

# RULES 2009-2010

## 1:- NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

- 1: (a) This Competition shall be designated the "The Nuneaton & District Sunday Football League, and known as The Nuneaton & District Sunday Football League, and shall consist of not more than 75 Clubs who shall be Full Member Clubs.

All such Member Clubs must be affiliated to an affiliated County Football Association, and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on the form "D" to the Birmingham County Football Association. The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be, Nuneaton, Bedworth & North Warwickshire.

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

Member Clubs shall not enter any of their teams playing in the Competition in any other Competitions (with the exception of F.A. and County F.A. competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee of the Competition.

## 2:- ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

- 2: (a) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of additional team(s) must be made in writing to the General Secretary and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee of £90.00 per team, which shall be returned in the event of non election.

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

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

- (b) The Annual Subscription shall be £90.00 per Team, payable on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> October in each year, however subscriptions payable as follows, 50% (£45.00) shall be paid by 1<sup>st</sup> October of the current season. The balance becoming due by, 1<sup>st</sup> January of the current season. Payment includes one handbook, an official pack of match report forms, 25 registration forms and 5 transfer cards for each team.
- (c) Each Club shall within 14 days of election pay a deposit of £25.00, which shall be returnable to Clubs on leaving the competition provided they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all orders of the Management Committee.
- (d) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the Entry Fee, Annual Subscription and Deposit have been paid.
- (e) Clubs must advise annually to the General Secretary in writing by June 30<sup>th</sup> of its Birmingham County F.A. affiliation number for the forthcoming season, failing which they shall be fined £10.00. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its Headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition.

### **3:- OFFICERS**

- 3: The Officers of the Competition shall be the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Registration Secretary, Referees Secretary and Fixtures Secretary, to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. (N.B. Auditors are not Officers)

### **4:- 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 Six 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 election as Officers or members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two Member Clubs, not later than April 1<sup>st</sup> 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 nominations in accordance with the forgoing for any office, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting.
- (c) The Management Committee shall meet monthly or as often as is necessary to deal with business as it arises.
- On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the Members of the Management Committee, the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Committee.
- (d) Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.

- (e) Communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their nominated Officers. All matters relating to the business of the Competition shall be referred in writing to the Secretary except as otherwise provided in these rules.

Verbal applications and enquiries shall not be accepted.

### **5:- POWERS OF MANAGEMENT**

- 5: (a) The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of the Football Association or affiliated Association

Subject to the permission of the Birmingham County Football Association having been obtained the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each season, 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 represented. (This shall also apply to the procedures 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 the powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition, including any not provided for in the Rules. Except where these Rules provide for the imposition of a set penalty any Club, Club Official (limited to Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer) or Player alleged to be in breach of a Competition Rule must be formally charged in writing and given the opportunity to present their case before the Management Committee. Financial penalties can only be imposed if included within the set penalties for breaches of Competition Rules. All breaches of the laws of the Game, Rules and Regulations of the Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance with F.A. Rules by the appropriate Association.
- (e) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal to the Board of Appeal in accordance with (Rule 16).

Decisions of the Management Committee shall be notified in writing to those concerned within 7 days. A Club failing to reply, in writing, within 7 days or the specified date to any correspondence received from the Committee, which requires answering, shall be fined not less than £5.00 and suspended, until such correspondence is received by the relevant Official. Proof of posting shall not be accepted as proof of delivery, except if sent by recorded delivery.

- (f) Five Members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee and Three Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of 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 to comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee, or failing to satisfactorily attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition, shall be liable to be fined or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- (i) All fines and charges shall be paid within 14 days of the date of posting of the written notification.
- Clubs, Officials or individuals committing a breach of this Rule will incur such penalties as the Management Committee may impose.
- (j) 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 or Special General Meeting called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Competition season.
- (l) No participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

## **6:- ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

- 6: (a)** The Annual General Meeting shall be held no later than 30<sup>th</sup> June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least 50 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 there from
  - (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 the ensuing season.
  - (vi) Election of the Officers and Management Committee.
  - (vii) Appointment of Auditors.
  - (viii) Alteration of Rules (of which notice has been given).
  - (ix) Fix date for the commencement and conclusion of the playing season.
  - (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to the Annual General Meeting.
- (b)** A copy of the duly audited balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least fourteen days prior to the meeting, and to the Birmingham County Football Association.
- (c)** A signed copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Birmingham County Football Association within fourteen days of its adoption by the Annual General Meeting.

- (d)** Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Not less than fourteen 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 not vote on matters relating to the season being concluded. This provision will not apply to clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 17.
- (f)** All voting shall be conducted by a show of hands unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote, or as the Chairman so decides.
- (g)** No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Full Member Club.
- (h)** Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £10.00.
- (i)** Officers and Management Committee Members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an Annual General Meeting.

## 7:- 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: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chairman)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (Secretary)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

of: \_\_\_\_\_ FC.

Have been provided with a copy of the Rules & Regulations of the Nuneaton & District Sunday Football League, and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club to, 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 Rules 16.

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

## 8:- QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

- 8: (a) Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules, are **NOT** permitted in this Competition.
- (b) A register containing the names of all players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the (*Registrations*) Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of any duly appointed Member Club representative at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one Season only.

In the event of a 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 player without a written contract will automatically be cancelled and declared void. In order to play in the League again either for his original Club or for another Club it will be necessary for him to be re-registered as required by this Rule.

Clubs shall register a minimum of eleven players per team with NDSFL Registration Secretary at least two weeks prior to the start of the Competition season.

- (c) Deleted
- (d) 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.

(e) A fee of 30p shall be paid for each player registered.

Registration forms shall be obtained from the (Registrations) Secretary on prepayment 30p per form. **The minimum number shall be 5 forms.**

**Note:**

Should a player's address change during the season, NDSFL Registration Secretary shall be informed immediately by his club Secretary.

(f) The Management Committee shall decide on all registration disputes.

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

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

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

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

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

Players who do not comply with the above conditions **SHALL** be deemed ineligible and immediately suspended and dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(h) (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 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 (subject to Rule 16) subject to the right of appeal to the FA or 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 Clause (iii) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct 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 will 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 112 days suspension, or 10 matches in match based discipline, in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.

(i) Subject to The Football Association Rules dealing with players without a written contract when a player desires a transfer, the Club the player wishes to transfer to shall submit a transfer form to the Registrations Secretary accompanied by a fee of £1.00.

Such transfer shall be referred by the Registrations Secretary to the Club for which the player is registered. Should this Club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Registrations Secretary and to the player concerned within seven days of receipt of the transfer form.

Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within seven days, the Registrations Secretary may, on behalf of the Management

Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or 5 days after receipt of such transfer.

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

A player signing for two clubs without a valid transfer signed by both Club Secretaries involved in the transfer, shall be suspended indefinitely until a satisfactory explanation is given to the Management Committee, and shall be ineligible.

- (j) A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after the last Tuesday in March except by special permission of the Management Committee.

Special conditions may be applied by the Management Committee to the registration of a player who is allowed to register after the second Tuesday in March. The General Secretary will notify these special conditions to the Club only after written application is received requesting a registration.

- (k) 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.

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

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

- (n) In the interpretation of these rules, a first team shall be the team, which is in a higher division than any other team of the same Club. Where a Club has only one team in the Competition, it shall be called the first team. A reserve team or clubs third team shall be any team or teams, other than a Club's first team.

Only two first team-classified players are permitted to play for the reserve team in any game. Only two players from a Clubs teams in the higher division shall be allowed to play for its third team.

Players will be classified, after playing 5 fixtures in the NDSFL for the Club, a players classification shall then be continually re-assessed throughout the season, by means of their last 5 games played for their club.

(Whichever team a player has appeared for most in his last 5 games, he will be classified as a player for that team).

A player's classification will be re-classified if that player misses Five (5) consecutive completed NDSFL fixtures for the Club. For a Club with more than two teams, a player's classification a playing Five (5) completed games shall be to the team that is in the higher division at the time.

Applications to vary the conditions set down in the foregoing part of this rule, may be made, in writing at least seven days prior to a relevant match, to the Secretary, who shall be entitled to vary them, having regard to the circumstances.

Players who do not comply with the above conditions shall be deemed as ineligible. Applications to vary the conditions set down in the foregoing part of this rule, may be made in writing at least five days clear, prior to a relevant match, to the Secretary, who shall be entitled to vary them, having regard to circumstances.

A player serving a BCFA suspension shall not take part in any football in the Competition.

A player playing within the Competition whilst serving a suspension, imposed by a County Football Association, shall be considered ineligible. The club playing a suspended player shall be dealt with for the offence, and the Club and player reported to the appropriate County FA.

The Management Committee shall reserve the right to select players from any Clubs to play in representative matches. Players selected for such matches shall automatically become ineligible for any Club matches on that date.

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

**(ii)** In addition the team may have 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 point's available in the match in question to the opponents, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.

**(p)** Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities.

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

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

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

## **9:- CLUB COLOURS, CLUB NAME**

**9: (a)** Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 1<sup>st</sup> June who shall decide as to their suitability.

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

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

Any team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify the colours in which they will play to its opposition at least 4 days before the match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the home team shall make the change. Any team not having a change of colours or delaying the kick off by not having a change shall be fined £10.00.

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 any shirts

or shorts as they think fit.

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

## **10:- PLAYING SEASON, CONDITIONS OF PLAY**

### **TIMES OF KICK OFF, POSTPONEMENTS, & SUBSTITUTES**

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

The Fixtures Secretary will produce fixtures on a monthly basis and copy of the official fixtures list will be published and available for distribution at each monthly meetings. The fixtures list will be considered as official confirmation of fixtures for Clubs.

The Management Committee may make amendments to the fixtures list at its sole discretion, in which case the Fixture Secretary shall notify both teams involved at least 72 hours prior to the match. Both Clubs shall acknowledge the fixture with each other and the Referee.

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

Clubs must take 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 the power to order the venue to be changed.

When a match does not take place, due to ground conditions being unfavourable, or is not completed for any reason, the first named Secretary shall inform the Fixtures Secretary, within 24 hours or the time for which the match had been arranged. A club not complying shall be fined not more than £5.00.

In the event of ground conditions being doubtful on the day, a decision shall be made by the Referee, except where the outside authority controlling the pitch prevents the fixture taking place. Should play not be possible, the Referee shall be entitled to be paid half his/her fee.

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

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

The kick-off times shall be fixed by the A.G.M or Management Committee. Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time shall be fined a sum not exceeding £10 or be otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine.

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

The home team must provide at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. Goal nets must be used.

- (c) Except by permission of the Management Committee all matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The Football Association and all relevant County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of the Fixtures Secretary.
- (d) The Secretary of the home Club must give notice in writing of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the match officials and the Secretary of the opposing Club at least 4 clear days prior to the playing of the match.

Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine of £5.00

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

In the event of a Club playing in any match with less than 10 players they may be fined £5.00 for each missing player. A minimum of 7 players will 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, deduct points from the defaulting Club, and award the points to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals. Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent's ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

Any Club with more than one team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence:- First Team, Reserve Team, "A" Team. Clubs in breach of this requirement shall be fined a sum not exceeding £25.00 or otherwise dealt with by the Management Committee.

Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture must, without delay, give notice to the Fixtures Secretary, Referees Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials. Any Club failing to comply shall be dealt with by the Management Committee, who may inflict any penalty it may deem suitable.

In the event of a match being postponed by an outside authority, it shall be the duty of the first named Club's Secretary, where possible, to save the referee and opposition from travelling. In the event of a Club failing to notify all parties concerned, in advance, it shall be the duty of the first named club Secretary, (or nominated official), to attend the ground at the time for which the match was due to commence. A club failing to comply shall be ordered to pay the referee's full fee, if he has travelled, and shall be fined £5.00.

In the event of a Club failing to postpone the fixture giving the required 4 Days prior notice, the offending team's Secretary, (or nominated official), shall notify all parties concerned, and, where the postponement is on the day, shall travel to the ground, at the time for which the match was due to commence, and notify all parties concerned.

The offending Club shall be ordered to pay the Referee's full fee, if he has travelled, and shall be fined £5.00.

A team shall be deemed absent if it is not present and ready to play the match 15 minutes after the scheduled time of kick-off, or, if less than seven players are present, or, if it refuses to play with seven players or more.

Clubs who are serving BCFA suspensions will be treated as ABSENT Teams, until the Nuneaton & District Sunday League are in possession of written clearance from BCFA that the suspension has been lifted.

All matches shall be played strictly on the dates laid down. A team unable to fulfil its commitments, may postpone only two games during the season, provided at least 4 Days notice are given prior to the scheduled fixture. The offending Club Secretary prior to any postponement shall consult the Fixtures Secretary. Failure to comply with the above will result in the Team being dealt with as an absent Club.

Teams who are unable to fulfil fixtures due to lack of players shall not be granted additional call off's other than the two allowed.

In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Fixtures Secretary within 4 days the Management Committee shall have power to order the match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date.

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

Such action is subject to any disciplinary action taken by the appropriate Affiliated Association, where a Club is reported to its Affiliated Association for causing a match to be abandoned, their Club Secretary or appointed officer must inform the Competitions Secretary in writing within 4 days of the game taking place, why the match was abandoned.

A Club or any of its teams absent on three occasions or more shall be considered as to bringing the Competition into disrepute.

A team postponing or being absent for more than three fixtures during one season will be required to produce in writing, with any new application for membership, a comprehensive explanation as to how it will endeavour to fulfil fixture obligations for the new season.

A Team not satisfying the Competition requirements will not be permitted future membership.

A team unable to fulfil a fixture due to having its facilities withdrawn by a third party due to non-payment of ground rent, will be suspended.

Any club suspended by the Competition or any other outside authority, i.e. BCFA, shall be dealt with as an absent Club. A club or team must be clear of suspension for at least two days prior to completing a fixture.

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

The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than 10 minutes before the start of the match.

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

- (i) The half time interval shall be of 5 minutes duration, but it shall not exceed fifteen minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.
- (j) A team providing two or more players, or a goalkeeper, for League representative matches, may postpone that team's match occurring on the same day. The Fixture Secretary, opponents and referee, shall be informed of the postponement, in writing within 48 hours of the Clubs having received notification from the General Secretary, that the said players have been selected.

After the second Sunday in April. No call off's as outlined in Rule 10i (1) will be permitted. Teams in default will be declared absent.

## **11:- REPORTING RESULTS**

- 11 (a)** The Records Secretary must receive within Four days of the date played, the result of each Competition match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the team players (in block letters) and also the Referee markings required by Rule 13, or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to do so will incur a fine up to £20.00 and/or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide.
- (b)** The Home Club shall telephone the result of each match to the Press Officer by 7.00pm on the date of the game (Sunday) or 9.00pm for mid week games.

All NDSFL Clubs playing in an outside cup competition, shall telephone the result of the game, or whether the game takes place or not, to the Press Officer before 9.00 p.m. on the day of the fixture. Finals do not need to be notified. A club not complying with any part of this Rule shall be fined up to £20.00.

- (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.
- (c)** An official match report form shall be correctly completed by both Clubs and handed to the match referee, before the game commences. Following the match the form shall be signed by the Club Secretaries or their nominated representatives of both teams.

If after 4 days the Match Report Form is still outstanding the Club shall be fined £3.00 for each 24-hour period the Match Report Form remains outstanding and all fixtures cancelled until such time as the Records Secretary receives the outstanding match report and lifts the suspension. In the absence of any official forms, for whatever reasons, makeshift forms shall be used.

## **12:- DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP**

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

In the event of two or more teams being equal on points team rankings may be decided in any one or more of the following ways:-

- (1) Goal difference
- (2) Goals scored
- (3) Game won
- (4) Deciding match(es) played under conditions determined by the Management Committee.

- (b)** Automatic promotion and relegation shall be applied for the first three and last three teams in each Division except Premier Two where only two teams are eligible.

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

Where a Reserve team is eligible for promotion to the same division as its first team and is prevented under part (1) of this rule, a play-off situation may apply. The next highest team in the lower division, not eligible for promotion as defined, will be invited into a play-off situation with the highest of the teams in the higher division eligible for relegation.

Clubs Reserves teams shall not be eligible for either of the Premier Divisions.

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

Should either or both of the leading teams in any of the Divisions have its senior team in the next higher Division, promotion shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next highest team or teams in the Division concerned.

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

### **13:- REFEREES**

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

Failure by either team to comply with this part of the Rule will result in Teams being dealt with as an absent Clubs,

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

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

**(d)** Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be entitled to the following match fees:- Referee £25.00, Registered Referees appointed by the Management Committee as Assistant Referees £17.00 subject to any limits laid down by the sanctioning Association(s).

The first named Club shall be responsible for payment to both the Referee and Assistant Referees, following the completion of the match.

The second named club shall be responsible to the first named Club for their equal share of the fee on the day. Either Club failing to make payment shall be fined £5.00.

**(f)** In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to half fee only. Where a match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Officials, if they attend the ground, their full fee and expenses. The first named Club shall be responsible for paying the referee his half fee. The second named Club shall be responsible to the first named Club for their half share of the fee. Either Club failing to make payment shall be fined £5.00.

**(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 Association with which he or she is registered.

**(h)** Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The Football Association, award marks to the Referee for each match and the name of the Referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed Form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.

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

**(i)** 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 to the Home Club at the end of the match, who will forward to the Records Secretary.

- (j) Referees and Assistant Referees shall be supplied, each Season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.
- (k) The Referee shall report to the Records Secretary within four days of the match-taking place, either on the Match Report form, or by letter, reasons for short time played, any missing match equipment, or where a Club fails to supply an Assistant Referee.
- (l) Referees shall be marked out of 100, Clubs giving a mark lower than 40 shall write to the Competitions Records Secretary within 4 days of the match taking place, giving a full explanation why such a mark was given.

Clubs failing to comply with this rule may be fined and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Competitions Management Committee.

## **14:- CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB.**

- 14 (a)** After 31<sup>st</sup> December in the current Season a 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 31<sup>st</sup> March each season or be liable to a fine not exceeding £90.00

All Clubs wishing to remain in membership of the Competition for the following Season must confirm their intention to do so, in writing, to the Secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> May.

- (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. Any Club infringing this Rule shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £90.00 per team and shall also be liable for its share of any call which may be made under Rule 5b.

### **(c) Deleted**

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

In the event that any such obligation remains un-discharged after a period of twenty-one (21) days then such obligation shall be met by the then current Club Members, excluding those under the statutory school leaving age. Until a Member's pro rata obligation is discharged in full the Member shall not be allowed to participate in the Competition, which may "apply" to the Club's Parent County Association for a suspension order. To determine the amount owing by each player, the total sum owing will be divided equally by the number of players registered.

## **15:- PROTEST & APPEALS**

- 15 (a)** All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee.

Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match. Any Club lodging such protest and not proceeding with it shall be deemed guilty of a breach of this Rule and shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.

- (b)** Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints, (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded), must be lodged in duplicate with the Secretary within 2 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 £5.00. 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 the power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the enquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.
- (e) All parties to a protest or complaint must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement when the protest or complaint is being heard and must have received 7 days notice of the hearing, together with a copy of the submission. When dealing with a protest or complaint the Management Committee shall take into consideration the possession by the protesting or complaining Club of any information, which if properly used, might have avoided the protest or complaint.

## **16:- BOARD OF APPEAL**

- 16:** Within 14 days of the posting of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee or the Competition, a Club, Official or Player against whom action is taken may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars in duplicate with the Secretary of the Birmingham County Football Association, including a fee of £25.00, for adjudication of a Board of Appeal. The grounds of the appeal shall be in accordance with FA Rules. The Board of Appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited and shall decide by whom the costs of the appeal shall be borne. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned.

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

The Secretary of the N.D.S.F.L shall be informed in writing if an appeal is lodged with B.C.F.A.

## **17:- EXCLUSION OF CLUBS OR TEAMS MISCONDUCT, CLUBS, 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 must be supported by (more than) two-thirds (2/3rds) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot.

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

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

(d) Any Club or Team failing to complete THREE of 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 debarred from membership the following season.

Clubs failing to attend without good reason a disciplinary hearing, having been given the appropriate notice period, shall be fined up to a maximum of £100.00. All such cases will be dealt with in the Clubs absence.

(e) Any Club, who by the actions of its officials or players is charged, after full investigation by the Competitions Management Committee, is subsequently found guilty of fraudulently completing any of the Competitions documentation, may be fined and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Competitions Management Committee.

The Competitions Management Committee may charge a Club with "Bringing the Competition into Disrepute" if its players, officials or spectators behave in an unacceptable manner as determined by the Competitions Management Committee, or having been found guilty by a higher authority, may be fined and/or dealt with at the discretion of the Competitions Management Committee.

## **18:- TROPHIES:- LEGAL OWNERS, CONDITIONS OF TAKING OVER AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED & AWARDS**

**18: (a)** If a Competition be discontinued for any reason a Trophy or any other presentation to the Donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the sanctioning Association may decide. At the close of each Competition awards shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of all Cups or Trophies:-

"We (a) \_\_\_\_\_ and (b) \_\_\_\_\_, the Chairman and Secretary of \_\_\_\_\_ FC, members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of \_\_\_\_\_ Cup or Trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the 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 February 28<sup>th</sup>. 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".

Clubs failing to comply with any part of this rule shall be fined not exceeding £100.00 per trophy.

All trophies shall be inscribed with the name(s) of the winning Club(s) by the Club during their period as trophy holders. The inscription should be in the style already on each trophy, and be completed professionally. The cost of the inscription shall be the responsibility of the Club. Any Club or team leaving the Competition for any reason shall immediately return any trophies belonging to the Competition

(3) The trophies shall not be won outright.

## **19:- 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 14 days notice shall be given of either meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting. Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.

Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £10.00.

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

## **20:- ALTERATION TO RULES**

**20:** Alterations shall be made to these Rules only at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 19.

Any alteration made during the playing season to the Rule relating to the qualification of players shall not take effect until the following season.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary by 10<sup>th</sup> March in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 24<sup>th</sup> March and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary 31<sup>st</sup> 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 a majority of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the sanctioning Football Association 21 days prior to the date of the meeting.

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

## **21:- RULES BINDING ON CLUBS**

- 21:** Each Member Club shall be deemed to have given its assent to the foregoing Rules and agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee subject to Rules 16. Each Member Club must abide by any issued Football Association and Competition "Code of Conduct" documents.

## **22:- FINANCE**

- 22: (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 £150.00 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 April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- (d)** The books, or a certified balance sheet, of the Competition shall be prepared and shall be audited annually by some suitable person(s) who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.
- (e)** Matters relating solely to financial business shall be referred, in writing, directly to the Treasurer. All remittances shall be sent to the Treasurer except as otherwise provided in the rules.

The Treasurer shall send a statement to each Club, on a monthly basis, advising of any outstanding balance. The statement shall arrive at least 7 days prior to a Competition monthly meeting at which any debts are required to be cleared. No Club shall be permitted an overdraft in excess of £25.00. A Club shall have its fixtures suspended as of the date of the monthly meeting, if its debt exceeds £25.00 and be dealt with as an absent Club.

The current season's debt must be cleared by no later than May 31<sup>st</sup> otherwise any new application for membership will be refused until such time as the debt is cleared. Any such delayed application will be deemed a New Application in the compilation of the Competition divisional structures.

Special arrangements to clear debts are permitted as arranged with the Treasurer. However, if any arranged payment is not met, the Club shall be suspended, until the balance is met in full.

The Treasurer and Committee shall not accept any responsibility for loss of money in transit. All remittances shall be made payable to:- "The Nuneaton & District Sunday Football League".

Expenses shall be claimed by clubs in writing to the General Secretary, within 48 hours of the time arranged for the match and shall not otherwise be entertained. Fully itemised statements of expenditure shall be provided, along with the claim, together with receipts where applicable.

## 23:- BLOCK INSURANCE SCHEME CLUB DOCUMENTATION

**23: (a) (1)** All Clubs shall be included in the League's block cover Insurance scheme for the entire current playing season, for their Club players and officials, against any loss of earnings due to injury, whilst playing in the League. The remittance for the block cover insurance scheme must be forwarded to the **Appointed Broker by July 1<sup>st</sup>** of each new season. Clubs paying by instalments **must pay the first instalment by July 1<sup>st</sup>** and subsequent instalments at the League meetings in **August, September, October and November**. Failure to pay the premium or first instalment by **July 1<sup>st</sup>** will result in the Club being suspended with immediate effect until such payments are made. Clubs, who elect to pay by instalments and fail to make second or subsequent payments on the dates outlined, will be suspended with immediate effect until such payments are made. Clubs shall be **fined £5.00** for each breach of this rule. Clubs in default shall be suspended and shall be dealt with under **Rule 10g(2)**.

**(2)** Clubs shall also provide copies of their "**Club's Code of Conduct**", to the **General Secretary** by the **15<sup>th</sup> August of each season**.

Clubs shall provide the previous seasons Balance Sheet to a minimum standard as illustrated in the N&DSFL handbook, signed by the Club Treasurer and two Auditors, and is to be submitted to the General Secretary by **August 15<sup>th</sup> of each season**.

**(3)** Clubs failing to provide the above documentation outlined in this rule by the required dates shall be suspended, and shall be fined up to a maximum of £20.00. However Clubs complying with all parts shall be entitled to a reduction of £10.00 off their Membership Fees.

## 24: CUP COMPETITIONS

All Cup Competitions are run solely for the benefit of Clubs registered within the Competition. A Cup Competition will operate on a knockout basis and shall be competed for by all first teams in membership of the Competition. A Reserve Cup Competition may be competed for by all reserve teams in membership of the Competition and will operate on a knockout basis. Divisional Trophy competitions will operate on a knockout basis, and shall be competed for by all Clubs in each Division.

For all Cup matches played on Sundays, including Semi-finals and finals, when the scores are level after the completion of normal time, extra time of a maximum of 15 minutes each way shall be played. The Referee shall have discretion about the amount of extra time played, but both teams shall be advised of his/her decision before the commencement of the extra time. In the event of the Cup match being level after the completion of extra time, penalties will be taken in accordance with FIFA Rules, to decide the winners. A Club failing to play extra time, or to take penalties to decide the match shall forfeit the match.

Where cup matches, including semi-finals and finals, are played on days other than a Sunday, when the scores are level after normal time, penalties will be taken in accordance with FIFA Rules, to decide the winners. A Club failing to abide by this rule shall forfeit the match.

All players taking part in cup matches shall be properly registered with the Competition.

In Cup matches, any teams playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player will be removed from the competition, and may be fined and/or dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

Where a player plays for a Club who subsequently resign from the Competition, the players playing record with that Club will still be applicable so far as “Cup Competition” rules are concerned.

Invitation Charity Cup Competitions shall be operated on a basis determined by the Management Committee, and will be advised to Clubs invited to participate in them.

Any Team withdrawing from any Cup Competition organised by the Competition may be fined up to £25.00.

Where a team enters any outside or Invitation Cup they must inform the Fixtures Secretary by the 15<sup>th</sup> August. Clubs failing to comply shall be fined £5.00.

Such Invitation Cup Competitions shall take precedence over matches arranged within the Competition if they have a specified Conference date. If No Conference date is specified the games will be played by mutual agreement.

Where it is necessary to postpone a match already arranged in order that a Club may compete in a round of an outside cup competition, without a conference date, the secretary of the Club taking part in the round shall notify the Fixture Secretary, opponents and referee in writing, to reach them within 24 hours of the clubs having agreed upon the date of the said round with its opponents.

All Cup games will be played as per the published monthly fixture list, unless changed by the Competitions Fixture Secretary having given the required notice period.

Semi-Finals and Final ties SHALL be played on the dates laid down.

The Management Committee shall appoint both Referee and Assistant Referees in all Finals. Officials in Finals shall be each presented with a trophy. Additionally the Committee may appoint Assistant Referees to semi-finals and fixtures, which have a direct bearing on promotion and relegation issues, as deemed appropriate, provided Referees cover all other fixtures.

In second round and subsequent rounds of all cup competitions organised by this Competition, all players shall either

- (a) have played for the same Club in
  - (i) a previous round of the same competition
  - (ii) in another cup competition/division game organised by the Competition
  - (iii) have been properly registered for the Club for a period of not less than 26 days. A transferred player, having played in a particular cup competition with his previous Club, shall not take part in the same competition in the same season for his new Club.

## **25: MONTHLY COMPETITION MEETINGS**

A Competition meeting shall be held each month during the football season, the dates to be advised to Member Clubs by the Management Committee, at the commencement of each new season, with the date of the first meeting being announced at the AGM.

A club not attending any Competition Meeting shall be fined £10.00.

Any Club not represented at three monthly Meetings shall be fined and / or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of 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 of 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 if 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.