

THE ALLIANCE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

RULES

NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

1. (A) This Competition shall be designated the Alliance Football League and shall consist of not more than 100 Clubs approved by the sanctioning authority.

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 Leicestershire & Rutland County Football Association. The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be the counties of Leicestershire and Rutland and adjacent counties.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Leicestershire & Rutland Football Association and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions.

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.

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

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

2. (A) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of an additional team(s) must be made in writing to the Secretary and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee of £10 per team which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

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

When Rule 12(B) is applied 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 £100 (to include a book of twenty Player Registration Forms) per Team payable on or before the Annual General meeting in each year. (See Members Regulations (1))

(C) Each Club shall within on the day of election pay a Deposit of £10 which shall be returnable to Clubs on leaving the Competition provided they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all orders of the Management Committee.

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

(E) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 1 May of its Sanctioning County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming Season, failing which they shall be fined £10. 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.

OFFICERS

3. The Officers of the Competition shall be determined by the Annual General Meeting and elected thereat. (See Members Regulations (2))

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 not more than seven 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 1 May in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting

(C) The Management Committee shall meet at least quarterly.

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

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

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

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 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 Sanctioning 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 may be 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), 11 and 19, for all breaches of Rule a formal written charge must be issued. The respondent shall be given seven 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.

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.

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 a Competition rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Competition must 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 must be notified in writing to those concerned within fourteen days.

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

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

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

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

Any Club failing to do so will be fined a maximum of £50. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional sum within 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding payments are settled.

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6. (A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 1 July in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least six Members are present and entitled to vote:-

- (i) To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
- (ii) To consider any business arising therefrom.
- (iii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
- (iv) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies (as recommended by the Management Committee).
- (v) Constitution of the Competition for ensuing season.
- (vi) Election of Officers and Management Committee.
- (vii) Appointment of Auditors.
- (viii) Alteration of Rules, if any (of which notice has been given).
- (ix) Fix the date for the commencement of the season and kick off times applicable to the Competitions.
- (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 days prior to the meeting, and to the Leicestershire & Rutland County Football Association(s).

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

(D) Each Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. 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 vote only on matters relating to the season being concluded. This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 17.

(F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot is demanded by at least two thirds 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 Member Club.

(H) Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £15.

(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, _____ of _____ (Chairman) and
B _____ of _____ (Secretary) of the
_____ Football Club have been provided with a copy of the

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

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

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

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

8. (A) Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules, are not permitted in this Competition. A contract player may only play for the Club that holds his contract.

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

(i) Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the (Registrations) Secretary within two days prior to playing and whose completed registration counterfoil has been received by the Club prior to playing.

(ii) 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 witnesses by an Officer of the opposing Club, and submitted to the (Registrations) Secretary within two 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 players may be registered in this way.

(C) Not Applicable

(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) Registration forms shall be obtained from the Registrations Secretary on prepayment of £20 for a book of 20 forms.

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

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

(G) It shall be a breach of Rule for a player to:-

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

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

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

(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 who has been charged and found 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 charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 16) subject to the right of appeal to the FA 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 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 £10. 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.

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

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

(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.

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.

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

(N) No team shall play in any fixture, more than three players who have played in five matches for a club's more senior teams in any one season. Any club not complying with this rule shall be fined a maximum of £50 and the Management Committee may order the game to be replayed at the expense of the defaulting club.

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

(ii) In addition the team shall have two 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.

(P) In the case of players in full-time secondary education)

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

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

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

See Members Regulations (3,4,5 and 6)

CLUB COLOURS. CLUB NAME

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

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

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

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

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the away 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

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

(B) Any Club wishing to change its name must 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 the commencement and conclusion of the season in accordance with Football Association Rules. Original fixtures arranged by the Fixtures Secretary, or at a meeting specially convened for that purpose must not be arranged for a date later than seven days preceding the concluding date.

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

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

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

All matches shall have 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 of equal halves.

The times of kick-off shall be fixed by the Management Committee. Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time shall be fined a sum not exceeding £20 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.

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

(D) The Secretary of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the match officials and the Secretary of the opposing Club at least four clear days prior to the playing of the match. Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine of £10

(E) In the event of a Club playing in any match with less than 11 players they shall be fined £5 for each missing player. A minimum of 9 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, 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, and A Team. Clubs in breach of this requirement shall be fined a sum not exceeding £50 or otherwise dealt with by the Management Committee.

Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture must, without delay, give notice to the Fixtures Secretary, the Competition 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 a fine.

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 three 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 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 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 five minutes before the start of the match.

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

(H) The half time interval shall be of a minimum 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.

(I) Not Applicable

See Members Regulations (7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,and 15)

REPORTING RESULTS

11. (A) The Registration 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 of £10 and/or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide.

(B) Both Clubs shall telephone/notify the result of each match to the appropriate Press Officer by the time stipulated in the League Handbook. Clubs in default shall be fined. (See Members Regulations (16))

(C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be submitted by a responsible member of the Club. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £10

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(iii) Not Applicable

(iv) Not Applicable

(v) Not Applicable

(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.(See Members Regulation (17))

(D) Not Applicable

REFEREES

13. (A) Registered Referees (and Assistant Referees where approved by the FA or County FA) 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.

(C) 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 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.

(E) Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be entitled to the equivalent county cup fee and any other permitted expenses actually incurred subject to any limits laid down by the sanctioning Association(s). The Home Club shall pay the Officials their fees and expenses before or immediately after the match.

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

(G) A Referee not keeping his 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.

(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 details of infringements of League Rules to the Secretary within two 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) Not Applicable

See Members Regulations (18 and 19)

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 fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the Secretary in writing before 1 March each Season or be liable to a fine not exceeding £250.

(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 £250 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 £250 per team and shall also be liable for its share of any call which may be made under Rule 5(B).

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

(C) The Membership for the coming season having been decided at the Annual General Meeting held not later than 1 July, the Competition shall have the right, irrespective of other provisions in this Rule, to refuse to permit a Club to withdraw its team(s) in order to join another Competition and may hold the Club to its engagements

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

If the debt remains unpaid after eighty-four (84) days the Competition may apply to the Club's parent County Association for the debt to be recovered in accordance with the FA Football Debt Recovery System. Once the matter has been passed to the Club's parent County Association the debt can only be cleared by payment to that County Association.

PROTESTS 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 will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match. Any Club lodging such protest and not proceeding with it shall be deemed guilty of a breach of this Rule and shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.

(B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged in duplicate with the Secretary within three days (excluding Sundays) of the match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A Member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of 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 £20. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the enquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

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

BOARD OF APPEAL

16. Within 14 days of the posting of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee or the 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 Leicestershire & Rutland County Football Association, including a fee of £25.00 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.

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

EXCLUSION OF CLUBS OR TEAMS

MISCONDUCT, CLUBS, OFFICIALS, PLAYERS

17. (A) At the Annual General Meeting, or Special General Meeting called for the purpose, 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 (2/3) 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 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.

(D) Not Applicable

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 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 _____. If the Cup or Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair."

Failure to comply will result in a fine as determined by the Management Committee.

(C) At the close of each Competition awards may/shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

See Members Regulations (20 and 21)

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 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 Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only, as will members of the Management Committee.

Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £15

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

ALTERATION TO RULES

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

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary by 15 April in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 30 April and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 15 May. 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.

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

FINANCE

21. (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 £500 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 30 April.
- (D) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be verified annually by some suitable person(s) who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

APPENDIX - MEMBERS REGULATIONS

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

(1) The Annual Subscription may be paid in two instalments of £60 each payable by the date of the Annual General Meeting and by 1 January.

OFFICERS

(2) The Officers of the Competition shall be the President, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Registration Secretary, Referees Secretary and two Press Officers to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. (N.B. Auditors are not Officers).

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

(3) All clubs shall register a minimum of 12 players per team by 31 July, failing which their membership of the League will be reviewed by the Management Committee and shall be fined £10.

(4) The Management Committee shall have power to arrange representative matches and to call upon the services of any player of any member club for such matches. A player's registration may be suspended for one or two games if he fails to attend any representative match after indicating availability and selection unless a satisfactory explanation has been given prior to the game.

(5) In the event of action being taken in accordance with Rule 8(O), the Management Committee may order the game to be replayed at the expense of the offending club without the player concerned taking part.

(6) A player may not be transferred to another club in the Competition before 1 October.

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

(7) The pitch fee for any League or cup game played under floodlights on a neutral ground shall be shared between the two clubs taking part.

(8) Clubs must have adequate dressing room accommodation and a satisfactory ground.

(9) The home team must provide at least two footballs fit for play (FIFA Approved or Inspected) and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable.

(10) In the event of a team having less than 11 players at the commencement of the game they shall be fined £5 for each missing player.

(11) Each team shall provide a suitable first aid kit for each game

(12) Any team refusing to play a game on a pitch declared fit by the appointed match official(s) in attendance shall be deemed to have caused a postponement and shall be dealt with in accordance with Rule 10 (F).

(13) A club may request one free date in each season, but this will only be granted at the entire discretion of the Management Committee, and providing the request is received at least three weeks prior to the issue of the fixture booklet covering the date concerned.

(14) Any club failing to comply with League Rule 10 (F), shall be fined up to £50 for each offence, shall have one point deducted for the first offence, two points deducted for the second offence and three points deducted for each subsequent offence and be liable to pay all approved expenses incurred.

(15) If playing conditions are unacceptable at the prescribed kick off time, the kick off may be delayed by up to 30 minutes.

REPORTING RESULTS

(16) All clubs shall provide a report of each match to the appropriate Press Officer during the prescribed times failing which a fine of £10 will be imposed.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

(17) 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 may be expunged from the Competition table.

REFEREES

(18) Clubs who mark a referee, sixty or less must set out their reasons in writing to the Referees Secretary within four days of the match taking place.

(19) The Management Committee, if they consider it desirable, or upon application by the two competing clubs may appoint Assistant Referees, if available, to any match. When Assistant Referees are appointed, their fees shall be shared by the competing clubs.

TROPHIES - AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

(20) Annual trophies cannot be won outright. Any club failing to return the cup or trophy by the date specified or on resignation shall be fined up to £25.

(21) Clubs resigning from the League shall return the trophy at the time of resignation.

RULES FOR CUP COMPETITIONS

1. The Competitions shall be called 'The Arthur Moore Cup Competition', 'The E W Foster Cup Competition', or 'The Stokes Cup Competition'.

2. The cup competitions shall be confined to teams in membership of The Alliance Football League as follows:
Premier and Division 1 teams - 'Arthur Moore Cup'

Divisions 2 , 3 and 4 teams - 'E W Foster Cup'
All other Divisions - 'Stokes Cup'.

3. A player who has played for one club in any one of these Competitions may not play for any other club in any of these Competitions. A player who has played for a first team in any of these Competitions may not subsequently play for any other team of the same club in any of these Competitions.

4. With the exception of the preceding rules, the Rules of the 'Bill Walton Cup Competition' shall apply to these Competitions.

RULES OF 'THE BILL WALTON CUP COMPETITION'

NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

1. The Competition shall be called 'The Bill Walton Cup Competition'.
2. The Competition shall be confined to clubs in membership of 'The Alliance Football League'.

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

3. The Competition shall be governed by the Management Committee. Any decision of the Committee may be the subject of an appeal in accordance with League Rule 16.
4. The Management Committee shall have the power to arrange all matches.

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

5. No player may play for more than one club within the same Competition in each season. A player may not play in this Competition having already played for a more senior team in his club.
6. No team shall play in any fixture, more than three players who have played in five matches for a club's more senior teams in any one season. Any club not complying shall be fined a maximum of £50 and shall be removed from the Competition.
7. All players are to be registered in accordance with League Rule 8. In the semi-final and final, all players must have played in at least 4 and 6 games respectively, arranged by the League, for the club concerned.

In exceptional circumstances, dispensation may be granted for a goalkeeper who has not played in the requisite number of game, to play in a semi-final or final, providing he is a registered player in accordance with League Rule 8. Such dispensation may restrict the player to playing as a goalkeeper.

8. Prior to semi finals and the final, clubs shall forward a list of players to their opponents with a copy to the Registration Secretary at least ten days before the date of the game and no objection to the qualification of any player in the list shall be entertained unless notice is given, stating full details to the club concerned and the Registration Secretary in writing at least 48 hours before the game is to be played. Any club failing to forward a complete list of players in accordance with this rule shall be fined £10 in addition to any other action taken. The list may be revised with the express permission of the Registration Secretary.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR AND CONDITIONS OF PLAY

9. The first named club shall give notice to the match officials and the opposing club secretary at least four days before the game, of the location of the ground and dressing rooms and the colours. In semi final games, the first named club shall also confirm arrangements with the host club and the Management Committee member.
10. The period of play may be reduced to two equal periods of not less than 35 minutes each if mutually agreed between the two captains in consultation with the referee before the start of play.

11. If the scores are level at the end of normal time, extra time of 15 minutes each way shall be played. If the scores remain level at the end of extra time, kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken to decide the winner. Both clubs may mutually agree to reduce the period of extra time or dispense with extra time completely if the weather conditions are adverse.

12. Any club refusing to play extra time or take kicks from the penalty mark when ordered to do so, shall be excluded from the competition and their opponents shall be deemed to be the winners.

13. Any club causing the game to be postponed without the express permission of the Management Committee or playing an unregistered, or otherwise ineligible player may be fined up to a maximum of £50, may be removed from the Competition and shall be liable to pay all approved expenses incurred. The Management Committee may decide that the opponents shall go through to the next round provided it has not already been played.

14. In the event of two clubs adopting the same colours, the second named club shall change.

15. Prior to semi finals, the first drawn club shall have choice of ground.

16. Prior to semi finals, each competing club shall provide an Assistant Referee for the whole of each game, failing which a fine of £5 will be imposed.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEMI FINALS AND FINAL

17. The semi-final and final games shall be played on neutral grounds and on such dates and grounds and under such control as the Management Committee shall determine. In semi-final games, the host club shall be paid £50 or the actual cost of pitch hire, whichever is the greater. This payment together with the fees and expenses of the match officials shall be equally shared between the teams taking part. Failure to make the necessary preparations by the host club may result in a fine of £25

TROPHIES

18. The winning club shall receive a cup, which cannot be won outright, subject to a declaration being signed in accordance with League Rule 18. Engraving of the cup shall be arranged by the League.

19. Cup final officials shall receive a memento in lieu of fees and expenses.

APPLICATION OF LEAGUE RULES

20. Unless specifically provided for in these rules, all applicable rules of 'The Alliance Football League' shall apply to this Competition.