

THE NORTH BUCKS & DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE

(Founded 1911)

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NORTH BUCKS & DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE

LEAGUE RULES - 2011 / 2012 SEASON

NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

1. (A) This Competition shall be designated the North Bucks & District Football League and shall consist of not more than forty-four (44) Clubs approved by the sanctioning Authority.

All such Member Clubs shall be affiliated to an affiliated County Football Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on the Form "D" to a recognised County Football Association. The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be in North Bucks and Bordering Counties.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Berks & Bucks Football Association and the constituent Teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in Divisions, each not exceeding eighteen (18) in number.

This Competition and its Clubs shall support The Football Association's Respect programme. As such it recognises that everyone in football has a collective responsibility to create a fair, safe and enjoyable environment in which the game can take place. A Respect League values courtesy and fairness by opposing players, Club Officials and spectators. The League and its Clubs shall seek to play fixtures in a fair, competitive but not antagonistic environment.

Member 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 of the Competition.

(B) The League Management Committee shall carry out an inspection of the facilities of each Club making application, and a report of their findings, in writing, which shall be made available at the Annual General Meeting. New Clubs accepted into membership of the League at the Annual General Meeting shall be considered to be on probation for twelve months.

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

2. (A) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) shall be made in writing to the Secretary before 31st March and shall be accompanied by an Entry Fee of £35.00 per Team, which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

Any Club in membership wishing to enter a Reserve side for the following season shall intimate their intention in writing not later than 30th April.

Reserve Teams of Clubs who have their First Team in other Leagues shall not be allowed to compete in Division 1 and 2 of the North Bucks and District Football League.

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

(B) The Annual Subscription shall be £35.00 per Team payable on or before the 31st July in each year.

(C) Each Club shall within fourteen (14) days of election pay a Deposit of £25.00 for each Team, which shall be returnable to Clubs on leaving the Competition provided they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all orders of the Management Committee.

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

(E) Clubs shall advise annually to the Secretary in writing not later than twenty-one (21) days after the Annual General Meeting of its County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming Season, failing which they shall be fined £25.00. Clubs shall advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its Headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition.

(F) Each Club in Membership of the North Bucks & District Football League shall advise the League Secretary annually of an email address, which should be that of the Club Secretary or other designated Officer, for the dissemination of and formal communication between the League and each member Club.

It shall be the responsibility of the Club Secretary to ensure this address is maintained, as it shall be the only method of formal dissemination of information.

OFFICERS

3. The Officers of the Competition shall be the President, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, General Secretary, Registration Secretary, Referees Secretary, Fixture Secretary and Minute & Press Officer to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. (N.B. Verifiers of Accounts are not Officers).

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

4. (A) The Competition shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association by a Management Committee comprised of the Officers and nine (9) members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

All participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by the Association from time to time.

(B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination. All other candidates for elections as Officers or Members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two (2) Member Clubs, not later than 30th April in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual General Meeting, In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting.

In the event of vacancies occurring during the playing season, the Management Committee have power to co-opt to fill such vacancies.

(C) The Management Committee shall meet as often as necessary to deal with business as it arises.

On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the Members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Committee.

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

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

(F) Contact with the League Management Committee shall be before 21.00 hrs. Only emergency or with prior notice shall they be contacted afterwards.

(G) Club Secretaries who do not receive minutes and fixtures within ten (10) days of the Management Committee meetings, as published in the official Handbook, shall apply to the General Secretary immediately in writing.

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

5. (A) The Management Committee may appoint Sub-Committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all such 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 Football Association or affiliated Association.

(B) Subject to the permission of the Berks & Bucks County Football Association having been obtained the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the 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. (see Rule 6(E)).

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

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

(D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition, including any not provided for in the Rules.

With the exception of Rules 5(I), 6(H), 10(A), 11 and 19 for any breaches of Rule a formal written charge shall be issued. The respondent shall be given seven (7) days from the date of notice to reply to the charge and given the opportunity to:-

- (i) Accept or deny the charge
- (ii) Submit in writing a case of mitigation, or
- (iii) Put their case before the Management Committee

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

With the exception of Clubs, playing at Step 7 of the Football Pyramid and the FA Women's Premier League, the maximum fine permitted for any breach of Competition Rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Competition shall ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

(E) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16.

Decisions of the Management Committee shall be notified in writing to those concerned within fourteen (14) days.

(F) Five (5) Members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee and three (3) Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by any Sub-Committee of the Competition.

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

(H) A Club having failed to comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee within twenty-one (21) days of receipt of such order or within twenty-one (21) days of an operating date specified in that order, or failing to satisfactorily attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition, shall be liable to be fined a sum not exceeding £50.00 or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(I) All fines and charges shall be paid within fourteen (14) days of the date of posting of the written notification.

Any Club failing to do so shall be fined a sum not exceeding £50.00. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional sum within fourteen (14) days shall result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding payments are settled.

Clubs failing to pay within the time specified the outstanding fine and expenses shall be automatically doubled at the next League Management Committee Meeting. The Club in default shall be given fourteen (14) days to pay the doubled up fine and expenses. Failure to do so, the matter shall be reported to the County Association.

Clubs, Officials or individuals committing a breach of this Rule shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £50.00 and shall incur penalties as the Management Committee may impose.

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

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

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6. (A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 30th June and be transacted provided that at least thirty (30) Members are present and entitled to vote:-
- (i) To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
 - (ii) To consider any business arising therefrom.
 - (iii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
 - (iv) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies (as recommended by the Management Committee).
 - (v) Constitution of the Competition for ensuing season.
 - (vi) Election of Officers and Management Committee.
 - (vii) Appointment of Verifier of Accounts.
 - (viii) Alteration to Rules, if any (of which notice has been given).
 - (ix) Fix the date for the commencement of the season and kick-off times applicable to the Competition.
 - (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.
- (B) A copy of the duly verified Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting, and to the Berks & Bucks County Football Association.
- (C) A signed copy of the duly verified Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Berks & Bucks County Football Association within fourteen (14) days of its adoption by the Annual General Meeting.
- (D) Each Member Club shall be empowered to send two (2) delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one (1) vote only. Not less than fourteen (14) days notice shall be given of any meeting.
- (E) Clubs who have withdrawn their Membership of the Competition during the season being concluded or who are not continuing Membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the season being concluded.
- (F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of Voting Cards unless a ballot is demanded by at least one-third of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.
- (G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one (1) Member Club.
- (H) Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £25.00.
- (I) Officers and Management Committee Members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an Annual General Meeting.

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

7. The Chairman and the Secretary of each Club shall complete and sign the 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, B, _____ of _____ (Chairman) and C, D, _____ of _____ (Secretary) and E, F, _____ and G, H, of the _____ Football Club have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the North Bucks and District Football League 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 16.

Any alternation of the Chairman and/or Secretary on the above Agreement shall be notified to the Berks & Bucks County Football Association to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary of the Competition.

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

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

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

(ii) It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any player signing a registration form for that Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any player aged 12 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

(iii) While serving in any branch of Her Majesty's Regular Forces, a player shall first obtain the consent of his commanding Officer before signing a registration form to play for a Club.

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

(1) Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition Registration Form in ink, countersigned by an Officer of the Club who shall clearly state their name and designation, and who has been registered with the Registration Secretary six (6) days prior to playing and whose completed Registration Counterfoil has been received by the Club prior to playing.

(2) Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition Registration Form in ink, on a match day prior to playing, countersigned by an Officer of the Club and witnessed by an Officer of the opposing Club who shall clearly state their name and designation, and submitted to the Registration Secretary within four (4) days (Sundays excluded) subsequent to the match. The player shall not again play until the Club is in possession of the completed Counterfoil. A maximum of three (3) players may be registered on the day of the match.

(C) Each Team shall have a minimum of twelve (12) players registered with the Registration Secretary of the League fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the first match for that Team. Failure to comply shall result in a fine of £10.00 per Team.

(D) A Club competing in two (2) Divisions of the League shall not be allowed to include in its lower Division side more than three (3) higher Division players. (The definition of a higher Division player is one who has played in 50% or more of the Clubs games in the higher Division to date during the current season). This Rule shall apply after 31st October in each season.

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

(F) A fee of 50p shall be paid for each player registered.

Registration Forms shall be obtained from the Registration Secretary on prepayment of 50p per form.

Refunds on unused Registration Forms may be claimed by returning such forms to the Registration Secretary not later than 14th April in each season.

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

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

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

- (i) Play for more than one (1) Club in the Competition in the same season without first being transferred.
- (ii) Having signed for one (1) Club in the Competition, sign for another Club in the Competition in that season except for the purpose of a transfer.
- (iii) Submit a signed Registration Form for registration that the player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

(J) (i) The Management Committee shall have power to accept the registration of any player.

(ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player or may fine any player, except those under eighteen (18) years of age, at their discretion proved guilty of registration irregularities. (Subject to Rule 16).

(iii) The Management Committee shall have power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any player found guilty of undesirable conduct and to disqualify the player in question from participating in all games in the Competition (Subject to Rule 16) subject to the right of appeal to The Football Association or the relevant County Football Association.

Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated conduct, which may deter a participant from being involved in this Competition. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the player is registered with.

(Note: Action under Rule 8(J)(iii) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct on the field of play until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute and shall in any case be subject to an Appeal to The Football Association. For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the Competition into disrepute can only be considered where the player has received in excess of one-hundred and twelve (112) days suspension, or ten (10) matches in match based discipline, in a period of two (2) years or less from the date of the first offence.)

(K) Subject to The Football Association Rules dealing with players without a written contract when a player desires to transfer, the Club the player wishes to transfer to shall submit a Transfer Form to the Registration Secretary accompanied by a fee of £5.00. Such transfer shall be referred by the Registration Secretary to the Club for which the player is registered. Should this Club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Registration Secretary and to the player concerned within seven (7) days of receipt of the Transfer Form. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within seven

(7) 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 of such transfer.

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

(L) A player may not be registered for a Club or transferred to another Club in the Competition after 1st March except by special permission of the Management Committee.

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

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

Registrations are valid for one (1) season only.

(O) A player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding match (as specified in Rule 12(A)) unless the player has played five (5) games for that Team in this Competition in the current season.

(P) A player who has played in any League senior to the North Bucks League during the current season shall not be eligible in the Second Division of the North Bucks League, without previous consent of the Management Committee.

A player having in the current season played in more than two (2) matches in an FA or County Senior Competition or in any League equal to or higher status than the Premier Division of the Hellenic League, United Counties or Spartan South Midlands League (excluding Reserve Section of any League) shall not be eligible to play in any Division of the North Bucks Football League without the sanction of the Management Committee.

(Q)(i) Any Team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players shall have the points gained in the match deducted from its total and may be fined a sum not exceeding £25.00 or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(ii) In addition the Team may have three (3) points deducted from its total at the discretion of the Management Committee and may be dealt with in any further manner, which is thought to be fit.

(iii) The Management Committee may, at its discretion, award the points available in the match in question to the opponents, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.

(R)(i) Priority shall be given at all times to school and school organisations activities.

(ii) The availability of children shall be cleared with the Head Teacher (except for Sunday League(s)).

(iii) To play open age football the player shall have achieved the age of sixteen (16).

(Note: For players under the age of eighteen (18) the provisions contained in Football Association Rules shall apply.)

CLUB COLOURS, CLUB NAME

9. (A) Every Club shall register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 21st July who shall decide as heir suitability.

Goalkeepers shall wear colours, which distinguish them from other players and the Referee.

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

Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify the colours in which they shall play to its opponents at least five (5) days before the match.

If, in the opinion of the Referee, two (2) Clubs have the same or similar colours, the Home Team shall make the change. Any Team not having a change of colours or delaying the kick-off by not having a change shall be fined £5.00.

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

All Clubs to have shirt numbers 1 – 11 for players starting the match, with additional number to be used for the substitutes. Failure to comply shall result in a fine of £5.00 per player.

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

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

10. (A) The Annual General Meeting shall determine the date for commencement of the season, in accordance with Football Association Rules. Original fixtures arranged by the Fixture Secretary shall not be arranged for a date later than seven (7) days preceding the concluding date determined by the Annual General Meeting.

Any Club shall be called upon to play a fixture if notified not later than the Monday prior to a Saturday in any given week.

Clubs shall submit to the Fixture Secretary prior to 1st July dates which Home or Away games are preferred.

(B) All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board.

Clubs shall take all reasonable precautions to keep their grounds in a playable condition. All matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee. If through any fault of the Home Team a match has to be replayed, the Management Committee shall have power to order the venue to be changed.

The Management Committee shall have power to decide whether a pitch and/or facilities are suitable for matches in the Competition and to order the Club concerned to play its fixtures on another ground.

All Premier Division pitches shall be completely roped-in. All pitch markings shall be clearly defined. The use of creosote is prohibited. Failure to comply shall result in a fine of £5.00.

All matches shall have a duration of ninety (90) minutes unless a shorter time (not less than seventy (70) minutes) is mutually arranged by the two (2) Captains in consultation with the Referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves.

The kick-off times shall be fixed at the Annual General Meeting.

The times of the kick-off for Saturday matches shall be: August to October 3-00pm, November to February 2-00pm and March to May 3-00pm.

Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time shall be fined a sum not exceeding £5.00 or be otherwise dealt with as the Management committee may determine.

Referees shall order matches to commence at the appointed time and shall report all late starts to the Competition and advise the Captain of the offending Team(s) of his intention to do so.

The Home Team shall provide at least two (2) footballs fit for play and the Referee shall notify the Captain of his intention to make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. Goal nets shall be used in all matches. Failure to provide suitable footballs or nets shall incur a fine not exceeding £5.00.

All Clubs shall hand to the Referee and their opponents at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to kick-off, a Team Sheet listing the names of the players and substitutes to be used.

(C) Except by permission of the Management Committee all matches shall be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The Football Association and all relevant County Association Cup Competitions of which Clubs shall give at least ten (10) days notice to the Fixture Secretary. Failure to give such notification shall result in fines of £5.00. All other matches shall be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of the Fixture Secretary.

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

(D) The Secretary of the Home Club shall give notice in writing of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the Match Officials and the Secretary of the opposing Club at least five (5) clear days prior to the playing of the match. The Away Club shall seek and acknowledge receipt of such particulars.

Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £10.00.

Any Club unable to play at their ground as stated in the handbook, shall seek permission from the Management Committee to play at an alternative venue. Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be fined a sum not exceeding £ 20.00.

(E) In the event of a Club playing in any match with less than eleven (11) players they shall be fined £5.00 for each missing player. A minimum of seven (7) players shall constitute a Team for a Competition match.

(F) Home and Away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have power to inflict a fine of £50.00, deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the match in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the awarding of goals. Notwithstanding the foregoing Home and Away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent's ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

All claims for expenses to be forwarded to the General Secretary within seven (7) days from the date of the match, which the claim is being made. Applications received after the termination of seven (7) days shall not be entertained.

Any Club with more than one (1) Team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence:- First Team, Reserve Team, 'A' Team. Clubs in breach of this requirement shall be fined a sum not exceeding £10.00 or otherwise dealt with by the Management Committee.

Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture shall, without delay, give notice to the Fixture Secretary, the Referee Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials. Any Club failing to comply shall be fined a sum not exceeding £10.00 and dealt with by the Management Committee who may inflict any penalty it may deem suitable.

In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall be played in its entirety on a date arranged by the Fixture Secretary and approved by the Management Committee.

The Management Committee shall review all abandoned matches in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand.

In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one (1) Team or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the match to the opponent. In cases, where a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule all points for the match as void. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match.

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

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

(H) The half time interval shall be of fifteen (15) minutes duration, but is shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the Referee.

(I) Home Clubs shall supply liquid refreshment to Match Officials during or after the game. Failure to provide refreshments shall incur a fine of £5.00.

(J) The League shall require all players and Club Officials to have signed The Football Association Respect Codes of Conduct and produce these if so requested by the League Management Committee.

The participating Clubs taking part in the fixture shall identify a Team Captain designated with a Captain's armband who has a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his Team mates.

Prior to each match the participating Teams and Officials shall conduct the "Respect" handshake and/or participating Teams to offer "three cheers" and handshakes to the opposing Team after the match.

REPORTING RESULTS

11. (A) The Registration Secretary shall receive within four (4) days of the date the match is played, the result of each Competition match in the prescribed manner. This shall include forename(s) and surname of Team players (in block letters) and also the Referee markings required by Rule 13, or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to do so shall incur a fine of £10.00 and/or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decides.

(B) The Home Club shall telephone the result of each match including external Cup Competitions to the General Secretary within one and one half-hours of the completion of the match. Failure to comply shall incur a fine of £10.00.

(C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of the Club. The Management Committee shall have power to take such action as they deem suitable against a Club, which submits an incomplete form or incorrect information. If proven the Club shall be fined £30.00.

N.B. If the fixed penalty exceeds £20.00 the Club shall be charged as detailed in Rule 5(D).

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

12. (A) Team rankings within the Competition shall be decided by points with three (3) points to be awarded for a win and one (1) point for a drawn match. The Teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective Divisions at the conclusion shall be adjudged the winners. Matches shall not be played for double points.

In the event of two (2) or more Teams being equal on points Team rankings may be decided in any one or more of the following ways:-

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

(B)(i) Clubs finishing in the two lowest places of the Premier Division shall have the right to apply for re-election, to be considered along with new applications for membership. Promotion and relegation between Divisions shall be at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(ii) The Reserve Teams of the Clubs competing shall play in a lower Division to that in which the First Team are playing.

(C) In the event of a Team not completing 75% of its fixtures for the season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting Team shall be expunged from the Competition table.

REFEREES

13. (A) Registered Referees (and Assistant Referees where approved by The Football Association or County Football Association) for all matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the sanctioning Association(s).

(B) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed Referee the appointed senior Assistant Referee shall take charge and a substitute Assistant Referee appointed by the competing Teams. In cases where there are no officially appointed Assistant Referees, the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee. A Referee thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee.

Whenever possible Assistant Referees shall be appointed to Premier Division matches.

Referees and Assistant Referees shall notify the Referee Secretary in writing within three (3) days of receipt of the appointment, stating if he accepts or declines the appointment. If he declines the appointment, the Referee Secretary shall arrange for another Official to take the appointment.

(C) The Management Committee may, if they consider it desirable, or upon application by the two (2) competing Clubs, appoint Assistant Referees, if available, to any match. Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee. Failure to do so shall result in a fine of £5.00 being imposed on the defaulting Team.

In the Premier and Intermediate Divisions of the League, a substitute shall not act as a Club Assistant Referee. In Division One and Two of the League, a substitute shall be permitted to act as Club Assistant Referee at the discretion of the appointed Match Official, and if in doing so, no fine shall be implemented on the Club.

(D) The appointed Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and the decision shall be final subject to either in the case of a ground of a Local Authority or the owners of the ground, the representative of that body is the sole arbiter and whose decision shall be accepted unless the ground is declared fit for play.

In the event of inclement weather, the Home side shall arrange an inspection of the ground on the day of the match by a local Referee. The Referee called in to inspect the ground, shall be entitled to travelling expenses.

(E) Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be entitled to charge standard class public transport expenses or private car expenses of 25p per mile together with the following match fees:-

Referee £25.00, Registered Referees appointed by the Management Committee as Assistant Referees £15.00, subject to any limits laid down by the sanctioning Association.

The Home Club shall pay the Officials their fees and expenses immediately after the match in the Match Officials Dressing Room. Fees and expenses for Assistant Referees shall be shared equally by each Club.

(F) In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the Club has no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to half fee plus expenses. Where a match is not played owing to one (1) Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Officials, if they attend the ground, their full and expenses.

(G) A Referee not keeping his engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to his non-appearance, may have his name removed from the List of Referees and the fact reported to the Association with which he registered.

(H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The Football Association, award marks to the Referee for each match and the name of the Referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined a sum not exceeding £5.00 or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.

Any Club marking fifty (50) or below to submit a written reason for so doing to the Referee Secretary within three (3) days of the match.

(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 The Football Association/County Association.

(J) The Referee shall submit a Report Form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the match, the number of players in each Team and the time of kick-off, failure to supply suitable Club Assistant Referee, any allegation or complaint as to the ground or the appurtenances of the game, and shall indicate in his report which of the competing Clubs was, in his opinion, at fault having informed the Club of his intention to the General Secretary within two (2) days of the match.

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

(L) Referees and Assistant Referees shall have undertaken a Respect briefing offered by The Football Association/County Football Association or the League.

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

14. (A) After 31st December in the current season a Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a Team from the Competition on completion of its fixture and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition shall notify the Secretary in writing by 31st March each season or be liable to a fine not exceeding £50.00.

(B) A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its Teams from the Competition after the Annual General Meeting for the following season.

(i) Any Club infringing this Rule after the fixtures have commenced shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £50.00 per Team and shall also be liable for its share of any call which may be made under Rule 5(B).

(ii) Any Club infringing this Rule and not disbanding before the fixtures have commenced shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £50.00 per Team and shall also be liable for its share of any call which may be made under Rule 5(B).

(ii) Any Club infringing this Rule and disbanding before the fixtures have commenced cannot be fined but shall be liable for their financial commitments prior to disbanding.

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

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

PROTEST AND COMPLAINTS

15. (A)(i) All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee.
- (ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue shall not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match. Any Club lodging such protest and not proceeding with it shall be deemed guilty of a breach of this Rule and shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.
- (B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which shall contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) shall be lodged in duplicate with the Secretary within three (3) days (excluding Sundays) of the match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.
- (C) Any dispute occurring between Clubs in the Competition shall be referred for determination by the Management Committee whose decision shall be binding upon all parties subject to Rule 16.
- (D) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum of £10.00. 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 the losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the enquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.
- (E) All parties to a protest or complaint shall receive a copy of the submission and shall be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least seven (7) days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.
- (i) All parties shall have received seven (7) days notice of the Hearing should they be instructed to attend.
- (ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then they should forward a deposit of £10.00 and indicate such when forwarding the written response.

BOARD OF APPEAL

16. (A) Within fourteen (14) days of the posting of written notification of any decisions of the Management Committee or the Competition a Club, Official or player against whom action is taken may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars in duplicate with the Secretary of Berks & Bucks Football Association, including a fee of £50.00, for adjudication of a Board of Appeal. The grounds of appeal shall be in accordance with FA Rules. The Board of Appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited and shall decide by whom the costs of the appeal shall be borne. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned.
- (B) A copy of the appeal shall be sent to the League General Secretary and the operations of the decision made by the League shall not be suspended pending the result of the appeal unless the Board of Appeal or the Council of Berks & Bucks Football Association, through its Officers, orders such suspension.

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

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

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

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

(C) Any official or member of a Club proved guilty of either 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 expulsion or such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Clauses (A) and (B) of this Rule together with a fine not exceeding £50.00.

(D) Any Club or Team failing to complete its fixtures in any season shall (unless the conditions are beyond their control, or the accredited delegates present at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting decide otherwise by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast) be excluded from membership the following season.

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

18. (A) 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 Association may decide.

(B) The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the Cup or Trophy:-

"We A _____ and B _____, the Chairman and Secretary, C, D _____ and E, F _____ of FC, members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of the North Bucks League 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."

(C) The League Secretary reminds all Clubs holding Trophies, at least one (1) month before 1st March, to return those Trophies on or before 1st March. A fine of £25.00 shall be imposed for failing to return the League Trophy by the date stated.

(D) Insurance and Engraving of Trophies: The Management Committee shall be responsible for the insurance of all trophies, which are the property of the League. The winners of the respective Trophies each season shall be responsible for the necessary engraving.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

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

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

At least seven (7) days' notice shall be given of either meeting under this Rule, together with an Agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.

Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send two (2) delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one (1) vote only as are members of the Management Committee. Not less than seven (7) days' notice shall be given of any meeting.

Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £25.00.

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

All amendment of Rules can only be implemented once approved by the appropriate sanctioning authority.

ALTERATION TO RULES

20. (A) Alterations, for which consent has been given by the sanctioning Association, shall be made to these Rules only at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 19. Any alterations made during the playing season to the Rule relating to the qualification of players shall not take effect until the following season.

(B) Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary by 28th February in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals from the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 15th March and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 31st March.

The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if two-thirds of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.

(C) A copy of the proposed alterations and proposed amendments to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the Berks & Bucks Football Association by not later than 14th April.

A copy of the proposed alterations and proposed amendments to be considered at a Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the Berks & Bucks Football Association by no later than twenty-eight (28) days prior to the date of the meeting.

(D) Any alterations or additions decided upon at any meeting shall not become operative until the approval of the Berks & Bucks Football Association shall have been obtained.

RULES BINDING ON CLUBS

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

(B) A Club who is in breach of the same Rule on more than three (3) occasions in any one season shall be subject to an additional fine of £10.00 for every subsequent breach thereafter.

FINANCE

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

(B) All expenditure in excess of £50.00 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two (2) Officers nominated by the Management Committee.

(C) The financial year of the Competition shall end on 1st May.

(D) The books, or a certified Balance Sheet, of the Competition shall be prepared and shall be verified annually by some suitable person(s) who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

CHALLENGE TROPHY KNOCKOUT COMPETITION

1. The Competition shall be called the North Bucks and District Challenge Trophy and shall be organised on the lines of a Knockout Competition.
2. The Officers of the North Bucks and District Football League shall be for all intents and purposes be the legal owners of the trophies, which cannot be won outright. The entire control and management of the Competition shall be vested in the Management Committee of the North Bucks and District Football League.
3. The Competition (which shall be on cup-tie principles) shall be open to all North Bucks and District Football League Clubs not competing in more than three (3) other weekday Competitions during the same season. The Competition shall be organised in sections.
4. A player shall not in the same season play for more than one (1) Club in the North Bucks and District Challenge Trophy, but the members of each respective Team may be changed during the series of matches in any of the sections. In the Semi-Final and Final Ties, each Club shall, not less than ten (10) days before the match, send the Registration Secretary of the North Bucks League and to the opposing Club, a list of players from which the Team for such Semi-Final or Final Tie shall be selected. A fine of £10.00 shall be imposed for any infringement of this Rule. A player having played in a high Division Trophy Semi-Final or Final shall not be eligible to play in a lower Division Trophy Semi-Final or Final.

Notice or objection to the qualification of any player in such lists shall be sent by registered post to the Secretary of the opposing Club and the North Bucks League. In all matches a playing member is one who has been duly elected a member of this Club and his name registered by the Secretary of the North Bucks and District Football League in accordance with League Rule 8. Only three (3) players who have played in the First Team Challenge Trophy shall be allowed in a lower Division of the Challenge Trophy Competition.

This Rule shall apply after 31st October in each season. Players who have taken part in Reserve Team Shield matches shall be eligible to play in First Team Shield matches in the same season. A Club may, at its discretion, use three (3) substitute players at any time in a match, who may be selected from five (5) players, except to replace a player who has been dismissed from the field of play by the Referee for misconduct after play has commenced. The substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission. No player shall be eligible for the Semi-Final and Final matches until they have taken part in five (5) North Bucks League and Trophy matches during the current season for the Club currently holding their registration. No player shall play for more than one (1) Club in this Competition in the same season.

Any Club in default shall be excluded from further participation in the Trophy Competition.

5. The Management Committee shall have the power to zone Clubs of the purpose of the draw. The Management Committee to have full control of the Finals and in arranging dates for rounds prior to the Final.
6. All matches up to the Final shall be played on the ground of the Club first named. Extra time of thirty (30) minutes (fifteen (15) minutes each way) shall be played in the event of a draw. In the event of Teams being level after extra time has been played, the match shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the Penalty Mark in accordance with International Board Recommended Procedures. Kick-off times shall be thirty (30) minutes earlier for League matches. The Finals shall be played on neutral grounds.
7. After Match Officials expenses have been paid, the gate receipts to be equally divided between the Clubs taking part in the match. Prior to the Final Ties, Officials Fees and expenses shall be the same as for League matches (League Rule 13).

8. The Entrance Fee shall be £10.00 per Team.
9. Ineligibility of players and cancellations shall be dealt with the same as appropriate League Rules. Match Reports as per League Rule 11.
10. All protests and complaints shall be lodged with the General Secretary in triplicate within two (2) days of the matches or fixtures to which they refer (Sunday not included), and shall be accompanied by a deposit of £10.00, which shall be forfeited if the protest is considered frivolous. Protests and complaints shall be heard and determined by the Management Committee (including the appointment of Referees), which is final.
11. Clubs which appeal against the decision of the Management Committee shall make a deposit of £25.00, which shall be forfeited if the Appeals Committee appointed by Berks & Bucks Football Association deems such appeal to be frivolous or unreasonable.
12. In the Final Ties the total gate shall be taken and the expense of the match defrayed by the League. Dates of the Final Ties shall be arranged at the discretion of the Management Committee.
13. Awards shall be provided for the winners of the trophy and awards shall also be provided for the runners-up if the Management Committee considers that the finances of the Competition warrant it. The matter to be decided by a meeting of the Management Committee prior to the playing of the Final Ties.
14. Any other matter not provided for in these Rules shall be determined by the Management Committee.

NORTH BUCKS & DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE

INTER DIVISIONAL CHALLENGE CUP

1. The Competition shall be called the North Bucks & District Football League Inter Divisional Challenge Cup, and shall be organised on the lines of a Knockout Competition.
2. The Officers of the North Bucks and District Football League shall be for all intents and purposes the legal owners of the trophies, which cannot be won outright. The entire control and management of the Competition shall be vested in the Management Committee of the North Bucks and District Football League.
3. The Competition (which shall be on cup-tie principles) shall be open to all North Bucks and District Football League Clubs not competing in more than three (3) other weekday Competitions during the same season. The Competition shall be organised in one section.
4. A player shall not in the same season play for more than one (1) Club in the Interdivisional Challenge Cup, but the members of each respective Team may be changed during the series of matches in any of the sections. In the Semi-Final and Final Ties, each Club shall, not less than ten (10) days before the match, send the Registration Secretary of the North Bucks League and to the opposing Club, a list of players from which the Team for such Semi-Final or Final Tie shall be selected. A fine of £10.00 shall be imposed for any infringement of this Rule.

A Club may, at its discretion, use three (3) substitute players at any time in a match, who may be selected from five (5) players, except to replace a player who has been dismissed from the field of play by the Referee for misconduct after play has commenced. The substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission. No player is eligible for the Semi-Final and Final matches until they have taken part in five (5) North Bucks League and Trophy matches during the current season for the Club currently holding their registration. No player shall play for more than one (1) Club in this Competition in the same season.

5. The Management Committee to have full control over the Finals and in arranging dates for rounds prior to the Final.
6. All matches up to the Final shall be played on the ground of the Club first named. Extra time of thirty (30) minutes (fifteen (15) minutes each way) shall be played in the event of a draw. In the event of Teams being level after extra time has been played, the match shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the Penalty Mark in accordance with International Board Recommended Procedures. Kick-off times shall be thirty (30) minutes earlier for League matches. The Finals shall be played on neutral grounds.
7. Match Officials fees and expenses shall be the same as for League matches (League Rule 13).
8. Ineligibility of players and cancellations shall be dealt with the same as appropriate League Rules.
9. All protests and complaints shall be lodged with the General Secretary in triplicate within two (2) days of the matches or fixtures to which they refer (Sunday not included), and shall be accompanied by a deposit of £10.00, which shall be forfeited if the protest is considered frivolous. Protests and complaints shall be heard and determined by the Management Committee (including the appointment of Referees), which is final.
10. Clubs which appeal against the decision of the Management Committee shall make a deposit of £25.00, which shall be forfeited if the Appeals Committee appointed by Berks & Bucks Football Association deems such appeal to be frivolous or unreasonable.

11. Awards shall be provided for the winners of the trophy and awards shall also be provided for the runners-up if the Management Committee considers that the finances of the Competition warrant it. The matter to be decided by a meeting of the Management Committee prior to the playing of the Final Ties.
12. Any other matter not provided for in these Rules shall be determined by the Management Committee.

RESERVE TEAM CHALLENGE TROPHY

1. The Competition shall be called the North Bucks and District Reserve Team Challenge Trophy, and shall be organised on the lines of a Knockout Competition.
2. The Officers of the North Bucks and District Football League shall be for all intents and purposes the legal owners of the trophies, which cannot be won outright. The entire control and management of the Competition shall be vested in the Management Committee of the North Bucks and District Football League.
3. The Competition (which shall be on cup-tie principles) shall be open to all North Bucks and District Football League Clubs not competing in more than three (3) other weekday Competitions during the same season. The Competition shall be organised in one section.
4. Qualification of Players: Only three (3) who have played in the First Team Challenge Trophy or the Interdivisional Challenge Cup shall be allowed to play in the Reserve Team Challenge Trophy Competition.

Qualification of the Reserve Team Challenge Trophy Final shall be a player who has played in a previous round of this Competition and who has played a minimum of five (5) matches for his Club in the North Bucks and District Football League. No player shall play for more than one (1) Club in this Competition in the same season.

5. In the Semi-Final and Final Ties, each Club shall, not less than ten (10) days before the match, send the Registration Secretary of the North Bucks League and to the opposing Club, a list of players from which the Team for such Semi-Final or Final Tie shall be selected. A fine of £10.00 shall be imposed for any infringement of this Rule.
 - (a) Notice or objection to the qualification of any player in such lists shall be sent by registered post to the Secretary of the opposing Club and the North Bucks League. In all matches a playing member is one who has been duly elected a member of this Club and his name registered by the Secretary of the North Bucks and District Football League in accordance with League Rule 8.
 - (b) A Club may, at its discretion, use three (3) substitute players at any time in a match, who may be selected from five (5) players, except to replace a player who has been dismissed from the field of play by the Referee for misconduct after play has commenced. The substitution can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission.
6. The Management Committee to have full control over the Finals and in arranging dates for rounds prior to the Final. All matches up to the Final shall be played on the ground of the Club first named. Extra time of thirty (30) minutes (fifteen (15) minutes each way) shall be played in the event of a draw. In the event of Teams being level after extra time has been played, the match shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the Penalty Mark in accordance with International Board Recommended Procedures. Kick-off times shall be thirty (30) minutes earlier for League matches. The Finals shall be played on neutral grounds.
7. After Match Officials expenses have been paid, the gate receipts to be equally divided between the Clubs taking part in the match. Prior to the Final Ties, Officials Fees and expenses shall be the same as for League matches (League Rule 13).
8. Ineligibility of players and cancellations shall be dealt with the same as appropriate League Rules.
9. All protests and complaints shall be lodged with the General Secretary in triplicate within two (2) days of the matches or fixtures to which they refer (Sunday not included), and shall be accompanied by a deposit of

£10.00, which shall be forfeited if the protest is considered frivolous. Protests and complaints shall be heard and determined by the Management Committee (including the appointment of Referees), which is final.

10. Clubs which appeal against the decision of the Management Committee shall make a deposit of £25.00, which shall be forfeited if the Appeals Committee appointed by Berks & Bucks Football Association deem such appeal to be frivolous or unreasonable.
11. In the Final Ties the total gate shall be taken and the expense of the match defrayed by the League. Dates of the Final Ties shall be arranged at the discretion of the Management Committee.
12. Awards shall be provided for the winners of the trophy and awards shall also be provided for the runners-up if the Management Committee consider that the finances of the Competition warrant it. The matter to be decided by a meeting of the Management Committee prior to the playing of the Final Ties.
13. Any other matter not provided for in these Rules shall be determined by the Management Committee.

CHILD PROTECTION

1. Any act, statement, conduct or other matter which harms a child or children, or poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children, shall constitute behaviour which is improper and brings the game into disrepute.
2. In these Regulations the expression "Offence" shall mean any one or more of the offences contained in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and any other criminal offence which reasonably causes The Association to believe that the person accused of the offence poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children.
3. Upon receipt by The Association of:
 - 3.1 notification that an individual has been charged with an Offence; or
 - 3.2 notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the Police, Social Services or any other authority relating to an Offence; or
 - 3.3 any other information which causes The Association reasonably to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children then

The Association shall have the power to order that the individual be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
4. In reaching its determination as to whether an order under Regulation 3 should be made The Association shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:
 - 4.1 whether a child is or children are or may be at risk of harm;
 - 4.2 whether the matters are of a serious nature;
 - 4.3 whether an order is necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by The Association or any other authority or body to proceed unimpeded.
5. The period of an order referred to in 3 above shall not be capable of lasting beyond the date upon which any charge under The Rules of The Association or any Offence is decided or brought to an end.
6. Where an order is imposed on an individual under Regulation 3 above, The Association shall bring and conclude any proceedings under the Rules of The Association against the person relating to the matters as soon as reasonably practicable.
7. Where a person is convicted, or is made the subject of a caution in respect of an Offence, that shall constitute a breach of the Rules of The Association and The Association shall have the power to order the suspension of the person from all or any specific football activity for such a period (including indefinitely) and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
8. For the purposes of these Regulations, The Association shall act through its Council or any Committee or Sub-Committee thereof, including the Board.
9. Notification in writing of an order referred to above shall be given to the person concerned and/or any Club with which he is associated as soon as reasonably practicable.

10. The applicable standard of proof shall be the civil standard, of the balance of probability. The more serious the allegation taking into account the nature of the misconduct alleged and the context of the case the greater the burden of evidence required to find the matter proved. Save that for charges pursuant to The Football Association's Child Protection Policy, where the welfare and protection of children shall be paramount and the test shall be whether more likely than not.