

LEAGUE RULES

Version 2.3: June 2005

NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

1. (A) This League shall be designated the Connexions York Girls Football League and shall consist of not more than twenty Clubs who shall be Full Member Clubs.

All such Member Clubs must be affiliated to an affiliated County Football Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on the Form "D" to the North Riding County Football Association. The area covered by the League Membership shall be a radius of 15 miles from the centre of York. Clubs from outside this area may be admitted where there is no suitable alternative League available.

This League shall apply annually for sanction to the North Riding County Football Association(s) and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding twelve in number.

The League will provide 7-a-side Mini-Soccer for players who have attained the age of 8 years but not the age of 17 years as at midnight on 31st August in a playing season.

(B) At the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the compilation of the divisions at their discretion. When necessary this Rule shall take precedence over Rule 12.

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

2. (A) Applications by Clubs for admission to this League must be made in writing to the Secretary.

At the discretion of a majority of the accredited voting members present, applications, of which due notice has been given, may be received at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting.

(B) The Annual Subscription shall be £10 per Club plus £10 per Team payable on or before the 1st August in each year.

(C) There is currently no need for each Club to pay a Deposit.

(D) A Club shall not participate in this League until the Annual Subscription has been paid.

(E) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 30th June of its County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming Season, failing which they may be fined £5. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its Headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the League.

OFFICERS

3. The Officers of the League shall be the Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Registration Secretary, Fixtures Secretary to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.
Note: Auditors may not be Officers.

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

4. (A) The League shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association by a Management Committee comprising the Officers and three members, representing Member Clubs, who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

(B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination. All other candidates for election as Officers or Members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two Member Clubs, not later than 31st May in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting

(C) The Management Committee shall meet as often as is necessary to deal with business as it arises. On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the Members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Committee.

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

(E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their nominated Officers.

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

5. (A) The Management Committee may appoint such other sub-committees as they may consider necessary and may delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary to such committees. The decisions of all such committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for approval.

(B) Subject to the permission of the North Riding County Football Association 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 League and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any Club which may have withdrawn during the season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the season. (See Rule 6(e)).

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

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

(D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the League and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the League, including any not provided for in the Rules. Except where these Rules provide for the imposition of a set penalty any Club, Official or Player alleged to be in breach of a League Rule must be formally charged in writing and given the opportunity to present their case before the Management Committee. All breaches of the Laws of the Game, Rules and Regulations of The Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance with F.A. Rules.

(E) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal to the Board of Appeal in accordance with Rule 16. Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within seven days.

(F) Four Members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee and three Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by any sub-committee of the League.

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

(H) A Club having failed to comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee, or failing to satisfactorily attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the League, shall be liable to be fined or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(I) All fines and charges shall be paid within 28 days of the date of posting of the written notification. Clubs, Officials or individuals committing a breach of this Rule will incur such penalties as the Management Committee may impose.

(J) Not applicable to the League.

(K) The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the League between the Annual General or Special General Meeting called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the League season.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6. (A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 30th June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least six Members are present and entitled to vote:-

- (i) To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
- (ii) To consider any business arising therefrom.
- (iii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
- (iv) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies (as recommended by the Management Committee).
- (v) To confirm the constitution of the League for ensuing season.
- (vi) Election of Officers and Management Committee.
- (vii) Appointment of Auditors or account verifiers if applicable .
- (viii) Alteration of Rules, if any (of which notice has been given).
- (ix) Fix the date for the commencement and conclusion of playing season.
- (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.

(B) A copy of the Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least fourteen days prior to the meeting.

(C) A signed copy of the duly verified Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the North Riding County Football Association(s) within 28 days of its adoption by the Annual General Meeting.

(D) Each Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Not less than fourteen days' notice shall be given of any Meeting.

(E) Clubs who have withdrawn their Membership of the League during the season being concluded or who are not continuing Membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the season being concluded. This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 17.

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

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

(H) Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given may be fined £5.

(I) Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an Annual General Meeting.

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

7. The Chairman and the Secretary of each Club shall complete and sign the agreement shown at Appendix A which shall be deposited with the League together with the Application for Membership for the coming season, or upon indicating that the Club intends to compete.

Any alteration of the Chairman and /or Secretary on the above Agreement must be notified to the County Football Association(s) to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary of the League.

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

8. (A) Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules, are not permitted in this League.
No player registered with a F.A. Premier League or Football League Academy will be permitted to play in this League. A Player registered with a Centre of Excellence may only play in this League subject to the Regulations of the Programme for Excellence.

(B) A registered youth playing member of a Club is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:-

- (1) Signed a fully and correctly completed League registration form in ink, countersigned by his /her parent or guardian and by an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the Registrations Secretary three days prior to playing.

The qualification dates for the League shall be as follows:

- Under 10 – the player must be under the age of 10 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.
- Under 11 – the player must be under the age of 11 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.
- Under 12 – the player must be under the age of 12 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.
- Under 13 – the player must be under the age of 13 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.
- Under 14 – the player must be under the age of 14 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.
- Under 15 – the player must be under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.
- Under 16 – the player must be under the age of 16 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.
- Under 17 – the player must be under the age of 17 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

In accordance with the foregoing qualifications a player under the age of 14 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season must not play in a match where any other player is older or younger by 2 years or more unless a waiver form (see Appendix B) has been completed, signed by a parent/guardian and lodged with the Registrations Secretary to allow a younger player to compete in an older age group.

(The above qualification dates are subject to the provisions contained in FA Rule C.4(a)(v)).

(C) A player is not eligible to play in this League who receives any form or payment for playing, other than expenses as per Clauses 1, 2 and 3 of Article 2 of the FIFA Regulations Governing the Status and Transfer of Players.

(D) Not applicable to this League

(E) A player having taken part in matches for any Club affiliated to any County Football Association shall not be allowed to join, be transferred to, or sign for a Club in the League without first proving to the officials of the intended Club that the player has discharged all reasonable financial liabilities to the previous Club or Clubs, and a Club official may not accept such player's signature without first ascertaining whether such claims have been discharged to the satisfaction of the Club, or Clubs, for which the player last played.

(F) There is currently no fee for each player registered. Registration forms shall be obtained from the Registrations Secretary on prepayment of 10 pence per form. Alternatively, a Club may make its own copies or prints.

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

In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club priority of registration shall decide for which Club the player shall be registered.

The Registrations Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

(H) It shall be deemed misconduct for a player to:-

(i) Play for more than one Club in the League in the same season without first being transferred.

(ii) Having signed for one Club in the League, sign for another Club in the League in that season except for the purpose of a transfer.

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

(I) (i) The Management Committee shall have power to accept the registration of any player. The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player or may fine any player at their discretion proved guilty of registration irregularities. (Subject to Rule 16).

(ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse or cancel the registration of any player found guilty of undesirable conduct and to disqualify the player in question from participating in all games in the League. (Subject to Rule 16).

(Note: Action under Clause (ii) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct on the field of play until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association, and then only in cases of the player bringing the League into disrepute.)

(J) Subject to The Football Association Rules dealing with players without a written contract when a player desires a transfer, the Club the player wishes to transfer to shall submit a transfer form to the Registrations Secretary accompanied by a fee of £1 to cover administration costs. Such transfer shall be referred by the Registrations Secretary 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 Registrations Secretary and to the player concerned within seven days of receipt of the transfer form. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within seven days, the Registrations 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 fourteen 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.

(K) A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the League after 1st February except by special permission of the Management Committee.

(L) A Club shall keep a list of the players it registers and a record of the games in which they have played, and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee.

In the event a Club has more than one team in an age group, each team must be distinctly named, for example using the designation "A", "B" etc. In such cases, players will be registered for one team only. A player so registered will be allowed to play for his Club in a younger or older age group within the provisions of Rule 8 (B). A player may only play for a different team in the same age group once a transfer has been made, under rule 8 (K).

(M) A register containing the names of all players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Registrations Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of any duly appointed Member Club representative at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged.

(N) A player shall not be eligible to play for a team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding match (as specified in Rule 12(A)) unless the player has played one game(s) for that team in this League in the current season.

(O) Not applicable to this League

(P)(i) Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players may have the points gained in the match deducted from its total and may be fined and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(ii) In addition the team may have one point(s) deducted from its total at the discretion of the Management Committee and may be dealt with in any further manner which is thought to be fit.

(iii) The Management Committee in exceptional circumstances may, at its discretion, award any points deducted from a Club under this Rule to the opponents in the match in question, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.

(Q) (i) For players attending Secondary School, priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations' activities.

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

(R) A team may not take part in the League until the Club has registered at least seven players for that team. Failure to do this before the first game of the season will be dealt with as the Management Committee may determine.

CLUB COLOURS. CLUB NAME

9. (A) Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts by 15th July with the Secretary, who shall decide as to their suitability.

Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from other players and the referee.

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

Any team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the League shall notify the colours in which they will play to its opponents at least three days before the match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the home team shall make the change. Alternatively, bibs may be used. Any team not having a change of colours or delaying the kick-off by not having a change shall be fined £5.

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

(B) Any Club wishing to change its name and/or colours must seek permission from its affiliated County Football Association and from the Management Committee.

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

10. (A) The Annual General Meeting shall determine the commencing and concluding dates for the ensuing season which shall be in accordance with Football Association Rules. No Club shall be compelled to play after the concluding date. Original fixtures arranged by the Fixtures Secretary, or at a meeting specially convened for that purpose, to be held no later than 31st July, must not be arranged for a date later than seven days preceding the concluding date determined by the Annual General Meeting.

(B) All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of Mini-Soccer as set down by The Football Association.

Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their grounds in a playable condition. All 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 matches in the League and to order the Club concerned to play its fixtures on another ground.

All matches shall have a duration as set out below unless a shorter time is mutually arranged by the two captains in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves.

The duration of play shall be as follows:

- for under 10 and under 11, 15 minutes each way
- for under 12 and under 13, 20 minutes each way
- for under 14 and under 15, 25 minutes each way
- for under 16 and under 17, 30 minutes each way

No player under the age of 17 as at midnight on 31st August in any season shall be permitted to play more than one game or, in the event the League allows the playing of a double-header, ie: two separate matches, 100 minutes per day in this League.

The times of kick-off shall be fixed by the A.G.M. or the Management Committee. Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time may be fined a sum not exceeding £5 or be otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine.

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

The home team must provide at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the League if the footballs are unsuitable. The recommended size of football to be used is:

- size 4 for under 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 age groups;
- size 5 for all other age groups.

Goal nets must be used.

(C) Except by permission of the Management Committee all matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The Football Association and all relevant County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of the Fixtures Secretary.

(D) The Secretary of the home Club must give notice in writing of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the referee and the Secretary of the opposing Club at least three clear days prior to the playing of the match.

Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine of £5.

(E) Every Club shall play its best available qualified team or teams in all matches in the League.

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

In the event of a Club playing in any match with less than five players they may be fined £5 for each missing player. A minimum of five players will constitute a team for a League match.

(F) Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have power to inflict a fine, deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals. Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent's ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

Notice of postponement of any match must be given without delay by the postponing Club. Such notice must be given three days by the Club to the Fixtures Secretary and the Secretary of the opposing Club and the match officials. Any Club failing to comply shall be dealt with by the Management Committee who may inflict any penalty it may deem suitable.

If a match is postponed by a Club for any reason, the match must be re-scheduled for the first subsequent Saturday on which neither team has a previously-scheduled fixture. If a match is postponed, further postponement of the same fixture by the same Club will be referred to the Management Committee, who may order the game to be played on or before a named date.

In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Fixtures Secretary. Failing such agreement and notification to the Fixtures Secretary within 14 days the Management Committee shall have power to order the match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date.

The Management Committee shall review all postponed and abandoned matches and in a case where it is to the advantage of the League and does no injustice to either Club, shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one team or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the match to the opponents and/or take what other action they may deem necessary. In cases where a match is abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams or their Club members, the Management Committee shall take such action as they consider appropriate. Such action is subject to any disciplinary action taken by the appropriate County Football Association.

(G) Any number of substitutions may be used at any time with the permission of the Referee. Entry onto the field of play will only be allowed during a stoppage in play. A player who has been replaced may return to the play as a substitute for another player.

A player who has been selected, appointed or named as a substitute before the start of the match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a player in that game within the meaning of Rule 8 of this League.

(H) The half time interval shall be of five minutes duration. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

REPORTING RESULTS

11. (A) The Home Club shall telephone, text or e-mail the result of each match to the Fixtures Secretary within 24 hours of the end of the match. Failure to do so may incur a fine of £5.
- (B) The Registrations Secretary must receive within 10 days of the date played, the result of each League match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the team players (in block letters). Failure to do so will incur a fine of £5 and/or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide.
- (C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of the Club or sent from a recognised e-mail account. The Management Committee shall have power to take such action as they deem suitable against a Club which submits an incomplete form or incorrect information.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

12. (A) Team rankings within the League will be decided by points with two points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn match. The teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective Divisions at the conclusion shall be adjudged the winners. Matches must not be played for double points.

In the event of two or more teams being equal on points team rankings will be decided in the following order:-

- (i) goal difference
- (ii) goals scored
- (iii) deciding match played under conditions determined by the Management Committee.

(B) Automatic promotion and relegation shall be applied for the first one and last one team in each Division except as provided for hereunder, subject to the provisions of Rule 1(b).

(i) Should one or more teams withdraw from any one Division after the fixtures have commenced an equal number of teams to those withdrawing in that Division shall not be automatically relegated.

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

- (a) retention of otherwise relegated team(s)
- (b) additional promotion of the next ranked team(s) from the Division below
- (c) election

(C) In the event of a team not completing all of its fixtures for the season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting team shall be expunged from the League table.

(D) Promotion to/from other Competitions - not applicable.

REFEREES

13. (A) Registered Referees for all matches may be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the sanctioning Association(s).

(B) In cases where the League has been unable to appoint a Referee, the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee. A Referee thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee.

(C) Assistant Referees - not applicable

(D) The appointed Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and the decision shall be final.

(E) Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be entitled to charge standard class public transport expenses or private car expenses of 35p per mile and any other permitted expenses actually incurred together with the following match fees:-

Referee £8 , subject to any limits laid down by the sanctioning Association(s).

The Home Club shall pay the Officials their fees and expenses immediately after the match.

(F) In the event of a 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 Officials, if they attend the ground, their full fee and expenses.

(G) A Referee not keeping his engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to his non-appearance, may be reported to the County Football Association with which he is registered.

(H) Marking referees - not applicable

(J) *Referee reports - not applicable*

(K).A copy of the League rules shall be made available free of charge to referees by the home team upon request.

**CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR
WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB**

14. (A) After 31st December in the current Season a Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a team from the League on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the League must notify the Secretary in writing by the date of the AGM each Season or be liable to a fine not exceeding £5.

All Clubs wishing to remain in membership of the League for the following Season must confirm their intention to do so, in writing, to the Secretary by 30th June.

(B) A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its teams from the League after the arrangement of fixtures for the following Season. Any Club infringing this Rule shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £5 per team and shall also be liable for its share of any call which may be made under Rule 5(B).

(C) Refusal of withdrawal - not applicable

(D) In the event of a Member Club which is an un-incorporated association withdrawing and/or disbanding it shall be immediately liable to discharge all its financial and other obligations to the League.

In the event that any such obligation remains undischarged after a period of twenty-one (21) days then such obligation shall be met by the then current Club Members, excluding those under the statutory school leaving age. Until a Member's pro rata obligation is discharged in full the Member shall not be allowed to participate in the League, which may apply to the Club's Parent County Association for a suspension order.

PROTESTS AND APPEALS

15. (A)(i) All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee.
- (ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match. Any Club lodging such protest and not proceeding with it shall be deemed guilty of a breach of this Rule and shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.
- (B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within seven days (excluding Sundays) of the match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A Member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.
- (C) Any dispute occurring between Clubs in the League shall be referred for determination by the Management Committee whose decision shall be binding upon all parties subject to Rule 16.
- (D) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum of £10. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The League shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the enquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

(E) All parties to a protest or complaint must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement when the protest or complaint is being heard and must have received seven days notice of the hearing, together with a copy of the submission. When dealing with a protest or complaint the Management Committee shall take into consideration the possession by the protesting or complaining Club of any information which, if properly used, might have avoided the protest or complaint.

BOARD OF APPEAL

16. Within 14 days of the posting of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee or the League a Club, Official or Player against whom action is taken may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars in duplicate with the Secretary of the North Riding County Football Association, including a fee of £25 for adjudication of a Board of Appeal. The grounds of appeal shall be in accordance with FA Rules. The Board of Appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited and shall decide by whom the costs of the appeal shall be borne. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned.

No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an Annual or Special General Meeting unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

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

17. (A) At the Annual General Meeting, or Special General Meeting called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, Notice of Motion having been duly circulated on the Agenda, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude any Club or Team from further membership which must be supported by two-thirds of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot.

(B) At the Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the League any Club or team of a Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by two-thirds (2/3rds) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

(C) Any official or member of a Club proved guilty of either misconduct, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a player or players of another Club in the League to join them shall be liable to expulsion or such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Clauses (A) and (B) of this Rule.

(D) Any Club or Team failing to complete two of its fixtures in any season may be subject to a fine not exceeding £5 .

**TROPHY:- LEGAL OWNERS, CONDITIONS OF TAKING OVER,
AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED. AWARDS.**

18. (A) A League Cup or Trophy shall be vested in the Association sanctioning the League as Trustees. If a League be discontinued for any cause the Cup or Trophy shall be returned to the Donor, if the conditions attached to it so provide, or otherwise dealt with as the Association may decide. .

The agreement shown at Appendix C shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the Cup or Trophy.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

19. Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting.

The Management Committee may call a Special General Meeting at any time.

At least fourteen days notice shall be given of either meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.
Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.

Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given may be fined £5.

Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all Special General Meetings.

ALTERATION TO RULES

20. Alterations shall be made to these Rules only at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 19. Any alteration made during the playing season to the Rule relating to the qualification of players shall not take effect until the following season.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary by 30th April in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs at least fourteen days before the Meeting and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary before the start of the Meeting. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if two-thirds of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.

Any alterations or additions decided upon at any meeting shall not become operative until the approval of the Association issuing sanction shall have been obtained.

RULES BINDING ON CLUBS

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

FINANCE

22. (A) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the League will be lodged.
- (B) All expenditure in excess of £50 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.
- (C) The financial year of the League will end on 31st May.
- (D) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a League shall be prepared and shall be verified annually by some suitable person(s) who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

Appendix A

"We, A, _____ of _____ (Chairman) and
B _____ of _____ (Secretary) of the
_____ Football Club have been provided with a copy of the
Rules and Regulations of the _____ League and do hereby agree for and
on behalf of the said Club, if elected or accepted into Membership, to conform to those Rules
and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management
Committee of the League, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16."

Appendix B

Appendix C

"We A _____ and B _____, the Chairman and Secretary of
_____ FC, members of and representing the Club, having been
declared winners of _____ Cup or Trophy, and it having been delivered to
us by the League, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the Cup
or Trophy to the League Secretary on or before _____. If the Cup or
Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the League the amount
of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair."

Appendix D CHILD PROTECTION

1. Any act, statement, conduct or other matter which harms a child or children, or poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children, shall constitute behaviour which is improper and brings the game into disrepute.
2. In these Regulations the expression "Offence" shall mean any one or more of the offences contained in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and any other criminal offence which reasonably causes The Association to believe that the person accused of the offence poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children.
3. Upon receipt by The Association of:
 - 3.1 notification that an individual has been charged with an Offence; or
 - 3.2 notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the Police, Social Services or any other authority relating to an Offence; or
 - 3.3 any other information which causes The Association reasonably to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children then The Association shall have the power to order that the individual be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
4. In reaching its determination as to whether an order under Regulation 3 should be made The Association shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:
 - 4.1 whether a child is or children are or may be at risk of harm;
 - 4.2 whether the matters are of a serious nature;
 - 4.3 whether an order is necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by The Association or any other authority or body to proceed unimpeded.
5. The period of an order referred to in 3 above shall not be capable of lasting beyond the date upon which any charge under the Rules of The Association or any Offence is decided or brought to an end.
6. Where an order is imposed on an individual under regulation 3 above, The Association shall bring and conclude any proceedings under the Rules of The Association against the person relating to the matters as soon as reasonably practicable.
7. Where a person is convicted, or is made the subject of a caution in respect of an Offence, that shall constitute a breach of the Rules of The Association and The Association shall have the power to order the suspension of the person from all or any specific football activity for such a period (including indefinitely) and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
8. For the purposes of these Regulations, The Association shall act through its Council or any committee or sub-committee thereof, including the Board.
9. Notification in writing of an order referred to above shall be given to the person concerned and/or any club with which he is associated as soon as reasonably practicable.