



# DEVON FOOTBALL LEAGUE

HANDBOOK SEASON 2023/2024

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## LEAGUE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### CHAIRMAN

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bernard.leach@btinternet.com

### VICE-CHAIRMAN

DAVE BASKWILL (2024)  
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dave.baskwill@gmail.com

### SECRETARY

DAVID LODER (2026)  
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secretarydevonfootballleague@gmail.com

### TREASURER

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### PLAYER REGISTRATION OFFICER

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### FIXTURES SECRETARY

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### ENGLAND FOOTBALL ACCREDITED LEAGUE OFFICER

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secretarydevonfootballleague@gmail.com

### DEVON COUNTY FA REPRESENTATIVE

DAVID LODER (2025)  
07887 880235  
secretarydevonfootballleague@gmail.com



## **CLUB REPRESENTATIVES**

APPLEDORE

ADAM WHITE (2025)

07817849059

adamwhite\_8@hotmail.co.uk

NEWTOWN

PAUL KENNARD (2025)

07866 408273

townfooty@sky.com

## **MEDIA**

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## **CLUBNETS**

info@clubnets.co.uk



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## MATCHDAY RESULTS

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**07836 379937**

**bernard.leach@btinternet.com**

## DEVON FOOTBALL LEAGUE

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## APPLEDORE

**Club Secretary:**

**Contact:**

**Email:**

**1st Emergency:**

**2nd Emergency:**

**1st Choice Colours:**

**2nd Choice Colours:**

**Ground Name:**

**Ground Postcode:**

**Directions To Ground:**

Michelle Copp

07775 500408

miche.copp@googlemail.com

Andy Taylor, 07740 177298

Matt Horn, 07827 837793

Orange, Black, Black

Blue, Blue, Blue

Marshford

EX39 1PA

From Bideford follow signs to Appledore, Ground on main road just outside Appledore on right hand side.

**Team Sheet Administrators:**

**Texters:**

Andy Taylor, 07740 177298

Andy Taylor, 07740 177298

Michelle Copp, 07775 500408



## BARNSTAPLE TOWN RESERVES

**Club Secretary:**

**Address:**

**Contact:**

**Email:**

**1st Emergency:**

**2nd Emergency:**

**1st Choice Colours:**

**2nd Choice Colours:**

**Ground Name:**

**Ground Postcode:**

**Ground Phone:**

**Directions To Ground:**

Paul Larter

23 Shorelands Road, Barnstaple,  
EX31 3AA

01271 345122 or 07970 120012

btfsecretary@btinternet.com

Kevin Squire, 07974 304259

Paul Larter, 07970 120012

Red, Red, Red

Yellow, Blue, Yellow

Mill Road Stadium

EX31 1JQ

01271 343469

A361 to Barnstaple. At first roundabout follow signs to Ilfracombe (A361). Right at second roundabout, over Stones roundabout & over bridge. Stay in right hand lane and turn right at second set of lights. After 600 yards turn right at the lights into Pottington Road, ground is 200 yards on the right.

**Team Sheet Administrators:**

**Texters:**

Kevin Squire, 07974 304259

Kevin Squire, 07974 304259





## BEER ALBION

**Club Secretary:**

**Address:**

**Contact:**

**Email:**

**1st Emergency:**

**2nd Emergency:**

**1st Choice Colours:**

**2nd Choice Colours:**

**Ground Name:**

**Ground Postcode:**

**Ground Phone:**

**Directions To Ground:**

Roger Hoare

Petercot, Clapps Lane, Beer

EX12 3HQ

07875 841453

hoare863@btinternet.com

Mark Rooke, 07790 857783

Andy Cobbold, 07715 221454

Navy Blue, Navy Blue, Navy Blue

Claret/Blue, Claret, Claret

Furzebrake

EX12 3FB

01297 625863

A3052 East Bound, turn right at Hangmans Stone junction on to B3174 towards Beer. After 1.5 miles, Stovar Long Lane on left, BAFC is down lane 400m

**Team Sheet Administrators:**

Roger Hoare, 07875 841453

John Moughton, 07779 671130

**Texters:**

Roger Hoare, 07875 841453

Mark Rooke, 07790 857783



## BERE ALSTON UNITED

**Club Secretary:**

**Address:**

**Contact:**

**Email:**

**1st Emergency:**

**2nd Emergency:**

**1st Choice Colours:**

**2nd Choice Colours:**

**Ground Name:**

**Ground Postcode:**

**Directions To Ground:**

Daniel Follett

19 Staple Tor Road, Tavistock,  
PL19 8FY

07731 424000

berealstonunited@gmail.com

Dan Follett, 07731 424000

Will Westlake, 07810 005954

Blue/Yellow, Blue, Blue

Grey/Sky Blue, Grey, Sky Blue

Recreation Ground, The Down

PL20 7HG

When entering the village take the first left onto the down. On left hand side, turn by bungalow into car park.

**Team Sheet Administrators:**

Dan Follett, 07483 354128, danfollett22@gmail.com

Will Westlake, 07810 005954, will.westlake78@gmail.com

**Texters:**

Dan Follett, 07483 354128

Will Westlake, 07810 005954



## BUDLEIGH SALTERTON

**Club Secretary:**

**Address:**

**Contact:**

**Email:**

**1st Emergency:**

**2nd Emergency:**

**1st Choice Colours:**

**2nd Choice Colours:**

**Ground Name:**

**Ground Postcode:**

**Ground Phone:**

**Directions To Ground:**

**Team Sheet Administrators:**

**Texters:**

Keith Wood

C/O Greenway Lane, Budleigh Salterton  
EX9 6SG

01395 445939 or 07863 355823

budleighclubmanager@outlook.com

Keith Wood, 07863 355823

Wayne Gooding, 07557 550859

Red, Red, Red

Blue, Blue, Blue

Greenway Lane

EX9 6SG

01395 443850

B3178 Exeter/Exmouth road, turn left into Knowle Village, take second right (Bedlands Lane). Turn left at the school & right into Greenway Lane

Keith Wood, 07863 355823, bsafc.football@gmail.com

Wayne Gooding, 07557 550859, wayne@pencarrie.com

Alan Beer, 07749 004885

Wayne Gooding, 07557 550859



## ELMORE

**Club Secretary:**

**Address:**

**Contact:**

**Email:**

**1st Emergency:**

**2nd Emergency:**

**1st Choice Colours:**

**2nd Choice Colours:**

**Ground Name:**

**Ground Postcode:**

**Ground Phone:**

**Directions To Ground:**

**Team Sheet Administrators:**

**Texters:**

Keith Humphreys

5 Cherry Tree Gardens, Tiverton,  
EX16 6ST

07855 122683

keith\_humphreys@sky.com

Keith Humphreys, 07855 122683

Jed Hewitt, 07860 604472

Green/White, White, Green/White

Red, Red, Red

Horsdon Park

EX16 4DB

01884 252341

From A361 take the A396 into Tiverton second exit at McDonalds roundabout, ground is on the right

Luke Andrews, 07595 184413,

lukeandrews1402@gmail.com

Luke Andrews, 07595 184413



## EXETER UNIVERSITY

**Club Secretary:**

**Address:**

**Contact:**

**Email:**

**1st Emergency:**

**2nd Emergency:**

**1st Choice Colours:**

**2nd Choice Colours:**

**Ground Name:**

**Ground Postcode:**

**Directions To Ground:**

**Team Sheet Administrators:**

**Texters:**

Zak Mackay

Flat 29, River Meadows, Water Lane,

Exeter, EX2 8BD

07921 091640

zak.mackay@btinternet.com

Luke Steer, 07824 881232

Athletic Union Number, 01392 724452

Green, White, Green

Blue, White, White

Exwick Sports Hub

EX4 2BQ

From Exe Bridges Roundabout, follow A3015

Okehampton Street. At traffic lights turn right onto  
Exwick Road. Turn right at the Thatched House Pub.

Luke Steer, 07824 881232, luke.steer2002@outlook.com

Luke Steer, 07824 881232



## FENITON

**Club Secretary:**

**Address:**

**Contact:**

**Email:**

**1st Emergency:**

**2nd Emergency:**

**1st Choice Colours:**

**2nd Choice Colours:**

**Ground Name:**

**Ground Postcode:**

**Directions To Ground:**

**Team Sheet Administrators:**

**Texters:**

David Fairweather

75 Broadway, Exeter,

EX2 9LY

077791 774706

davey2davey@hotmail.co.uk

David Fairweather, 077791 774706

James Hiscox, 07518 826703

Royal Blue, Royal Blue, Royal Blue

White, Red, Red

Playing Fields Acland Park

EX14 3WA

From A30 take 3rd junction and follow road to Feniton  
train station. Over level crossing, turn right and carry on  
for 1/4 mile, clubhouse is before school. Left into Acland  
Park, past houses and entrance is on right.

David Fairweather, 07779 177406

James Hiscox, 07518 826703

David Fairweather, 07779 177406



## IPPLEPEN ATHLETIC

**Club Secretary:**

**Address:**

**Contact:**

**Email:**

**1st Emergency:**

**2nd Emergency:**

**1st Choice Colours:**

**2nd Choice Colours:**

**Ground Name:**

**Ground Postcode:**

**Ground Phone:**

**Directions To Ground:**

Kathryn Alsop

64 Dornafeld Drive East, Ipplepen,  
TQ12 5YN

07855 784438

kathrynalsop@hotmail.com

Clive Stephens, 07812 934541

Chris Watts, 07535 047901

Red, Black, Black

Blue, Blue, Blue

Moor Road

TQ12 2BY

01803 813131

On the Newton Abbot/Totnes Road, turn into Moor Road  
opposite petrol station. Go past Ross Holiday Park Camp,  
continue through cross roads and turn into football ground  
100 yards on right.

**Team Sheet Administrators:**

**Texters:**

Clive Stephens, 07812 934541, clive.ippelen@btinternet.com

Clive Stephens, 07812 934541

Chris Watts, 07535 047901



## LAKESIDE ATHLETIC

**Club Secretary:**

**Address:**

**Contact:**

**Email:**

**1st Emergency:**

**2nd Emergency:**

**1st Choice Colours:**

**2nd Choice Colours:**

**Ground Name:**

**Ground Postcode:**

**Directions To Ground:**

Duncan Hedges

184 Clittaford Road, Southway,  
Plymouth, PL6 6DJ

07980 450295

hedgesfc@live.com

Kevin Boyd, 07782 558586

Mike Maunder, 07899 925885

Green/White, White, White

Black/Yellow, Black, Black/Yellow

Parkway Sports Club

PL5 2EY

Travel along A38 towards Tamar Bridge, take slip road  
Ernesettle/St Budeaux. Fourth exit on roundabout, first  
exit on next roundabout (Ernesettle Lane). Down hill for  
500 yards, ground on right.

**Team Sheet Administrators:**

**Texters:**

Mike Maunder, 07899 925885,

Duncan Hedges, 07980 450295

Duncan Hedges, 07980 450295

Kev Boyd, 07782 558586





## MOUNT GOULD

**Club Secretary:**

**Address:**

**Contact:**

**Email:**

**1st Emergency:**

**2nd Emergency:**

**1st Choice Colours:**

**2nd Choice Colours:**

**Ground Name:**

**Ground Postcode:**

**Directions To Ground:**

**Team Sheet Administrators:**

**Texters:**

Sara Richards

15 Cross Park Avenue, Plymouth,  
PL6 5AR

07919 186184

srichardsmountgouldfc@yahoo.com

Lewis Challen, 07434 945529

Jordan McCormick, 07873 109536

Light Blue, Light Blue, Light Blue

Maroon, Maroon, Maroon

Tothill Enclosure

PL4 9HG

From Marsh Mills Roundabout take A374 Plymouth Road heading to City Centre. After 1.5 miles turn right onto Lanhydrock Road, ground 0.4 miles on left.

James Hunt, jameshunt1995@hotmail.com

John Cork, corky1952@virginmedia.com

John Cork, 07914 451568



## NEWTOWN FC

**Club Secretary:**

**Address:**

**Contact:**

**Email:**

**1st Emergency:**

**2nd Emergency:**

**1st Choice Colours:**

**2nd Choice Colours:**

**Ground Name:**

**Ground Postcode:**

**Directions To Ground:**

**Team Sheet Administrators:**

**Texters:**

Ashley Bolter

37 Crabtree Close, Cranbrook,  
EX5 7GA

07973 832011

newtownfcsecretary@outlook.com

Ben Howard, 07850 666860

Pat McDonough, 07743 441671

Blue, Blue, Blue

Red, Red, Red

Recreational Ground, Station Road, Newton St Cyres  
EX5 5AT

A377 from Exeter to Crediton. At the dip in Newton St Cyres, turn right onto Station Road.

Ashley Bolter, 07973 832011,

newtownfcsecretary@outlook.com

Ben Howard, 07850 666860

Pat McDonough, 07743 441671



## NORTH MOLTON SC

**Club Secretary:**

**Address:**

**Contact:**

**Email:**

**1st Emergency:**

**2nd Emergency:**

**1st Choice Colours:**

**2nd Choice Colours:**

**Ground Name:**

**Ground Postcode:**

**Directions To Ground:**

Nigel Harris

Homedale, Fore Street, North Molton  
EX36 3HL

01598 740516 or 07711 591035

nh4851@gmail.com

Paul White, 07881 558881

Tim Perry, 07824 728897

Yellow/Blue, Blue, Blue

Orange, Black, Black

Rocksfield

EX36 3HG

From A361 from Tiverton, turn right towards North Molton & follow the road into the village. Take the first right after the garage, Sports Centre is 300 yards up the hill on the left hand side.

**Team Sheet Administrators:**

Nigel Harris, 07711 591035, nh4851@gmail.com

Paul White, 07881 558881, whit08w@gmail.com

**Texters:**

Paul White, 07881 558881

Jamie Giffard, 07557 044347



## OTTERY ST MARY

**Club Secretary:**

**Address:**

**Contact:**

**Email:**

**1st Emergency:**

**2nd Emergency:**

**1st Choice Colours:**

**2nd Choice Colours:**

**Ground Name:**

**Ground Postcode:**

**Directions To Ground:**

Tracey Isaacs

8 Albert Close, Ottery St Mary  
EX11 1GR

07900 390297

osmafccommercial@outlook.com

Rikkii Pitter, 07415 049313

Pat Curtis, 07717 071864

Royal Blue/White, Royal Blue/White, Royal Blue/White

Red/White, Red/White, Red/White

Washbrook Meadows

EX11 1EL

Exit A30 & take B3177/Feniton/Fairmile. Right at end of slip road & immediately right. Left onto Gosford Road, past Otter Nurseries, Right into Alfrington Road. 200 yards, first left into Butts Road.

**Team Sheet Administrators:**

Pat Curtis, 07717 071864

Rikkii Pitter, 07415 049313

**Texters:**

Rikkii Pitter, 07415 049313

Pat Curtis, 07717 071864



## PLYMOUTH MARJON

**Club Secretary:**

**Address:**

**Contact:**

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**1st Emergency:**

**2nd Emergency:**

**1st Choice Colours:**

**2nd Choice Colours:**

**Ground Name:**

**Ground Postcode:**

**Directions To Ground:**

Chris Smietanka

Staff House 2, Plymouth Marjon Uni  
Derriford Road, PL6 8BH

07805 177101

csmietanka@marjon.ac.uk

Chris Smietanka, 07805 177101

Matt Gillmore, 07810 647759

Royal Blue, Royal Blue, Royal Blue

Red, Red, Red

The Campus

PL6 8BH

Along A38 and exit at Manadon. At roundabout take second exit, signposted Tavistock, A386 and hospital. Continue to the Derriford roundabout and take the third exit following the signs to University and hospital. Take the first left into Plym bridge Lane, go past the Sports and Health centre and take third right into campus.

**Team Sheet Administrators:**

**Texters:**

Chris Smietanka, 07805 177101, csmietanka@marjon.ac.uk

Chris Smietanka, 07805 177101



## PLYMSTOCK UNITED

**Club Secretary:**

**Address:**

**Contact:**

**Email:**

**1st Emergency:**

**2nd Emergency:**

**1st Choice Colours:**

**2nd Choice Colours:**

**Ground Name:**

**Ground Postcode:**

**Ground Phone:**

**Directions To Ground:**

Dave Baskwill

22 Durriss Close, Thornbury,  
Plymouth, PL6 8JP

01752 706284 or 07885 561378

dave.baskwill@gmail.com

Ian Palmer, 07966 300071

Michael Burke, 07415 139563

Red, Black, Red

Navy Blue, Navy Blue, Navy Blue

Dean Cross

PL9 7AZ

01752 406776

Leave A38 at Marsh Mills Roundabout, take the Embankment, turn left onto A379, at roundabout take 2nd exit (Pomphlett Road). At lights turn right into Dean Cross Road.

**Team Sheet Administrators:**

**Texters:**

Dave Baskwill, 07885 561378, dave.baskwill@gmail.com

Dave Baskwill, 07885 561378



## THORVERTON

**Club Secretary:**

**Address:**

**Contact:**

**Email:**

**1st Emergency:**

**2nd Emergency:**

**1st Choice Colours:**

**2nd Choice Colours:**

**Ground Name:**

**Ground Postcode:**

**Directions To Ground:**

**Team Sheet Administrators:**

**Texters:**

Paul Webb

29 Oakfield Street, Exeter

EX1 2QT

07944 533372

grecianwebb@blueyonder.co.uk

Ben Mills, 07881 721608

Jimmy Stevens, 07711 041212

Yellow/Black Trim, Black, Yellow

Mauve, Black, Mauve

The Recreation Field

EX5 5NN

From Exeter take A396 and turn left at the Ruffwell Inn. Follow signs to Thorverton. Use Post Office car park and walk to ground. From Tiverton turn right at the Ruffwell Inn.

Jimmy Stevens, 07711041212, james\_stevens14@live.co.uk

Paul Webb, 07944 533372, grecianwebb@blueyonder.co.uk

Ben Mills, 07881 721608

Jimmy Stevens, 07711 041212



## TOPSHAM TOWN

**Club Secretary:**

**Address:**

**Contact:**

**Email:**

**1st Emergency:**

**2nd Emergency:**

**1st Choice Colours:**

**2nd Choice Colours:**

**Ground Name:**

**Ground Postcode:**

**Ground Phone:**

**Directions To Ground:**

**Team Sheet Administrators:**

**Texters:**

Neil Wood

97 Howarth Close, Sidmouth,

EX10 9FA

07462 714539

woodie2007@hotmail.co.uk

Chris Skinner, 07546 599844

Paul Astridge, 07811 416254

Royal Blue, Royal Blue, Royal Blue

Red, White, Red

Coronation Field

EX3 0LT

07546 599844

Exeter to Exmouth Road, just up from Plants Galore. Don't go under the Motorway Bridge.

Neil Wood, 07462 714539, woodie2007@hotmail.co.uk

Jake Messenger, 07305 985227







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## **GROUNDS BY SATNAV:**

APPLEDORE	EX39 1PA
BARNSTAPLE TOWN RES	EX31 1JQ
BEER ALBION	EX12 3FB
BERE ALSTON UNITED	PL20 7HG
BUDLEIGH SALTERTON	EX9 6SG
ELMORE	EX16 4DB
EXETER UNIVERSITY	EX4 2BQ
FENITON	EX14 3WA
IPPLEPEN ATHLETIC	TQ12 2BY
LAKESIDE ATHLETIC	PL5 2EY
MOUNT GOULD	PL4 9HG
NEWTOWN	EX5 5AT
NORTH MOLTON SC	EX36 3HG
OTTERY ST MARY	EX11 1EL
PLYMOUTH MARJON	PL6 8BH
PLYMSTOCK UNITED	PL9 7AZ
THORVERTON	EX5 5NN
TOPSHAM TOWN	EX3 0LT

## **ANY NEWS FROM INSIDE YOUR CLUB:**

Our media team are happy to share any news from within your club on league social media and website. No matter how big or small, get in touch:

Tom Besford  
07940 830601  
[tom.besford@uwclub.net](mailto:tom.besford@uwclub.net)

We are happy to help promote your clubs and with it promote Devon Football!



## IMPORTANT DATES

### DEVON FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Below are some useful dates to assist clubs

June 30th	Last date to pay annual subscription
October 1 <sup>st</sup>	Last date to submit club's accounts to League and Devon County FA
November 1 <sup>st</sup>	Saturday kick-off times change to 2.15pm where floodlights not in place
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Last date to apply to the FA for promotion to South West Peninsula League (Step 6)
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Last date for clubs in feeder leagues to apply for promotion
February 1 <sup>st</sup>	Saturday kick-off times revert to 3pm for all clubs
March 1 <sup>st</sup>	Return of League Trophies
March 31 <sup>st</sup>	Last Date to register or transfer players (Unless pre-approved emergency)
March 31 <sup>st</sup>	Ground Standards of applicant clubs must be in place (save for approved dispensation where applicable)
March 31 <sup>st</sup>	Last date for notifying league of a club's withdrawal at completion of the playing season



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# STANDARD CODE OF RULES – DEVON FOOTBALL LEAGUE

This document contains the Standard Code of Rules developed by The Football Association for open age football (the “Standard Code”).

The Standard Code is mandatory for all Competitions at Step SEVEN of the National League System and below, and The FA Women’s Pyramid excluding FA Women’s Super League and FA Women’s Championship.

Competitions seeking sanction must draft their Rules in conformity with the Standard Code, using the same numbering and standard headings.

The mandatory rules are printed in normal text and the optional rules in italics.

It should be noted that in many cases rules are so printed because they are alternatives and the procedure to apply should be retained and the others omitted.

In all cases where a [ ] is shown the necessary name, address, number or wording to complete that rule must be inserted.

Competitions may add to the core of the Standard Code, which is mandatory, providing the additions are approved by the Sanctioning Authority and do not conflict with the mandatory rules or any relevant principles and policies established by The FA. Guidance from the Sanctioning Authority should be sought in advance if there is any doubt as to the acceptability of additional rules.

## 1 DEFINITIONS

(A) In these Rules:

**Affiliated Association** means an Association accorded the status of an Affiliated Association under the rules of The FA.

**Area Feeder Leagues** shall mean Devon & Exeter Football League, South Devon Football League, North Devon Football League, Plymouth & District Football League or a Devon based Club playing in the East Cornwall League

**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.

**Competition** means the Devon 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.

**DCFA or “Devon CFA”** means Devon County Football Association.

**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.

**Joint Liaison Committee** means representatives from Devon CFA, Devon Football League & each of the Area Feeder Leagues

**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 Devon County Football Association Limited.

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

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

**Secretary** means such person or persons appointed or elected to carry out the administration of the Competition.

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

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

**The FA** means The Football Association Limited.

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

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

## **2 GOVERNANCE RULES**

### **COMPETITION NAME, CONSTITUTION**

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

(B) This Competition shall consist of not more than 18 Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

(C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be the County of Devon, together with Clubs playing on Grounds outside, but close to, the Devon County Boundary.

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

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

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

(G) 1. All Clubs must be affiliated to DCFA and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority and must have a constitution approved by the Sanctioning Authority. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

(H) 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, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise.

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

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

[DFL2(I)(i)] New Member Clubs have one year from an AGM to achieve the England Football Accredited Club Award. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

(K) Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing in the Competition in any other competitions (with the exception of FA and County FA 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.

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

(M) Only one Team shall be permitted from any Club to participate in the same division as another Team from the same Club unless there is no viable alternative because of logistical issues and/or reasons linked to participation and geographical boundaries. The Competition will

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

### **3 CLUB NAME**

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

### **4 ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT**

(A) Applications by Clubs for admission to the Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same Club must be made in writing to the Secretary by/and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee per Team as set out in the Fees Tariff, 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 AGM or an SGM.

(B) The annual subscription shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Club/Team payable on or before the AGM of the Competition in each year.

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

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

**[DFL4D(i)] Applications from Clubs not represented at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting will not be considered.**

(E) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 15th July of its Sanctioning Authority affiliation number for the forthcoming Playing Season. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, 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**

(A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and 4 members who shall all be elected at the AGM.

**[DFL5A(i)] League Officers shall be the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Fixtures Secretary, Registration Secretary, Referee Support Officer, England Football Accredited Officer, Grounds Grading Officer**

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

All other candidates for election as Officers of the Competition or members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the secretaries of two Clubs, not later than 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 in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the AGM.

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

On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Management



Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Management Committee.

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

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

## **6 POWERS OF MANAGEMENT**

(A) 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.

(B) Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained, the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each Season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any club which may have withdrawn during the Season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the Season.

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

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

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

With the exception of Rules 6(I), 8(H), and 9(E), 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 SEVEN days from the date of notification of the charge to reply. In such reply a Club may:

1. Accept the charge and submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee; or
2. Accept the charge and notify 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 Secretary that it wishes to appear before the Management Committee.

Where the Club charged fails to respond within SEVEN 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 of the National League System is £500.

No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

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

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

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

(G) 51% of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any sub-committee thereof.

**[DFL6(G)(i)] Any Member of the Management Committee not attending for THREE consecutive meetings without reasonable excuse will have the position reviewed and may lose their seat.**

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

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

(J) Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges must be paid within FOURTEEN 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 FOURTEEN days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.

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

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

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

## **7 PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS**

(A) 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 of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the Competition Match.

(B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within SEVEN days (excluding Sundays) of the Competition Match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the

Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

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

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

1. All parties must have received SEVEN 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.

(E) The Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Management Committee shall direct.

(F) Any appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority within FOURTEEN days of the posting of the written notification of the decision causing the appeal, accompanied by a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff), which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. A copy of the appeal must also be sent to the Secretary. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority, in such respect the Sanctioning Authority may (but is not obliged to):

1. invite submissions by the parties involved;
2. convene a hearing to hear the appeal;
3. permit new evidence; or
4. impose deadlines as are appropriate

Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee.

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

(H) All protests, claims or complaints relating to 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 the party not succeeding may, in addition, be ordered to pay the costs at the direction of the Management Committee.

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

## **8 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

(A) The AGM shall be held not later than 30th June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least one-third of members are present and entitled to vote:-

1. Confirm the minutes of the preceding AGM.
2. The annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts.
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.
  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.
- (B) A copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet, statement of accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least FOURTEEN days prior to the meeting, together with any proposed Rule changes.
- (C) A signed copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet and statement of accounts shall be sent to the Sanctioning Authority within FOURTEEN days of its adoption by the AGM
- (D) Each Club shall be empowered to send TWO delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. FOURTEEN days' notice shall be given of any AGM.
- (E) Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the Playing Season being concluded or who are not continuing membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the Season being concluded. This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 12.
- (F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of hands/email response (for virtual meetings) unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.
- (G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Club.
- (H) 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.
- (I) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM, but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a club (See Rule 8.G).
- (J) Where a Competition is an incorporated entity, the Officers of the Competition shall ensure that the Articles of Association of the Competition are consistent with the requirements of these Rules.

## **9 SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

- (A) Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call an SGM.
- (B) The Management Committee may call an SGM at any time.
- (C) At least SEVEN days' notice shall be given of a meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.
- (D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.
- (E) Any Club failing to be represented at a SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (F) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs, but cannot cast a vote on behalf of a club (See Rule 9.D).

## **10 AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED**

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) (name) [ ] of (address) [ ] (Chairman)/(Director) and (B) (name) [ ] of (address) [ ]

(Secretary)/(Director) of [ ] Football Club (Limited) have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the [ ] Competition 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 7."

The agreement shall be signed by:

1. Where a Club is an unincorporated association, the Club chairman and secretary; or
2. Where a Club is an incorporated entity, two directors of the Club.

Any change of Chair, Secretary or Directors as named on the above agreement must be notified to the County Football Association(s) to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary of this Competition.

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

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

(A) Any Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a Team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the Secretary in writing by 31st March each season. This does not apply to a Club moving in accordance with Rule 22(B). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

(C) Notwithstanding the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 6.1, 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**

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

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.

(B) At the AGM, or at a 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.

(C) Any Officer or member of a Club proved guilty of either a breach of Rule, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a Player or Players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of clause (A) and/or (B) of this Rule.

#### **13 TROPHY**

The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of a cup or trophy:-



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

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

#### **14 ALTERATION TO RULES**

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

(B) Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by 31st March in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 30th April and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 15th May. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

(Ci) 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.

(Cii) This Competition shall submit proposed alterations to the Rules to the Sanctioning Authority by 30th April in each year.

#### **15 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 £250 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 31st March.

(D) The books, 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.

(E) i. All financial transactions, the payment of fines, fees etc. between clubs and the League shall be conducted by on line banking. The League will provide all member clubs with the sort code and account number of the League bank account to which payments are to be made. When making payments clubs are to use the club's name as the reference.

ii. Clubs are to provide the League with the sort code and account numbers of their club bank account such that the League can make any payments due to any given club. Any changes to these details are to be advised to the League immediately.

#### **16 INSURANCE**

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

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

where The FA is the Sanctioning Authority, the minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which a Club affiliates.

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

## **17 DISSOLUTION**

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

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

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

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 MATCH RELATED RULES**

### **QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS**

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

1. Registered through The FA Player Registration System and approval received by the Competition.

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, submitted to the Competition within two days (Sundays excluded) subsequent to the Competition Match. The Player shall not play again in a subsequent match within the Competition until the Club is in possession of the approval from the Competition. A maximum of TWO players may be registered in this manner.

Any registration that is not fully and correctly completed will be returned to the Club unprocessed and the player classed as unregistered.

For Clubs registering Players under Rule 18(A).2 registration forms will be provided in a format to be determined by the Competition.

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

(B)

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 Club must have at least ELEVEN Players registered SEVEN 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 without a written contract changing his status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition or with a club in another competition his 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. Match Day Registrations will be allowed after the cut off time specified in Clause 18.A(i) and up to THREE hours before the next scheduled team fixture

**[DFL18(B)(v)] Prior to registration, Players must have a Devon FA membership as per Devon County FA Rules.**

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

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

**[DFL18(D)(i)] In Season 2023-24 the first 20 registrations shall be free, thereafter further registrations shall be in batches of a minimum of 10 players**

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

(F) 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 (Rule 18A.2) or submit a registration through WGS for registration that the Player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(G) 1. The Management Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rules 18G.2 and 18G.3 below.

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

4. For 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 18G.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.)

(H) Subject to compliance with FA Rule C when a Club wishes to register a player who is already registered with another club it shall submit a transfer notification to the Competition via The FA 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 THREE days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within THREE 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 or ONE day 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.

**[DFL18(H)(i)] All transfers will be processed through The FA Player Registration System.  
No player shall be granted more than Two Transfers in the current season.**

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

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

(K) A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding Competition Match (as specified in Rule 22(A)) unless the Player has played THREE Competition Matches for that Team in the current Playing Season.

(L) A Team shall not include more than THREE Players who have taken part in THREE or more Senior Competition Matches during the current Playing season unless a period of 21 days has elapsed since they last played. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. For the purpose of this Rule a senior competition is a League at Step 6 or above. Failure to comply with this Rule will result on a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(M)

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, plus a further ONE point will be deducted from its total, 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(L).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(L).1 above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion:

(a) Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed; or

(b) Levy penalty points against the Club in default; or

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

(N) The following clause applies to Competitions involving Players in full-time secondary

education: -

1. Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
2. The availability of children must be cleared with the Head Teachers (except for Sunday leagues competitions).

3. To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16.

(O) SCOR Rule (Not applicable)

(P) 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, he/she will not be eligible to re-register in the Competition for a period of 14 days from the date of cancellation

SPL Note 1.

When using the Player Registration System for registering a player, player consent must be obtained using the "Request Consent" method (electronic signature from the player's email). All players registered to this league are required to have an e-mail address. The "Offline Consent" method may be not used.

SPL Note 2.

Registrations will only be accepted up to MIDDAY for a Saturday kick off and up to the time of kick off for an evening match, subject to the restrictions at Rule 18i, providing that the date/time stamp in Player Registration System meets with the above requirements. Failure to comply with this procedure will result in the player being deemed ineligible and the penalties at Rule 18m applied.

SPL Note 3.

In cases of a genuine emergency only or where there is no access to Player Registration System registrations will be accepted on the strict proviso that the Registration Secretary has been passed the players details to enable Player Registration System to be updated post the match. Failure to comply with this procedure will result in the player being deemed ineligible and the penalties at Rule 18m applied.

SPL Rule 18giiv

NOTE:

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

SPL Rule 18ivSPL Notes.

1. All transfers in this League shall be conducted using the Player Registration System only. The process will be managed by the Registrations Secretary who shall ensure that the requirements of FA Rule C are met (see Schedule H).

2. If a club wishes to sign a player registered for the current season to another club REGARDLESS of whether that club is in a different Saturday League a Notice of Approach MUST still be submitted. Additionally, if the player has been registered in more than ONE League with different clubs then a Notice of Approach MUST be submitted to EACH of those clubs. If any of those clubs that the player is registered to do not waive the notice, then the approaching club



MUST wait until the eighth (8th) day to register the player.

3. The Notice of Approach framework is not completed from within the Player Registration System. Approaches for players in this League or another Saturday League shall be made by e-mail from the approaching Club Secretary or in his/her absence an alternative Club Official. The Registration Secretary MUST be copied in on ALL such approaches. Failure to comply with this Note shall result in a fine in accordance with the Fine Tariff.

4. All Notices of Approach MUST be acknowledged and where the Notice of Approach is waived by the receiving club additional confirmation MUST be included in the e-mail that is sent to the approaching Club Secretary. The Registration Secretary MUST be copied in on ALL such correspondence. Failure to comply with this Note shall result in a fine in accordance with the Fine Tariff.

## **19 CLUB COLOURS**

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

(B) Any Club wishing to change its colours during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the Management Committee.

(C) Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all other Players and the Match Officials.

(D) No Player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.

(E) Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents the colours in which they will play (including the colours of the goalkeeper's jersey) at least THREE days before the Competition Match.

(F) 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 not change or delay the scheduled time of kick off by not having a change of colours they will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**DFL 19.1 When playing AWAY, Clubs must play in colours (shirts, shorts & socks) which are clearly distinguishable from those of their Opponents and the Match Official, in particular the goalkeeper must play in kit clearly distinguishable from the colours of the shirts worn by all others players in the match and Match Officials. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.**

(G) Shirts must 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**

(A) 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 facility are suitable for Competition Matches and to order the Club concerned to play its Competition Match(es) on another ground.

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. All Football

Turf Pitches used must be tested (by a FIFA accredited test institute) every three years and the results passed to The FA. The FA will give a decision on the suitability for use and add the pitch to the Register.

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

Within the National League System ("NLS") and Regional NLS Feeder Leagues, all Competition Matches shall have a duration of 90 minutes. All other Competition Matches shall have 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 fixed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs prior to the scheduled date of the Competition Match with written notification given to the Competition at least SEVEN days prior.

**[DFL 20(A.1)] League matches as compiled shall be circulated to Clubs no later than Seven days prior to the first fixtures of the Season. Clubs wishing to close any dates must inform the Fixture Secretary prior to the publication of the Season's fixtures. All blank dates after the fixtures have been sent out will be subject to rearrangement of fixtures. Clubs wishing to keep any of these blank dates free must inform the Fixture Secretary as soon as possible and at least four weeks prior to date of fixtures. Clubs may only request a maximum of two closed dates. Revised dates made after the first Saturday in March must be accepted. Applications for rearrangements must be made in writing to the Fixture Secretary by both Clubs, giving reasons, and such applications to be received not less than 10 days prior to the original match date. Visiting Teams are expected to play under floodlights whenever required.**

**[DFL20(A.2)] The official time of kick-off for Saturday fixtures for Clubs without floodlights is 3 p.m. August, September, October**

**2.15 p.m November, December, January**

**3 p.m February to close of Season**

**Clubs with floodlights 3 p.m for the Season**

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

**[DFL 20(A.3)] Late Kick-Offs – More than 10 minutes after appointed time – as per Fines Tariff**

The home Team must provide goal nets, corner flags and at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. 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 in the NLS and at Regional NLS Feeder League level

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

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

20B.2 Clubs may not mutually agree to postpone the date of a match

(C) An Officer of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and

access to, the Ground and time of kick-off to the Match Officials and an Officer of the opposing Club at least 5 clear days prior to the playing of the match. If not so provided, the away Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

(E)

1. 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 impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff), deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the Competition Match in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable 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 Competition 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.

**[DFL(E.1)] Any Club failing to fulfil a fixture in accordance with Rule 20(E.1) and, it is subsequently found, any other Club team has, on that date, completed a fixture in a lower ranked competition (Not including any Devon County Premier Cup or any FA Cup Competition) then the offending club will incur a further fine in accordance with the Fines**

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 Fixtures Secretary, the Competition Referees Appointments Officer, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials.

**[DFL 20(E.2)] Clubs failing to fulfil a fixture under provisions of Rule 20 E(1) & If the aggrieved Home Club fulfils its away fixture, or has already done so, they may claim from their opponents, travel costs based on an allowance for a maximum of five vehicles at the current League Mileage Rate - Rule 23(E); all claims must be submitted to the League Secretary within 14 Days of the match date, or within 28 days of being notified of the team's withdrawal from the League**

4 In the event of a Competition Match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Fixtures Secretary within FOUR days the Management Committee shall have the power to order the Competition Match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and the Clubs involved agree, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand. Providing gate money is taken and retained the visiting Club shall receive their actual standard class rail or bus fares or the equivalent for 16 persons, or car allowance at 38p per mile for transporting 16 persons or hire charge of a coach (receipt to be submitted). The residue (if any) to be equally divided between the two Clubs after deducting the cost of advertising, printing, posting, police and Match Officials charges. The home Club shall take the whole of the proceeds of the second Competition Match.

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

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

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

(F) 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 FIVE substitute Players of whom not more than FIVE may be used.

The referee and a representative of the opposing club shall be informed of the names of the Players taking part in the Match (including the substitutes) not later than 30 minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a Player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match.

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.

**[DFL20(F)(ii)] Each Club must hand the Team Sheet containing name(s) of Players taking part in a match, including the name(s) and number(s) of the nominated substitute(s) together with names of Club Personnel stationed in the Dug-out, to the Referee and a representative of their opponents in the presence of the Referee at least THIRTY minutes before the scheduled time of kick-off. The Players' numbers and the colours of the playing strip must be clearly stated. A Player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.**

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

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

## **21 REPORTING RESULTS**

(A) The Registration Secretary must receive within THREE 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), the Match Officials travel expenses and also the referee markings required by Rule 23, or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) The Home & Away Club shall telephone/SMS/email/notify the result of each

Competition Match to the FA Full Time within TWO hours. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff

**[DFL21(B)(i)] The Home & Away Club must complete the Match Result on FA Full Time within THREE days of a game being played. The system will be locked after this time & access denied. For further guidance consult the FA Team Administrators Guide**

**<http://resources.TheFA.com/images/ftimages/data/league8/23218.pdf>**

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

(C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by an Officer of the Club, or as prescribed by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

## **22. DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP**

(A) i. 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 Team gaining the highest number of points in their division at the end of the Playing Season shall be adjudged the League Champions. Competition Matches must not be played for double points.

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

iii. In the event of two or more Teams still being equal, the Team which has scored the most goals during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.

iv. In the event of two or more Teams still being equal, the Team that has won the most matches (excluding 'walkovers') during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.

v. In the event of two or more Teams still 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.

vi. If the records of two or more Teams are still equal and it is necessary for any reason to determine the position of each then the Teams affected shall play a deciding match or matches under conditions as determined by the Management Committee.

(B) i. Promotion and Relegation from and into this League are in accordance with the following Rules.

ii. A promotion and relegation link exists between this League and the Peninsula League at Step 6. Reserve teams of Clubs competing at Step 6 are not eligible for promotion. Reserve teams of clubs may only seek promotion to Step 6 where a two Step gap would exist to their First Team. Eligible Clubs, providing they meet the appropriate grading criteria, must state their intention to seek promotion to The FA no later than 31st December in each season. The League Secretary and the Secretary of the Peninsula League are to be similarly informed.

iii. At the conclusion of fixtures the League Champion, provided it has the necessary grading criteria, will be eligible for promotion to Step 6. Where the Champion Club is either unable or unwilling to take promotion then a club finishing 2nd or 3rd shall be able to be promoted. Should no club be eligible under this rule then no promotion shall take place that season save as at paragraph 22b(iv) below.

iv. Where a reserve team or teams, which is/are deemed ineligible to attain promotion fill promotion places, the Peninsula League may permit a club finishing in the top two of the eligible first teams to be promoted to fill any vacancies but a club promoted must still finish in the top 5 of the League. Should no clubs be eligible under this rule then no promotion shall take place.

v. The Peninsula League will ground grade applicant clubs and meet with their Officers no later than the 31st March to determine if they are able to meet the minimum entry criteria.



Ground grading requirements for promotion to Step 6 are at Schedule F.

vi. Should a Club be promoted from this League to Step 6 and a club be relegated to this league from a Step 6 league then the relegated club will be deemed to have replaced the promoted club and all other issues regarding relegation will be unaffected save when the relegated club has a reserve team in this league. In these circumstances the reserve team shall be relegated to the appropriate feeder league and the second bottom club shall not be relegated.

vii. Should a club be promoted from this league and the Step 6 league does not relegate a club then the side finishing second bottom will not be relegated to a feeder league.

viii. In addition to the highest placed eligible club in the league which has applied for promotion under Rules 22b(iii) and (iv), other clubs, which have applied for promotion and similarly meet the promotion criteria, may be considered for promotion. Not more than two teams in total will be promoted each season and the second promotion will only take place once the FA, having considered vacancies and promotion candidates, have decided which Step 6 Leagues are to relegate two teams. They will also direct the procedure for deciding the second club to be promoted to Step 6.

**(C). Not used in this Competition.**

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

(E)i. Promotion to this League from nominated feeder leagues shall be as described below. For the purposes of this Rule the nominated feeder leagues shall be the Devon & Exeter Football League, South Devon Football League, North Devon Football League and Plymouth & District Football League.

ii. Clubs based outside Devon shall not be eligible for promotion to this League. However, Clubs playing on Grounds outside, but close to, the Devon County Boundary are eligible, if playing in a recognised feeder league.

iii. Only two teams from each feeder League shall be eligible for promotion to this league. Should more than two clubs apply from any given Feeder League then the highest placed eligible clubs, as described below shall be the only ones considered.

iv. At the conclusion of fixtures the Champion and Runner-Up Clubs of each feeder league, provided they have the necessary grading criteria as described at Schedule E (subject to any FA dispensations in place at the time) will be eligible for promotion to this League. Where either the Champion or Runner-Up club does not apply or is either unable or unwilling or ineligible under Rule 22e(ii) to take promotion then an eligible club finishing 3rd, 4th, or 5th shall be able to be promoted. Where the clubs finishing 3rd, 4th, or 5th also do not apply or are either unable or unwilling or ineligible to take promotion then no promotion shall take place that season.

v. In the same way, where a reserve team or teams of Clubs in membership of this League fill feeder league promotion places and the league has the maximum allowed number of reserve teams in membership, then a club finishing in the top two of the teams eligible to be promoted may be permitted to fill any vacancies but a club promoted must still finish in the top 5 of the feeder league. Should no clubs be eligible under this rule then no promotion shall take place.

vi. Where Devon based Clubs fill feeder league promotion places as described in Rule 22e(iv) above then a club finishing in the top two of the teams eligible to be promoted may be permitted to fill any vacancies but a club promoted must still finish in the top 5 of the feeder league. Should no clubs be eligible under this rule then no promotion shall take place.

vii. Clubs seeking promotion to this league are to follow the following procedure to ensure

eligibility.

1. Those Clubs seeking promotion are to forward to this League their application (in writing) and their entry and ground grading fees as described in Rule 4 and set out in the Fees Tariff to this League, by December 31st and to inform their current League of their action by the same date.

2. To ensure compliance with the ground standards directed by the FA for a NLS Regional Feeder League a ground inspection of those clubs seeking promotion shall be carried out by this League by March 31st .

3. Each Feeder League shall be informed by this League of those Clubs which have met all the ground grading criteria.

4. Subject to any FA dispensation in place at the time all improvements or works required to meet the ground grading requirements must be completed, inspected and passed by this League no later than 1 week prior to the Annual General Meeting.

**(F)i. Relegation.** Relegation from this League to the nominated feeder leagues shall be as described below. For the purposes of this Rule the nominated feeder leagues shall be the Devon & Exeter Football League, South Devon Football League, North Devon Football League and Plymouth & District Football League.

ii. At the conclusion of the playing season the bottom two clubs from the league shall be relegated to their geographically appropriate feeder league.

REGIONAL NLS FEEDER LEAGUES ONLY. Any Club not maintaining the ground grading set for the Competition may be relegated at the end of the Playing Season. Each relegated Club will be allocated to the highest division in either Devon & Exeter Football League, South Devon Football League, North Devon Football League and Plymouth & District Football League. Clubs relegated on ground grading grounds shall be deemed to be the bottom placed team in the league and the team finishing second bottom shall be reprieved. Similarly, if more than one team in the league is relegated under these circumstances then the team finishing bottom shall be reprieved.

iii. In the event that the first team of a club which has a reserve team in membership of this Competition is relegated into this Competition then such a reserve team shall be relegated into the geographically appropriate feeder league. In this event the reserve team, for relegation purposes, shall be deemed to be the bottom placed team and the team finishing second bottom shall be reprieved.

iv. In the event of a club or clubs resigning from this Competition either during or at the conclusion of the playing season then the number of clubs relegated from the respective League shall be reduced by the number of clubs withdrawing. Similarly, should any League comprise less than 16 teams at the commencement of the playing season then the number of clubs relegated from that League shall be reduced by the number short to a maximum of two.

v. If only one Club is eligible or wishes promotion to a League, only the bottom Club in the League will be relegated.

vi. If no Clubs are eligible or wish for promotion to the League then no Clubs will be relegated from the League.

vii. In the event of a Competition Club opting to be relegated or being relegated under Rule 22(F)(ii) such Club or Clubs will replace the Club or Clubs otherwise due for relegation.

viii. Where a club is promoted to the South West Peninsula League from our league and no club is relegated into our league from the South West Peninsula League then the second bottom club shall be reprieved from relegation.

ix. If, after all promotion and relegation matters have been settled as described above, vacancies remain they may be filled as directed by Regulation 3 of Annex A to the National League System Regulations. Clubs wishing to be considered should a vacancy occur must follow

the same procedure and timeline as promotion applicants (Rule 22E(vii)). Promotion candidates who are unsuccessful by league position but meet all other requirements will automatically be deemed 'applicants to fill a vacancy (vacancies)'.

### **23 MATCH OFFICIALS**

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

(B) 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.

(B) 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.

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

[DFL 23(C)(i)] Clubs are required to provide a Qualified Assistant Referee. The person must have been trained by the Competition to qualify. Nominated playing substitutes or other persons who have not qualified shall not act as an Assistant Referee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff

(D) Regional NLS Feeder Leagues: No Club shall postpone a Competition match on account of the apparent state of the ground. In the event that such circumstances prevail, Clubs should comply with procedures provided for in the document published by The FA "Recommended procedure for the guidance of Clubs and Referees in determining the suitability of grounds in adverse weather conditions". Should the ground be declared unfit it is the responsibility of the home club to immediately advise the Competition, The Appointing Authority, the visiting Club and Match Officials.

[DFL23(D)(i)] Where the fitness of the ground is in doubt, and the appointed Referee is unable to make any early inspection, clubs shall call a local Referee to inspect the ground in time (but not before the day of the match or not later than 11 a.m.) to contact the Appointed Match Official & between them, give a decision to decide if the game is postponed or if the opposing team should travel. Appointed Match Officials so called to inspect a ground may claim reasonable expenses. For those leagues which are not Regional NLS Feeder Leagues: 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. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff.

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

Match Officials will be paid their fees and/or expenses by the home Club immediately after the Competition Match. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

#### **N.B Season 2023-24 a maximum of £50 per game is to be paid.**

(F) In the event of a Competition Match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to half fee plus expenses. Where a Competition Match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Ground, their full fee and

expenses. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.  
(G) A referee not keeping his or her engagement and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Affiliated Association with which he or she is registered.

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

**[DFL 23(G)(1)] Where a mark of 60 or less is awarded an Adverse Report is required in accordance with The FA's 'Regulations for the Registration & Control of Referees' and is to be submitted within 3 days of a match being played. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.**

(I) The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided by the prescribed date each Season, shall submit a summary to Devon CFA.

(J) The referee shall submit a report form, supplied by the Competition, to the Referees Support Officer within FOUR days of the Competition Match.

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

(L) Match Officials shall comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA and Sanctioning Authority adopted by the Competition.

#### **HOSPITALITY.**

The minimum standard of hospitality to be afforded to visiting Clubs is:

(A) All clubs must provide food for the travelling team at the venue where the game is played.

If the visiting Club does not wish to accept the after-match hospitality offered then it should inform to home Club 3 clear days prior to the date of the match.

In the event of the non-compliance of any of the above instructions the League Secretary should be informed within 3 days of the match. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule will be subject to a fine as shown in the fines tariff. (£75)

#### **GROUND PASSES**

The League Officers and Committee Members, will be issued with a Ground Pass.

The Ground pass will give the holder free access to the ground and stands in which his/her club is playing in a scheduled fixture of the Devon Football League.

The exception to this will be that passes will only be accepted from the members of the competing teams in the League Cup Semi Final and Final and the Finals of other Cup Competitions of the League.

Any misuse of a pass will be subject to action shown in the Fines Tariff.

#### **ADMISSION CHARGES**

The admission price to be charged at all Devon Football League games and Cup games up to the Semi Finals is left to the discretion of the Clubs, however, it is recommended that the minimum charge for admission to League matches shall be £3.00 for adults and reduced charges for Senior Citizens and Children.

#### **GROUND GRADING.**

## **1. GROUND GRADING REPORTS**

Clubs shall have facilities that meet the League's Ground Grading requirements as outlined in the League grading criteria and as such will be subject to a ground grading inspection by the League's Ground Grading Officer.

The League Management committee shall have the discretion to vary the League Ground Grading requirements to a standard not less than the FA Step 7 minimum ground grading requirements.

2. Clubs shall provide a detailed plan of their Ground Improvement Scheme to meet the Leagues Ground Grading criteria.

3. In conjunction with the League's Ground Grading Officer carry out a phased programme of the planned improvements to meet completion dates set out by the League Management Committee.

4. Failure to carry out and complete any or all scheduled ground improvements by the dates set by the ground grading committee during the current season may result in the club being removed from membership of the league following the conclusion of that season.

## **ENGLAND FOOTBALL ACCREDITED**

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.

As an FA England Football Accredited League this Competition requires all of its clubs to have achieved England Football Accredited status and to maintain their England Football Accredited Status throughout its membership of the Competition and to adhere to this requirement.

New members have one year to achieve the England Football Accredited Club award.

The League has the right to refuse membership to a Club if it fails to demonstrate commitment to achieving the award.

The annual subscription will be increased for any club not being England Football Accredited compliant at the 31st May in any year. (Except New Member Clubs). The Fees are shown in the Fees Tariff.

## **USE OF GROUND AND FACILITIES.**

Each Club shall place their ground and facilities at the disposal of the Management Committee for two dates in each season and any Club not complying with the Rule shall be liable to be dealt with as the Management Committee may deem fit.

## **TECHNICAL AREA**

The technical area must be marked in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

The technical area relates to matches played in stadiums with a designated sitting area for team officials, substitutes and substituted players as outlined below:

- the technical area should only extend 1 m (1 yd) on either side of the designated seated area and up to a distance of 1 m (1 yd) from the touchline
- markings should be used to define the area
- the number of persons permitted to occupy the technical area is defined by the competition rules
- the occupants of the technical area:
  - are identified before the start of the match in accordance with the competition rules
  - must behave in a responsible manner
  - must remain within its confines except in special circumstances, e.g., a physiotherapist/doctor entering the field of play, with the referee's permission, to assess an injured player

- only one person at a time is authorised to convey tactical instructions from the technical area Except for the Team Manager, Team Coach and any substitutes warming up or warming down all other personnel are to remain seated on the trainer's bench.

All substitutes must wear substitute bibs.

Failure to do so will incur a fine as shown in the Fines Tariff.

### **MATCH BALLS**

3 Match Balls proposed to be used in the match and, if applicable, supplied by the League under a ball sponsorship agreement must be submitted to and approved by the Referee before the commencement of the match in his/her dressing room.

It is the responsibility of the Home Club to provide match balls in accordance with any match ball agreement signed by the League

**When seeking promotion to Step 6** please note you should comply with Grade 'G' of the FA Grounds Standards & anticipate the requirement for 8 persons to be seated in each Dugout Each box must accommodate at least 8 persons on fixed seats or benches. Where bench seating is provided, a minimum of 0.5 m must be allowed for each person (i.e., 8 persons require a minimum of 4 metres.).

Clubs are required to **purchase a minimum of TWO tickets** for the League Annual Presentation night irrespective of whether the club actually attend on the night

Each club is required to make their **ground available to the League once per season without charge**. The League will make payment for refreshments up to a maximum of £75 & if floodlights used £50. Host clubs must provide nets, flags, balls and other equipment necessary for the match to be played.



**SCHEDULE A**

FEES TARIFF		
RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
4(A)	ENTRY FEE	£100
4(B)	ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£150
4(C)	NEW CLUB DEPOSIT	£100
7(C), 7(F), 7(H) 7(G)	PROTEST/APPEAL FEES	£25
18(D)	PLAYER REGISTRATION FORM	£2
18(H)	TRANSFER FEE	£10
23(E)	REFEREE FEE	£50 (FEE & EXPENSES)

FINES TARIFF		
RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
2(G)	FAILURE TO AFFILIATE	£100
2(I) & DFL2(I)(i)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£50
2(K)	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	£25
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	£25
4(C)	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£50
4(E)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE AFFILIATION NUMBER/DETAILS FORM	£50

5(E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£25
6(I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£50
6(J)	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£50
8(H)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£50
9(E)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM	£50
10	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES	£25
11(A)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE	£75
11(B)	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£500
13(A)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£25
16(A)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£50
16(B)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£50
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	£50
18(F)	REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS, OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM	£50
18(G)(2)	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£50
18(K)	FIELDING MORE THAN THE PERMITTED NUMBER OF PLAYERS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SENIOR COMPETITIONS MATCHES	£50
18(L)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£100
18(M)	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£10
19 & DFL 19.1	FAILURE TO CHANGE COLOURS (AWAY TEAM)	£25
19(G)	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS	£10
20(A) & DFL 20(A)(ii)	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT. KICK-OFF MORE THAN 10 MINUTES LATE	£25

20(C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£25
20(D)	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS	£25
20(B), 20(E)(1) & 20(E)(3)	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	£100
DFL20(F)(i)	NO TEAM SHEET PRIOR TO GAME STARTING LATE TEAM SHEET PRIOR TO GAME STARTING	£25 £10
20(H)	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£10
21(A)	LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION FORM	£10
21(B) & DFL21(B)(i)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT	£50
21(C)	RESULT NOTIFICATION NOT SIGNED BY APPROPRIATE SIGNATORIES	£10
23(C) & DFL 23(C) (i)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE OR USING AN UNQUALIFIED ASSISTANT REFEREE	£25
23(D)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES	£25
23(E)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£25
23(G)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£25

Hospitality	FAILURE TO PROVIDE FOOD FOR TRAVELLING TEAM	£75
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Fines Tariff



## Devon Football League Cup Rules



### **RULES RELATING TO THE DEVON FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP COMPETITION (JUNE 2023) & ANY SUPPLEMENTARY COMPETITION RUN ON A CUP BASIS**

1. The Competition shall be named the Devon Football League Cup or such Sponsors titled name as approved.
2. All Clubs taking part in the League must take part in the Cup Competition. The Cup is exclusively for clubs playing in the League. A fee of £20 is payable for entry to the Cup, such fees will provide the travel subsidies detailed under Rule 8.
3. The dates and times of all Rounds will be notified by the Leagues Fixture Secretary. Where a Home Club has postponed a tie for a third time the League will order the tie to be reversed in order that it is staged by the Club having originally been drawn away.
4. Clubs failing to keep their engagement will be excluded from the Cup & fined a maximum of £100.
5. The Competition shall be run on the knock out principle with no extra time but settled by penalty kicks to determine the winners of each tie.
6. The rounds & draws of the Cup will be made at an LMC who may award byes in the 1st Round of the Cup
7. Each Round drawn will include all Teams in the Devon Football League.
8. The Treasurer shall distribute prior to holding the Semi-Finals & Final a sum of money to each Club to offset the cost of travelling to their opponent
9. The Semi Finals & Final will be played on a neutral ground. The League will retain all gate receipts for the Final and pay all reasonable expenses incurred in the staging of the Final.
10. All players must be registered with the League. Players (other than goalkeepers) that appear in a Quarter Final Tie must have played THREE matches in the current season for the Team, likewise in the Semi-Final FIVE appearances and in the Final SEVEN appearances.
11. Players may play for ONE Team only in the Competition. A Player includes substitutes who have entered the field of play in any previous match.
12. Clubs fielding any Unregistered, ineligible and/or cup tied player(s) will be removed from the Cup and may be fined a maximum of £100.
13. The Winning Club shall be presented with the Cup & 16 souvenirs, The Runners Up with 16 souvenirs.
14. The Cup shall be returned in good order and engraved no later than 1st March- failure to comply a club will be fined a maximum of £100
15. The management of the Competition rests entirely with the League Management Committee. Protests, in writing, will be entertained if received within SEVEN days of a Cup Tie by the League Secretary. There is no right of appeal on decisions relating solely to the Cup Competition.

## RESPECT

Respect is The FA's response to a clear message from throughout the game, that the health of football depends upon high standards of behaviour on and off the pitch.

- Respect is a behavioural code for Football
- Respect is about recognising that the integrity of the game is more important than the result of the match
- Respect is For ALL and plays a key part in uniting the game
- Respect is about creating an understanding of what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in Football
- Respect is about those involved taking responsibility for the consequences of their own actions
- Respect is about supporting match officials to do their job.
- Respect is not a slogan. It is a collective responsibility of those involved in football to create a safe, fun and inclusive environment in which the game can take place.

The following Respect Codes of Conduct outline the types of behaviour that will support a safe, fun and inclusive game in this country. They also identify a range of sanctions which may be taken if these codes are not abided by.

### SPECTATORS - RESPECT CODE OF CONDUCT

We all bear a collective responsibility to set a good example and help provide a positive environment in which children can learn and enjoy the game.

Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct for spectators at all times

I will:

- Remember that children play for FUN.
- Applaud effort and good play as well as success.
- Respect the Referee's decisions even when you don't agree with them
- Appreciate good play from whatever team it comes from
- Remain behind the touchline and within the Designated Spectators' Area (where provided)
- Let the coach do their job and not confuse the players by telling them what to do
- Encourage the players to respect the opposition, referee and match officials
- Support positively. When players make a mistake offer them encouragement not criticism
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting, or abusive language or behaviour

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA:

I may be:

- Issued with a verbal warning from a club or league official
- Required to meet with the club, league or CFA Welfare Officer
- Required to meet with the club committee
- Obligated to undertake an FA education course
- Obligated to leave the match venue by the club
- Requested by the club not to attend future games
- Suspended or have my club membership removed

In addition:

- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and/or suspension on the club



## **COACHES, TEAM MANAGERS AND CLUB OFFICIALS - RESPECT CODE OF CONDUCT**

We all bear a collective responsibility to set a good example and help provide a positive environment in which children can learn and enjoy the game. Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct at all times.

On and off the field, I will:

- Use my position to set a positive example for the young people I am responsible for
- Show respect to others involved in the game including match officials, opposition players, coaches, managers, officials and spectators
- Adhere to the laws and spirit of the game
- Promote Fair Play and high standards of behaviour
- Respect the match official's decision
- Never enter the field of play without the referee's permission
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour
- Be gracious in victory and defeat

When working with players, I will:

- Place the well-being, safety and enjoyment of each player above everything, including winning
- Never engage in or tolerate any form of bullying
- Encourage each player to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance
- Ensure all activities I organise are appropriate for the players' ability level, age and maturity
- Co-operate fully with others in football (e.g. officials, doctors, physiotherapists, welfare officers) for each player's best interests

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA:

I may be:

- Required to meet with the club, league or County Welfare Officer
- Suspended by the club from attending matches
- Suspended or fined by the County FA
- Required to leave or be sacked by the club

In addition:

- My FA Coaching Licence may be withdrawn

## **MATCH OFFICIALS**

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game.

The behaviour of the match officials has an impact, directly and indirectly, on the conduct of everyone involved in the game - both on the pitch and on the sidelines.

Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct of match officials at all time.

I will:

- Be honest and completely impartial at all times
- Apply the Laws of the Game and competition rules fairly and consistently
- Manage the game in a positive, calm and confident manner
- Deal with all instances of violence, aggression, unsporting behaviour, foul play and other misconduct
- Never tolerate offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour from players and officials
- Support my match official colleagues at all times

- Set a positive personal example by promoting good behaviour and showing respect to everyone involved in the game
- Communicate with the players and encourage fair play
- Respond in a clear, calm and confident manner to any appropriate request for clarification by the team captains
- Prepare physically and mentally for every match
- Complete and submit, accurate and concise reports within the time limit required for games in which I officiate.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my County FA or The FA:

I may be:

- Required to meet with The FA/County FA Refereeing Official
- Required to meet with The FA/County FA Referees Committee

## **ADULT PLAYERS**

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game

Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct for players at all times.

On and off the field, I will:

- Adhere to the Laws of The Game
- Display and promote high standards of behaviour
- Promote Fair Play
- Always respect the match official's decisions
- Never engage in public criticism of the match officials
- Never engage in offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour
- Never engage in bullying, intimidation or harassment
- Speak to my team-mates, the opposition and my coach/manager with respect.
- Remember we all make mistakes.
- Win or lose with dignity. Shake hands with the opposing team and the referee at the end of every game.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA:

I may:

- Be required to apologise to team-mates, the other team, referee or team manager
- Receive a warning from the coach
- Receive a written warning from the club committee
- Be required to attend an FA education course
- Be dropped or substituted
- Be suspended from training
- Not be selected for the team
- Be required to serve a suspension
- Be fined
- Be required to leave the club

In addition:

- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and/or suspension on the club

## REFEREES, GUIDE TO MARKING

The mark awarded by a club must be based on the Referee's overall performance. It is most important that the mark is awarded fairly and not based upon isolated incidents or previous games. The Referee's performance should be determined by the table below which should act as a guide for the overall mark which should fall within the mark range for each standard of performance.

Mark Range	Comment
100-86	The Referee demonstrated very accurate decision-making and controlled the game very well using management and communication skills effectively to add value to the game.
85-76	The Referee demonstrated accurate decision-making and controlled the game well using management and communication skills to contribute positively to the game.
75-61	The Referee demonstrated reasonably accurate decision-making and despite some shortcomings generally controlled the game well.
60 and below	The Referee demonstrated shortcomings in the accuracy of decision-making and control which affected the game.

### Notes

- Club officials should use the full range of marks within each category to help distinguish between different performance levels, e.g. within the 85-76 category a mark of 84 indicates a better performance than a mark of 77.
- While some Referees may have below average performances, there will usually have been some positive aspects of their performance, so extremely low marks should be very rare.
- When club officials are marking a Referee, they should always look at the game as a whole and not isolated decisions. The result of the match should not influence the mark and disciplinary action should be judged objectively.
- When a mark of 60 or lower is awarded, an explanation must be provided to the Competition using the box provided on the marking form. The purpose of this is to assist Referees to improve their performance levels, so the comments should be as helpful as possible.

## FOOTBALL DEBT RECOVERY REGULATIONS

The FDR Regulations are applicable to Participants at Steps 5 and below only and The FA Women's Football Pyramid excluding The FA Women's Super League.

Each Affiliated Association shall operate a system to adjudicate upon and facilitate the recovery of Football Debt, which conforms with the FDR Regulations.

Unless otherwise defined in the FDR Regulations, words and expressions shall have the same meaning as set out in the Rules, as amended from time to time.

The following defined terms are used in the FDR Regulations only:

**"Alleged Creditor"** means a Club, Competition or local authority which is allegedly owed a Football Debt by an Alleged Debtor;

**"Alleged Debtor"** means a Player (except Players who are under 18 years old and play in an Under 18 Competition), Club Official, Official, Manager, Match Official, Management Committee Member, or member or employee of a Club which allegedly owes a Football Debt to an Alleged Creditor;

**"Appeal Board"** means the appeal board of an Affiliated Association;

**"Appeal Notification"** means a written and dated notification of the decision of the Appeal Board in respect of a claim;

**"Deadline"** means the expiry date of the 112 day period which commenced when the relevant Football Debt arose;

**"FDR Regulations"** means the Football Debt Recovery Regulations;

**"Football Debt"** means any cost incurred by an Alleged Creditor on behalf of an Alleged Debtor which is (i) equal to or larger than £25 (save for the recovery of disciplinary fines) and (ii) arose directly from football activity including, but not limited to, disciplinary fines and costs, Match fees and costs, Club subscriptions and playing expenses (e.g. pitch hire). For the avoidance of doubt, incidental costs (e.g. fund raising activities) do not fall within the scope of the FDR Regulations. In the event of a dispute as to what constitutes a Football Debt, the relevant Affiliated Association may, in its absolute discretion, determine the matter.

**"Formal Request"** means a written and dated request for payment of a Football Debt;

**"Notice of Appeal"** means a written and dated notice of appeal against a decision of the Affiliated Association in respect of a claim;

**"Notice of Claim"** means a written notice of claim for the recovery of a Football Debt from an Alleged Debtor which is submitted by the Alleged Creditor to the Alleged Creditor's Affiliated Association prior to the Deadline;

**"Notification"** means a written and dated notification of the decision of the Affiliated Association in respect of a claim.

### COMMENCING A CLAIM

1. In the first instance, an Alleged Creditor must take reasonable steps to recover a Football Debt, including the serving of a Formal Request on the Alleged Debtor.
2. If a Football Debt has not been recovered within 28 days of the date of the Formal Request, the Alleged Creditor may submit a Notice of Claim, provided this is done prior to the Deadline.
3. In order for a Notice of Claim to be valid, an Alleged Creditor must (i) include all relevant details about the Football Debt(s) which is the subject of the claim and the manner in which it is alleged to have arisen and what steps have been taken to recover it; (ii) provide a copy of the Formal Request and; (iii) provide the full name, last known address and date of birth of the Alleged Debtor (if known); (iv) pay an administration fee of £25 in respect of each Football Debt detailed in the Claim at the same time as filing the Notice of Claim. This fee may be added to the total debt claimed from the Alleged Debtor.

4. Upon receipt of a valid Notice of Claim, the Affiliated Association shall take steps to verify whether the Football Debt(s) is payable by the Alleged Debtor to the Alleged Creditor. The Affiliated Association shall provide a Notification to the Alleged Creditor and Alleged Debtor within 21 days of receipt of the Notice of Claim.

#### **PAYMENT OF A CLAIM**

5. If a claim is upheld by the Affiliated Association, the Alleged Debtor must make payment of the Football Debt directly to the Alleged Creditor within 21 days of the date of the Notification.
6. If a claim is partially upheld by an Affiliated Association, the Alleged Debtor must make payment of such proportion of the Football Debt as directed by the Affiliated Association, in its absolute discretion, in the Notification, directly to the Alleged Creditor within 21 days of the date of the Notification.
7. If a claim is rejected by the Affiliated Association, no payment is payable by the Alleged Debtor to the Alleged Creditor.

#### **APPEALS**

8. If a Claim is upheld or partially upheld by the Affiliated Association, the Alleged Debtor may submit a Notice of Appeal to the Affiliated Association within 21 days of the date of the Notification.
9. If a Claim is rejected or partially upheld by the Affiliated Association, the Alleged Creditor may submit a Notice of Appeal to the Affiliated Association within 21 days of the date of the Notification.
10. In order for a Notice of Appeal to be valid, the Alleged Debtor/Alleged Creditor must (i) detail all relevant reasons why the Notification should be overturned in full or in part; (ii) provide a copy of the Notification and copies of all paperwork previously submitted to the Affiliated Association in respect of the claim; (iii) provide the full name, last known address and date of birth of the Alleged Debtor/Alleged Creditor (if known).
11. Upon receipt of a valid Notice of Appeal, an Appeal Board shall determine, in its absolute discretion, whether to uphold, partially uphold or reject the appeal and shall provide an Appeal Notification to the Alleged Creditor and Alleged Debtor within 21 days of receipt of the Notice of Appeal. The decision of the Appeal Board shall be final.
12. If an appeal is rejected by an Appeal Board, the Appeal Fee shall be retained by the Affiliated Association.
13. If an Appeal Notification directs that the entirety or a proportion of the Football Debt(s) is payable by the Alleged Debtor to the Alleged Creditor, such sum must be paid directly to the Alleged Creditor within 21 days of the date of the Appeal Notification.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

14. If a claim is upheld or partially upheld by an Affiliated Association/Appeal Board and payment of the Football Debt has not been received by the Alleged Creditor within 21 days of the date of the Notification/Appeal Notification, the Alleged Debtor will be automatically suspended from all footballing activity by the Affiliated Association until (i) the sum directed to be paid by the Affiliated Association/Appeal Board has been paid to the Alleged Creditor in full, and (ii) the Alleged Debtor has received notification from the Affiliated Association that the suspension has been lifted. Any Alleged Debtor breaching such a suspension will be liable to be charged under FA Rule E10 of the Rules of The Association.

## CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES, TEAM MANAGERS AND CLUB OFFICIALS



*Set the standards for a great game.*

*Use your position to set a positive example for the people you're responsible for and lead a better game for everyone.*

### **PLAY YOUR PART AND SUPPORT THE FA'S CODE OF RESPECT:**

On and off the field, I will:

- Always show respect to everyone involved in the game
- Stick to the rules and celebrate the spirit of the game
- Encourage fair play and high standards of behaviour
- Always respect the Referee and encourage players to do the same
- Never enter the field of play without the referee's permission
- Never engage in, or tolerate offensive, insulting or abusive behaviour
- Be aware of the potential impact of bad language on others
- Be gracious in victory and defeat
- Respect the facilities home and away

When working with players, I will:

- Place the well-being, safety and enjoyment of each player above everything
- Never tolerate any form of bullying
- Ensure all activities are suited for the players' ability and age
- Work with others (e.g. officials, doctors, welfare officers, physiotherapists) for each player's best interests

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, I may be:

- Required to meet with the club or league Welfare officer or your CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO).
- Suspended by the club from attending matches
- Suspended or fined by the County FA



## REPEAT OFFENDERS

Repeat Offenders (this will be a different approach than expected) If a temporary dismissed player :

- commits another YC Offence or RC offence during the sin bin period cannot take any further part in the game and cannot be substituted
- Commits a non-dissent caution at any time on the field of play in addition to the sin bin period will continue to play.
- Commits a 2nd Dissent caution (and no other offences) will receive a 2nd period in the sin bin. At the end of that period, the player can take no further part in the game but can be substituted.

Caution Offence 1	Caution Offence 2	Caution Offence 3	On field Sanction
Dissent	-	-	Sin Bin
Dissent	Non Dissent	-	Sin Bin, Caution Recorded (Sin Band off)
Dissent	Non Dissent Caution	Non Dissent Caution	Sin Bin, Send Off for S7
Dissent	Dissent	-	Sin Bin, 2nd period in sin bin, unable to rejoin, substituted after 2nd Sin Bin period, substituted once
Dissent	Non Dissent Caution	Dissent	Sin Bin, Caution Recorded, Sin Bin, unable to rejoin and CANNOT be substituted
Non Dissent Caution	Dissent	-	Caution Recorded, Sin Bin
Non Dissent Caution	Dissent	Non Dissent Caution	Caution Recorded, Sin Bin, Send Off for S7
Non Dissent Caution	Dissent	Dissent	Caution Recorded, Sin Bin, Sin Bin, unable to rejoin

## FAQS

**Q:** *Will the Referee working on their own be able to control the Sin Bin Period?*

**A:** Yes if they follow the correct Procedure

**Q:** *Can a Temporary Dismissed player warm up?*

**A:** Yes – Want to avoid injury and the purpose of the Sin Bin is to remove from play

**Q:** *What happens if the Team go down to less than 7 players as a result of a Temporary Dismissal?*

**A:** If it is the players second sin bin and not permitted to return - the game will be abandoned





# Heading Guidance

## ADULT AMATEUR FOOTBALL

Up to and including Step 5 of the NLS & Tier 3 of the Women's Pyramid

Ball size	5	Format	11v11
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### GAME CONTEXT

### GUIDANCE FOR COACHES

It is acknowledged there is a significant amount of further research required which will inform further iterations of this guidance. The aim of this guidance is to reduce overall exposure to heading without compromising development of technique and the role heading plays in the (English) game. The role of the coach in supporting players' skill development for heading is to ensure a safe and controlled technique. It is recommended when designing heading related activities these points are considered:

- What is it that occurs in the game that you are preparing the players to do? What is the best way to prepare the players to do this?
- How often do the various types of heading occur in the context that your players play?
- Quality v Quantity - Ensure you focus is on the technique of heading, rather than the volume of headers.
- Different types of headers results in different impacts on the head. The focus for the coach is to support their players in developing safe and controlled technique for both attacking and defensive headers, including contested and uncontested headers.
- A recent study in the professional game observed that headers completed following a longball and cross (over 35-45m distance) were likely to result in the highest loads on a player's head. Therefore, coaches should consider this when practicing set plays such as corners and final 3rd free-kicks and attacking play.
  - Wherever possible limit the number of headers carried out when a player takes more than three steps and runs onto a ball or dives for a ball.
  - Practice technique using thrown passes to reduce the potential load on the head.
- It is important to ensure that the balls used are appropriate in terms of "wear and tear", ensuring the surfaces are smooth and no water is being held, which would make the ball heavier.

It is recognised that in Adult football there will be a more visible tactical use of restarts, resulting in potentially an increased number of headers. Please consider how you plan these activities limiting the opportunity for repetitive heading of certain players.

There are key factors to consider when introducing the technique of heading as part of a balanced programme, which include:

- Judge and adjust to the flight of the ball
- Attack the ball at optimum point
- Head contact and ball contact to control direction and distance of the ball

Different types of headers will be more prevalent in certain positions, so coaches should introduce position specific training and support. Players playing in certain positions will head the ball more often, coaches should be aware of this and therefore plan accordingly to ensure players aren't exposed to long periods of repetitive heading.

### RECOMMENDATION

#### LIMITING HEADING IN TRAINING

These recommendations have been developed to protect players welfare. As further research is undertaken this guidance will be reviewed and updated to reflect increased understanding.

It is recommended that heading practice is limited to 10 headers per session and only one session a week where heading practice is included. Players should be responsible for monitoring their own heading activity.

#### MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM STEPS 1-4 AND WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

If you are playing or coaching in the NLS Steps 1-4 or Women's Championship the professional game guidance provides further detail and information for consideration.

- [Women's Championship](#)
- [Men's NLS Steps 1-4](#)

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**Video** – Examples of heading practices, guidance on the technique, key principles for coaches to consider and showing the different types of headers. Videos to be available before the start of 2021/22 season

- [FA Concussion guidelines](#)





### **Rules of the Devon Football League Benevolent Fund**

1. The Fund shall be called the Devon Football League Benevolent Fund.
2. The object of the Fund shall be to grant assistance to players belonging to Clubs affiliated to Devon County Football Association and to Referees registered with Devon County Football Association (or to the dependents of such players and referees) who may be injured whilst playing for their club in, or officiating at, matches under the jurisdiction of the Devon Football League.
3. The Fund shall be entirely under the Management of Devon Football League. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman & League Secretary shall be the Officers of the Fund.
4. Each Affiliated Club shall pay a levy of £20.00 to the Fund. This levy shall entitle a player to apply for a grant in accordance with the conditions set out in these Rules.
5. Similarly, a Referee may qualify for a grant providing that he regularly officiates in the Devon Football League.
6. Contributions will also be accepted from individuals and other sources without any qualifications for grants.
7. Please note that this scheme is only available to Club Members who have made a contribution to the Fund.
8. Application for a grant shall be made on the forms provided for that purpose, such forms to be obtained by the player from the Club Secretary, and by a Referee from the League Secretary.
9. No grant will be made to any player or referee unless incapacitated through participation in Association Football for at least TWO weeks. No application for a grant will be considered unless a contribution has been paid prior to the date of incapacity. No incapacitated person, or Club on his behalf, shall be permitted to join the Fund.
10. The Fund is not established to supersede efforts which Clubs may make on behalf of any person by means of a benefit match or collection but such efforts may receive assistance from the Fund in deserving cases.
11. All payments shall be authorised by any two of the following – Chairman, Vice-Chairman & League Secretary of the Devon Football League.

N.B Except where otherwise stated the terms "County" or "County Association" shall be taken as referring to the Devon County Football Association or Devon County Football Association Limited. Similarly, term "League" shall be taken as referring to the Devon Football League or Devon Football League Limited.



## **RECOMMENDED PROCEDURE FOR THE GUIDANCE OF CLUBS IN DETERMINING THE SUITABILITY OF GROUNDS IN ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS**

### **RULE 23(D)**

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

Where the HOME Club think there is a possibility of a postponement a Referee should be called in to make a decision in the following order of availability -

- 1) the Match Referee (subject to time and travelling distance)
- 2) another more local Referee who must not be connected with either club.

Prior to reaching his decision the Referee who is making the inspection should consider the following:-

- Consultation on the telephone with the Match Referee prior to the inspection
- Consultation on the telephone with the Match Referee after the inspection to mutually agree on a decision prior to notifying the HOME club.
- The existing condition of the playing surface in conjunction with the prevailing weather conditions as previously confirmed with the MET Office.
- The views of the HOME club groundsman in terms of local knowledge and draining capabilities.
- The manpower available to the HOME club to carry out any necessary work to make the ground playable.
- The time the visiting club are due to commence their journey.
- Whether or not the ground is dangerous, e.g. frost is dangerous but water isn't.
- Whether or not conditions are, or could turn farcical, e.g. excessive water on the pitch combined with a forecast of continued rain.
- In the event of fog check with the MET Office website re possible clearance, also bearing in mind the visitors travel arrangements if the fog is known to be widespread.

If a decision is still in the balance after considering the above, then also consider:-

The time, distance and cost of the visiting teams travel.

If, after consultation with the Match Referee, the ground has been declared fit and the clubs instructed to travel, then only in exceptional circumstances should the Match Referee reverse this decision.

If an early inspection has not been carried out and the Match Referee arrives at the ground to find the playing conditions in doubt due to an unexpected deterioration in the weather, the Match Referee should first consider all of the above points before making a final decision.



If **fog** is the problem then the Match Referee should also consider whether or not a **spectator** will be able to view the whole of the game & should consult with the two clubs under such circumstances. Remember - there are far less problems with a postponed game if the visitors have not travelled.

**PAYMENT OF REFEREE** If a local Referee is called in to inspect a pitch no fee is payable, although travelling expenses will be paid when actually incurred. Should the Match Referee attend to inspect the pitch ½ fee and travelling expenses, will be paid if the game is postponed. If the game is played normal fee and expenses shall be paid, although additional travelling expenses should be paid to the Referee if incurred.

**NOTIFICATION OF POSTPONEMENT** Upon reaching the decision to postpone the game, the HOME club must immediately inform the following:-

- AWAY Team • Assistant Referee (if appointed)
- Devon Football League – Fixtures Secretary (Chris Cole – 07899981396), giving details of who carried out pitch inspection.
- Within 5 days complete a Postponement Form & send to the League Fixtures Secretary (Not if Rule 23D is relaxed)

**RULE 23(D) DISPENSATION** If the weather conditions/forecast is such & the League Rule 23(D) is relaxed then a game can be postponed at the discretion of the HOME club after receiving the dispensation. If dispensation is granted there is no need for an official inspection neither a Postponement Form. In this case the earliest the decision to postpone can be made is 12 noon on the day prior to the scheduled date of the game whilst the latest is 11.30 a.m. on the day of the game.

June 2021



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