

WORCESTER & DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES

last amended at the Annual General Meeting 20th June, 2005

1. Nomenclature and Constitution

This Competition shall be designated the Worcester and District Football League and shall consist of not more than 150 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 Worcestershire Football Association. The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be Worcester and District.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Worcestershire Football Association and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding 16 in number.

Member Clubs shall not enter any of their teams playing in the Competition in more than THREE CUP Competitions (which shall include the F.A. and County F.A. Competitions and internal cup competition) except with the written consent of the Management Committee of the Competition.

2. Entry Fee, Subscription, Deposit

(a) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of an additional team(s) must be made in writing to the Secretary on or before the 30th April in each year and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee per team which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

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. The Entry Fee shall apply.

When Rule 12(b) is applied and a team seeks a transfer or is compulsorily transferred to another division no Entry Fee shall be payable.

(b) The Annual Subscription and Internal Cup Fees per Team are payable on or before the 31st July in each year.

(c) Each Club shall within 14 days of election pay a Deposit of £100 which shall be returnable to Clubs on leaving the Competition provided they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all orders of the Management Committee.

(d) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the Entry Fee, Annual Subscription and Deposit have been paid.

(e) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by the 31st July of its County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming Season, failing which they shall be fined. 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 Competition.

(f) Each Club must pay its Annual Club Account as required by the Treasurer by the 30th April failing which they shall be fined.

3. Officers

(a) The Officers of the Competition shall be the President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Registration Secretary, Referees Officer, Referees Appointments Secretary, Referees Assistant Secretary, Fixture Secretary and Assistant Secretary to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. (NB Auditors are not Officers).

(b) The Secretary shall be the representative of the Competition at the Worcestershire Football Association.

In the event of the Secretary not being eligible the Management Committee shall nominate another person as their representative.

4. Management, Nomination, Election

(a) The Competition shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association by a Management Committee comprised of the Officers and up to 9 members (four of whom shall be elected representatives of clubs) who shall be elected at the

Annual General Meeting. The elected representatives of the clubs shall not vote on any disciplinary matter concerning any club or player in the Competition. All participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The Association from time to time.

(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 30th April 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 Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.

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

5. Powers of Management

(a) The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees as they 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 ratification.

(b) Subject to the permission of the Worcestershire 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 Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any Club which may have withdrawn during the season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the season.

(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 he represents. (This shall apply to the procedure of any sub-committee.)

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

(d) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition, 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 Competition 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 7 days.

(f) Six Members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee and 3 Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by any sub-committee of the Competition.

(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 Competition, 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 14 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) The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the Annual General or Special General Meeting called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Competition season.

(k) Any Member Club failing to be represented at a General Meeting of the Competition shall be fined.

(l) No participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

6. Annual General Meeting

(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 75% of the 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) Constitution of the Competition for ensuing season.
- (vi) Election of Officers and Management Committee.
- (vii) Appointment of Auditors.
- (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 duly audited Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 7 days prior to the meeting, and to the Worcestershire Football Association.

(c) A signed copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Worcestershire Football Association within 14 days of its adoption by the Annual General Meeting.

(d) Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.

(e) Clubs who have withdrawn their Membership of the Competition during the season being concluded or who are not continuing Membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the season being concluded.

(f) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least 20 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 shall be fined.

7. Agreement to be Signed

The Chairman and the Secretary of each Club shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the Competition together with the Application for Membership for the coming season, or upon indicating that the Club intends to compete.

“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 Worcester and District Football League and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, if elected or accepted into Membership, to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16.

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

(Note: The spaces above are intended for the inclusion of the signatures and addresses of officers).

8. Qualification of Players

Players shall be registered separately to play in either the Saturday Competition or the Sunday Competition or both and shall be permitted to be registered for the same club in both Competitions or with one club in the Saturday Competition and a different club in the Sunday Competition if so desired. The following registration rules are applicable and any references to the Competition shall be a reference to the Saturday Competition or Sunday Competition as appropriate.

(a) Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules, are not permitted in this Competition.

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

- (1) Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the Registration Secretary 2 days prior to playing and whose completed registration counterfoil has been received by the Club prior to playing or
- (2) Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink on a match day prior to playing, countersigned by an Officer of the Club and witnessed by an Officer of the opposing Club, and submitted to the Registration Secretary no later than 5.00 p.m. on the third day subsequent to the match. Failure to comply with this requirement shall render the Club liable to a fine. Should the registration form not be received before 5.00 p.m. on the fifth day subsequent to the match the player shall be deemed to have been ineligible to have played in that match. The player shall not play again until the Club is in possession of the completed registration counterfoil. A maximum of 2 players may be registered in this way.

(c) 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 Competition 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.

(d) Registration and Transfer forms shall be obtained from the Registration Secretary.

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

In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club priority of registration shall decide for which Club the player shall be registered. The Registration Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

(f) It shall be deemed a breach of rule for a player to:

- (i) Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same season without first being transferred.
 - (ii) Having signed for one Club in the Competition, sign for another Club in the Competition in that season except for the purpose of a transfer.
 - (iii) Submit a signed registration form for registration that the player has wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.
- (g)
- (i) The Management Committee shall have power to accept the registration of any player.
 - (ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse or cancel the registration of any player or may fine any player, except those under 18 years of age, at their discretion who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities. (Subject to Rule 16).
 - (iii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (Subject to Rule 16). Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated conduct, which may deter a participant from being involved in this competition.

(Note: Action under Clause (iii) shall not be taken against a player until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute.)

(h) 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 Registration Secretary accompanied by a fee. Such transfer form shall be referred by the Registration 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 Registration 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 Registration Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date.

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

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

(j) 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.

(k) A register containing the names of all players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Registration 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.

(l) 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 six games for that team in this Competition in the current season.

(m)

(i) Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players shall 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 3 points 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 may, at its discretion, award the points available in the match in question to the opponents, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.

(n) A player must have achieved the age of 16 before he is eligible to play in any game in the Competition.

(o) Each Club must have completed for each team at least 12 fully and correctly completed Competition Registration Forms in ink and countersigned by an Officer of the Club which must have been received by the Registration Secretary no later than 14 days prior to the commencement of the season.

Players MUST have reached their sixteenth birthday. Registrations are valid for one Season only.

9. Club Colours, Club Name

(a) Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 30th June in each year 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 Competition shall notify the colours in which they will play to its opponents at least 3 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. Any team not having a change of colours or delaying the kick-off by not having a change shall be fined.

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

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

10. Playing Season, Conditions of Play, Times of Kick-off, Postponements, Substitutes

(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 which shall be arranged monthly by the Fixture Secretary, 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 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 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 Competition and to order the Club concerned to play its fixtures on another ground.

All matches shall have a duration of 90 minutes unless a shorter time (not less than 60 minutes) 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 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 shall be fined 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 Competition.

The home team must provide to the Referee at least 10 minutes prior to kick-off at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. Goal nets in a reasonable condition and corner flags 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 Fixture Secretary. The Fixture Secretary shall have power to arrange fixtures as and when necessary and a minimum of 4 days notice shall be given.

(d) The Secretary of the home Club must give notice in writing of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground, Club colours and time of kick-off to the match officials and the Secretary of the opposing Club at least 2 clear days prior to the playing of the match.

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

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

(Note: The intention of this Rule is not to interfere with normal team selection by Clubs, but to prevent Clubs deliberately fielding a weakened team in order to unreasonably reserve players for another game or to boost the strength of another or lower team. It is NOT intended that Clubs MUST field higher team players in lower teams when the higher team has no engagement. If, in the opinion of the Management Committee, the substance or spirit

of the Rule is obviously being disregarded, the Club or Clubs concerned may be called to account for its / their actions and shall be subject to such decisions as the Management Committee may determine, despite the fact that Rule 8 has not been infringed.)

In the event of a Club playing in any match with less than 11 players they shall be fined for each missing player. A minimum of 7 players will constitute a team for a Competition match (one of whom must be the goalkeeper)

(f) Home and away matches shall be played and when possible there shall be a minimum of 4 weeks for home and away fixtures between the same teams. 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 properly incurred by the opponents or match officials 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.

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. Clubs in breach of this requirement shall be fined or otherwise dealt with by the Management Committee.

Notice of a Club being unable to fulfil any match must be given at least 48 hours prior to the match by the Club to the Fixture Secretary, the Referees Assistant Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the match officials. Written notice setting out the reasons for postponement shall be sent to the Fixture Secretary within 3 days of the date of the fixture. Any Club failing to comply shall be dealt with by the Management Committee who may inflict any penalty it may deem suitable. (This penalty is in addition to any other action taken under this Rule).

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 arranged by the Fixture Secretary.

The Management Committee shall review all matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one team or its Club members 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 Affiliated Association.

(g) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use 3 substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from 5 players.

The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than ten minutes before the start of the match.

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

(h) The half time interval shall be of ten minutes duration and may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

(i) Any team with an uncompleted programme shall be liable to a fine for each match they have still outstanding at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(j) Clubs will be exempt from fulfilling fixtures on recognised Religious Festivals. Clubs so wishing to be exempt shall inform the Fixture Secretary prior to the commencement of the season.

11. Reporting Results

(A) The Registration Secretary must receive no later than 5.00 p.m. on the third day following each game played the result of each Competition League match and each internal Competition cup match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forenames and surnames of the team players (in block letters) who have actually taken part in the match and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to do so will incur a fine and/or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decides.

(b) The Home Club shall telephone the result of each match (whether played or postponed) to the person appointed by the Management Committee as follows:

For Matches played on a weekend - no later than 5.00 p.m. on the Sunday

For Matches played on a weekday within 24 hours of the game being played.

Any Club failing to comply with the rule will be liable to a fine.

(c) The match report form, correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of the Club. 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.

(d) Completed External Cup Exit forms must be received by the Fixture Secretary within three days of the Club's elimination from the external cup competition.

12. Determining Championship

(a) Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with 3 points to be awarded for a win and 1 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 shall be decided by goal difference. In the event of two or more teams being equal on points and goal difference, team rankings shall be decided by goals scored. In the event that two or more teams remain equal after goal difference and goals scored have been applied a deciding match played under conditions determined by the Management Committee may be played.

(b) Automatic promotion and relegation shall be applied for the first two and last two teams in each Division except as provided for hereunder. (This rule shall not apply to promotion to or relegation from the Premier Division, membership of which shall always be at the discretion of the Management Committee).

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

(a) retention of otherwise relegated teams

(b) additional promotion of the next ranked teams from the Division below

(c) election

(ii) The last two teams in the lowest Division shall retire, but be eligible for re-election except as stated in (iii) below.

(iii) When a senior team is relegated to a lower Division of which its reserve team is a member, or entitled to be a member, such reserve team must accept relegation to, or retain its position in, the next lower Division; and should the senior team be relegated to the lowest Division its reserve team automatically retires from the Competition.

(iv) 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.

13. Referees

(a) Registered Referees and Assistant Referees for all matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the sanctioning Association.

(b) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed Referee the appointed senior Assistant Referee shall take charge and a substitute Assistant Referee appointed by the competing Teams. In cases where there are no officially appointed Assistant Referees, 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) The Management Committee may, if they consider it desirable, or upon application by the two competing Clubs, appoint Assistant Referees, if available, to any match. Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee. Failure to do so will result in a fine being imposed on the defaulting Team.

(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 except that in the case of a ground of a Local Authority or the owners of a ground, the Representative of that body is the sole arbiter whose decision must be accepted unless the arbiter decides the ground is declared fit for play when the final decision shall be that of the appointed Referee.

(e) Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be entitled to charge standard class public transport expenses or private car expenses together with the match fees subject to any limits laid down by the sanctioning Association. The Home Club shall pay the Officials their fees and expenses in the changing room or at the ground 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. Referees shall report the facts to the Secretary within three days.

(g) A Referee not keeping his/her engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their nonappearance, may have the fact reported to the Association with which he/she is registered.

(h) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The Football Association, award marks to the Referee for each match and the name of the Referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Referees Officer on the prescribed Form no later than 5.00 p.m. on the fifth day following each match. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.

The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the Form provided by the prescribed date each season, shall submit a summary to the County Association.

(i) The Referee shall print his name clearly and sign the match report form checking the result of the match, the number of players in each team, the time of kick-off and also those substitutes who have actually taken part in the game and any discrepancies noted shall be taken up with the appropriate club secretary. Referees should not enter any players or substitutes names on the match report form. Any spare spaces on the form relating to players and substitutes shall have a straight line inserted in the space..

(j) Referees and Assistant Referees shall be supplied, each Season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.

(k) Referees and Assistant Referees appointed by the Management Committee shall wear the traditional black uniform.

(l) If a Club has awarded the Referee a mark of fifty or less, that Club must send to the League Secretary within three days of the match being played a detailed report giving the reasons for the mark. In the event that the reasons given are not deemed to be satisfactory the Club shall be required to justify the report to the League Management Committee.

14. Continuation of Membership or Withdrawal of a Club

(a) A Club intending to withdraw a team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the Secretary in writing by 31st March each Season or be liable to a fine.

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

(b) A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its teams from the Competition after the Annual General Meeting or the arrangement of fixtures for the following Season. Any Club infringing this Rule shall be liable to a fine and shall also be liable for its share of any call which may be made under Rule 5(b)

(c) The Membership for the coming season having been decided at the Annual General Meeting the Competition shall have the right, irrespective of other provisions in this Rule, to refuse to permit a Club to withdraw its team(s) in order to join another Competition and may hold the Club to its engagements.

(d) In the event of a Member Club which is an unincorporated association withdrawing and/or disbanding it shall be immediately liable to discharge all its financial and other obligations to the Competition.

In the event that any such obligation remains undischarged after a period of 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 Competition, which may apply to the Club's Parent County Association for a suspension order.

15. Protests and Complaints

(a) (i) All questions of eligibility, qualification of players or interpretation of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee.

(ii) Objections relating 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 in duplicate with the Secretary within three 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 the Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

(c) Any dispute occurring between Clubs in the Competition shall be referred for determination by the Management Committee whose decision shall be binding upon all parties subject to Rule 16.

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

16. Board of Appeal

Within 14 days of the posting of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee or the Competition 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 Worcestershire Football Association Limited, including the appeal fee of £25 for the 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.

17. Exclusion of Clubs or Teams, Misconduct, Clubs, Officials, Players

(a) At the Annual General Meeting, or at a 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 of the Competition which must be supported by (more

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.

21. Rules Binding on Clubs

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.

22. Finance

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

(b) All expenditure in excess of £75 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 Competition will end on 30th April.

(d) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be audited annually by some suitable persons who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

23. Indemnity

Each club shall agree to indemnify and keep indemnified the Officers and members of the Management Committee and each and every one of them from and against all liability in respect of damage or injury to persons or to any property real or personal moveable or immovable or any loss damage or costs arising directly or indirectly out of any game or games of association football arranged or organised by or on behalf of the League.

24. Dissolution

(a) A proposal that the Competition be dissolved shall be passed if supported by 75% or more of those present and voting at a General Meeting.

(b) On the dissolution of the Competition, the Member Clubs forming the Competition shall not be entitled to any share in the assets of the Competition.

(c) Without limitation to (b) above, the assets of the Competition shall be dealt with on dissolution as set out in this rule.

After settlement of any debts due and payable by the Competition the assets of the Competition shall be transferred either to the WFA Limited or the Football Association Limited (as shall be decided by the General Meeting.)

INTERNAL CUP COMPETITIONS

RULES TO APPLY TO BAYLIS, PHIPPS, KATHERINE RAYER AND BERNARD FINNEGAN CUPS

1. The Baylis Cup shall be confined to teams competing in the Premier Division of the Saturday League, and the Phipps Cup shall be confined to all other teams competing in the Saturday League.

2. The Katherine Rayer Cup shall be confined to teams competing in the Premier and 1st Division of the Sunday League and the Bernard Finnegan Cup shall be confined to all other teams competing in the Sunday League.

All teams shall be included in the above Saturday and Sunday Internal Cup Competitions.

3. The competitions shall be competed for annually and semi-finals and final shall be played on grounds approved by the Management Committee. Each club participating in the Final of an Internal Cup Competition must provide two suitable match balls to the match officials at least 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the game.

4. The Registration Rules concerning the qualification of players to apply for these Cup Competitions shall be as follows:-

(a) a bone fide playing member of a team shall be eligible to play provided he has signed a correctly completed Registration Form and such form has been received and acknowledged by the Registration Secretary at least 14 days prior to the date of the tie or

having received notification from the Registration Secretary that the player is registered the player has played in one or more matches for his team against any other team in this Competition prior to the date of the tie. (In the event of the Management Committee resolving to play any of these internal cup competitions on a league basis the Management Committee may at its discretion amend this rule to comply with League Rule 8(b)(2)).

(b) for a player to be qualified to play in a SEMI-FINAL or FINAL of any of these Cup Competitions a player must have played in not less than 4 League or internal League Cup games for his team in the appropriate competition during the season. No exceptions will be made to this rule.

(c) A player shall be deemed to be cup tied if he has played for another club or team in the respective cup competition in the current season.

(d) Any club which has a reserve team can enter that team in the Phipps/Bernard Finnegan Cup Competitions, and the players competing in the Phipps/Bernard Finnegan Cup Competitions are eligible to play in the Baylis/Katherine Rayer Cup Competitions for the same club but a player who has played in the Baylis/Katherine Rayer Cup Competitions cannot play in the Phipps/Bernard Finnegan Cup for his own or any other club.

(e) Any club/team found guilty of a breach of these rules shall be liable to disqualification and/or a fine as deemed appropriate by the Management Committee

If any situation arises which is not covered by these rules the Competition Rules shall apply.

5. Ties shall be drawn for, and the first team drawn will have choice of ground. The first team drawn will be the home team. The home team will be responsible for all match expenses in all rounds prior to the semi final. Match expenses for the referee and assistant referees in a semi final shall be shared equally between each competing team. The total 'gate' (from all sources) will be shared between the two teams. The visitors will not claim travelling expenses.

6. Unless otherwise arranged the Competition will take all proceeds from, and be responsible for all finals.

7. All matches shall be played under the laws of the game as approved by the International Football Association Board and in accordance with the Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the Football Association. All matches in all rounds shall be of 90 mins duration, and in all matches which end in a draw, extra time of 15 mins each way shall be played. If the scores are still level at the end of extra time the tie shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with FIFA instructions. Substitutes shall be allowed as per league rule 10(g).

PHIPPS CUP & BERNARD FINNEGAN CUP. Clubs with reserve sides must play their usual teams and must not include first team players.