's reasonable control shall rest with the Club.

If the unavailability arises too late for the fixture to be switched or moved, the fixture shall be rearranged at the originally designated home Team's ground unless the Management Committee directs otherwise.

Any disciplinary decision under this Rule shall be subject to any right of appeal under League Rule 7.

Where a Competition Match is abandoned, the Management Committee shall determine the outcome after considering the referee's report and giving the affected Clubs a reasonable opportunity to make written representations.

The Management Committee may:

1. Order the match to be replayed;
2. Order the result at the time of abandonment to stand;
3. Award the tie to either Team;
4. Declare the tie void and award a bye in the following round;
5. Eliminate either or both Teams; or
6. Make any consequential order necessary to preserve the integrity of the Competition.

No Team shall obtain an advantage from an abandonment caused by its Players, Officials, supporters or other persons for whom the Club is responsible.

The decision and reasons shall be communicated in writing and shall be subject to any right of appeal under League Rule 7.

21. REPORTING RESULTS

As League Rule 21 with the addition below:

21F

For every Semi-Final and Final, each Club must submit its proposed squad list to the opposing Club, League Secretary and Registration Secretary no later than 96 hours before the scheduled kick-off.

A fresh squad list must be submitted for a postponed, rearranged or replayed fixture.

The list may contain more Players than the maximum permitted matchday squad, but a Team may field only a Player named on the relevant submitted list, except for an emergency goalkeeper expressly approved under Rule 18L(4).

For every listed Player, the Club must provide:

1. The Player's full name;
2. The date on which the Player was registered with the Club;
3. The number of completed main-league fixtures in which the Player has appeared for the Team concerned;
4. The name of every Higher-Level Team represented during the current Playing Season;
5. The number of main-league Appearances made for each Higher-Level Team;
6. The date of the Player's most recent Higher-Level Competition Appearance;
7. Confirmation of whether the Player has appeared for any other Team in the Charity Cup Competition;
8. Details of any special permission or dispensation being relied upon; and
9. A nil return where the Player has made no Higher-Level Competition Appearance.

Submission of a squad list does not constitute confirmation by the Competition or the opposing Club that any Player is eligible.

A Club may not rely on:

1. The absence of an objection;
2. An error or omission by the opposing Club; or
3. The failure of a Competition Officer to identify an eligibility issue before the match.

Any eligibility query known before the match should be submitted by the Club Secretary no later than 48 hours before kick-off. This deadline shall not prevent the Management Committee from investigating an eligibility issue discovered later.

Any false, incomplete, misleading or late declaration may render the Player ineligible and may be dealt with under Rule 18M.

Where fielding an unlisted Player results in a financial penalty under Rule 18M, no separate financial penalty shall be imposed under Rule 21F for the same act. This shall not prevent a separate penalty for a materially distinct false or misleading declaration.

22. DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

N/A

23. MATCH OFFICIALS

As League Rule 23, with the following addition to Rule 23E

In every Semi-Final for which assistant referees are appointed, the referee's and assistant referees' fees shall be shared equally between the two Clubs.

Each Club participating in a Final shall pay a Final Match Officials Contribution of £50 towards the cost of the match officials appointed to the fixture.

All payments under this Rule must be made electronically to the League Treasurer and received no later than 48 hours before the scheduled kick-off.

If only one Club fails to make the required payment by the deadline, the fixture shall not be played, the defaulting Team shall be eliminated and the tie shall be awarded to the compliant Team.

If both Clubs fail to make the required payment for a Semi-Final, both Teams shall be eliminated and the winner of the other Semi-Final shall be declared the winner of the relevant Section.

If both Clubs fail to make the required payment for a Final, both Teams shall be eliminated, no winner shall be declared and the trophy shall not be awarded for that Playing Season.

Payment shall not be treated as made until it has been received in the account specified by the League Treasurer.

Where the fixture is postponed or rearranged after payment has been received, the payment shall be credited towards the rearranged fixture unless it is refunded. A Club shall not be required to make the same payment twice unless reasonable costs have already been incurred and the Club has received a written breakdown of those costs.



FEES TARIFF

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
4B	Charity Cup Annual Subscription (1 team)	£35.00
4B	Additional Teams Subscription	£15.00
20 A2	Neutral Ground Bond / Deposit (Semi-Finals & Finals)	£50.00
23E	Final Match Officials Contribution	£50 per team

FINES TARIFF

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
4 B 1	Failure to enter the Charity Cup Competition	£50.00
4 B	Late payment of Charity Cup entry fees	£50.00
18 M	Playing an unregistered or ineligible player	£100.00
20 A	Failure to provide match balls	£50.00
20 E	Failure to fulfil a fixture	£20.00
20 J	Failure to notify pitch unavailability in time	£50.00
21 F	Late, false, incomplete or misleading squad-list submission	£100.00

I RESPECT THE STANDARD

THE GRASSROOTS CODE FOR ADULT FOOTBALL

ENJOY THE GAME

We're here to enjoy ourselves... win, lose or draw.

To help make football more enjoyable for all I should:

- Try and bring a positive mindset to all my matches and training sessions.
- Think before I act or speak and recognise not everyone will get or like my 'banter'.
- Remember that while we all want to win, we have the right to go home without being intentionally harmed or injured.

GIVE RESPECT

We always treat others as we'd like to be treated. To give respect at football I must:

- Always use respectful and positive language and actions.
- Not argue with the referee, coach, and officials, and accept their decisions.
- Follow the rules of the game.
- Show fair play by shaking hands with our opponents, whether we win, lose or draw.
- Stay in my team area when I am not on the pitch.
- Tidy up after myself and take care of the facilities we use.

BE INCLUSIVE

We embrace our differences, football is a game for everyone.

To be inclusive at football I must:

- Show zero tolerance for discrimination of any kind.
- Report anything that concerns me via the relevant channel.
- Know that any abuse or discrimination – like racism, sexism or homophobia – can lead to bans, fines and/or police action.
- Treat people based on their character, and nothing else.
- Accept that we all bring our own personal perspectives to the game.
- Not exclude anyone because of background or personal characteristics.
- Remember football is a game for everyone, no matter who they are.

WORK TOGETHER

We're a team, on and off the pitch. To help us bond as a team I should:

- Remember we are all responsible for the result of a match.
- Play fairly, without cheating, diving, complaining, or wasting time.
- Play to the best of my ability to help my team.
- Encourage my team-mates and not criticise them, even when they make mistakes.
- Recognise that if I'm the Captain, I need to try hard to set a positive example for others to follow.



We all have a role in safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults.

To keep everyone safe I will:

- Recognise 16- and 17-year-olds at my club are young people.
- Accept it is my responsibility to know if my role in football places me in a position of trust.
- Speak to my Club or League Designated Safeguarding Officer if I am unsure whether I am in a position of trust.
- Understand appropriate boundaries must be in place, both online and during face-to-face activity.
- Let a club official know if I see anything that looks unsafe.
- Be aware of who the first aiders are, and where the nearest Automatic External Defibrillator is located.
- Keep appropriate boundaries by:
 - Always putting the well-being of young people first.
 - Being friendly but professional.
 - Encouraging young people to review their own progress.
 - Raising concerns about a young person to the Club Welfare Officer if they display behaviour not usual to them or which causes concern.
- Follow the 'Physical contact and young people: Guidance for grassroots football' guidelines. If my role requires physical contact with a young person, I will:
 - Ask the young person's permission and explain the type of, and reason for the physical contact.
 - Keep physical contact to skill development, first aid, harm prevention or celebration of success or comfort in times of distress.
 - Ensure another responsible adult is present for the duration.
 - Remember physical touch should be culturally sensitive to the young person.

**If I DON'T
live up
to the
Standard**

I understand that my Club, League, County FA or The FA may take action, that could include:

- Giving me a verbal warning.
- Asking me to meet with my Club Committee, the league or our CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer.
- Asking that I complete an FA education course.
- Asking that I leave the match venue.
- Requesting that I do not attend future games.
- Suspending me or removing my Club membership.
- Fining me.
- Fining and/or suspending my Club.

About Referees, Assistant Referees and Match Officials:

The FA believes that all Match Officials should be able to officiate free from the threat of violence or intimidation. Any threatening behaviour or physical contact on a Match Official will result in a lengthy exclusion from football and possibly a criminal prosecution.



**LOVE FOOTBALL.
PROTECT THE GAME.**





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