

LEAGUE RULES

NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

1. (A) This Competition shall be designated the Lancashire Evening Post Sunday Football League.

All clubs shall be full members of the League and 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 Lancashire County Football Association.

The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be of a reasonable travelling distance to Preston.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Lancashire 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.

(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 must be made in writing to the Secretary and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee of £40.00 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 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 £130.00 per Team payable on or before the September League Meeting in each year.

(C) Each member club shall pay a Deposit of £40.00 by the date of the April League Meeting or by 15 April if there is no April League Meeting. The Deposit will form part of the club's subscription for the following season, 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. All teams are required to complete a membership re-application form in April for the following season. Teams who fail to do so will cease to be members of the League.

(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 30 June of its Lancashire County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming Season, failing which they shall be fined £20.00. 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.

OFFICERS

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

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

4. (A) The Competition shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association by a Management Committee comprised of the Officers and 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 31 March 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 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) 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 Lancashire 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. (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. 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 to the Board of Appeal in accordance with Rule 16. Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 7 days.

(F) Three 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.

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.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6. (A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 30 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 therefrom.
- (iii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
- (iv) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies (as recommended by the Management Committee).
- (v) Constitution of the Competition for ensuing season.
- (vi) Election of Officers and Management Committee.
- (vii) Appointment of Auditors.
- (viii) Alteration of Rules, if any (of which notice has been given).
- (ix) Fix the date for the commencement and conclusion of playing season.
- (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.

(B) A copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least fourteen days prior to the meeting, and to the Lancashire County Football Association(s).

(C) A signed copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Lancashire County Football Association(s) 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 7 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 be 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 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 £40.00

- (I) Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an Annual General Meeting.
- (II) League Meetings. All clubs must have at least one representative at each monthly meeting. Any club failing to be represented at a League Meeting will be fined £20.00 on the first occasion and such sum as decided by the Management Committee on any subsequent occasion. Apologies for non-attendance will not be accepted.

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

Any alteration of the Chairman and /or Secretary on the above Agreement must be notified to the Lancashire 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. It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any Player signing a registration form for that Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any Player aged 12 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

(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 prior to playing and whose completed registration counterfoil has been received by the Club prior to playing.

(ii) Not applicable in this League.

(C) Not applicable in this League.

(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 or League Secretary on prepayment of 50p per form.

(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 League 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 £2.00. 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 28 days after receipt of such transfer.

No club shall be allowed to sign by transfer more than one player from the same club in any 28 day period. 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 28 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) Not Applicable in this League.

(N) Not Applicable in this League.

(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 be fined £25.00 and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- (ii) In addition the team may have three 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)

- (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.
- (iv) To play in the Youth Section of the League a player must be over 15 and under 18 years of age on 31 August of the current season. Each Youth team will be allowed to have a maximum of 25 players registered at any one time.

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

CLUB COLOURS. CLUB NAME

9. (A) Every Club must register the colour of its shirts, shorts and socks with the League Secretary by 1 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. Thermal Shorts shall be the same colour as the team shorts. The colours worn in this League must correspond to those registered by the club. Any club infringing this rule will be fined £50.00 and may be further dealt with by the Management Committee.

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 7 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 £20.00. The Secretary of the Competition may request shirts to be submitted if complaints are received as to lack of distinguishing colours, and the Management Committee may refuse to permit any shirts or shorts as they think fit. Shirts must be numbered.

(B) Any Club wishing to change its name and/or colours must obtain permission from its affiliated County Association and from the Management Committee. No changes to club names or club colours will be permitted once the League handbook for the current season has been printed.

(C) The shirt number worn by a player in a match in this League must correspond to the number against the player's name on the team sheet. Clubs who do not comply with this rule will be fined £20.00 for each occurrence and may be further dealt with by the Management Committee.

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 are to be arranged by the Fixtures Secretary and he shall have full responsibility for arranging all League and Cup Competition fixtures.

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

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

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

All matches shall have a minimum duration of 90 minutes unless a shorter time (not less than 80 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.

Adult Teams Sunday - kick off time is 11.00am. Youth Teams Sunday – Kick off time is 11.00am (Exception is Burscough Youth teams at 2.00pm).

Adult Teams Mid-week – kick off between 6.15 & 6.45pm. Youth Teams Mid-week – Kick off between 6.15 & 6.45pm. Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time shall be fined a sum not exceeding £20.00 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.

It is mandatory for all matches involving players playing in a division of age groups under 18 and below to have sufficient barrier in place to segregate spectators from the field of play, with a minimum distance of 1 metre from any pitch markings. This can be in the form of stakes, tapes, ropes or cones.

(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 5 clear days prior to the playing of the match. The away Club shall seek and acknowledge receipt of such particulars. Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine of £10.00.

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

(Note: The intention of this Rule is not to interfere with normal team selection by Clubs, but to prevent Clubs deliberately fielding a weakened team in order to unreasonably reserve players for another game or to boost the strength of another or lower team. It is NOT intended that Clubs MUST field higher team players in lower teams when the higher team has no engagement. If, in the opinion of the Management Committee, the substance or spirit of the Rule is obviously being disregarded, the Club or Clubs concerned may be called to account for its/their actions and shall be subject to such decisions as the Management Committee may determine, despite the fact that Rule 8 has not been infringed.)

In the event of a Club playing in any match with less than nine players they may be fined £10.00 for each missing player. A minimum of eight 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, 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, the Competition Referees Appointments 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 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 7 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 and/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 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.

(H) 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.

REPORTING RESULTS

11. (A) The Administration Secretary must receive within 3 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 £20.00 and the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide.

(B) The home Club shall telephone the result, **including the surnames of all goal scorers**, to their divisional representative by one hour of the completion of the match.

(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 that submits an incomplete form or incorrect information.

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
- (iii) 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) The last teams in the lowest Divisions shall retire, but be eligible for re-election except as below, and be subject to the conditions of paragraph (B)(1) above.

(iv) Not applicable in this League.

(v) Not applicable in this League.

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

(D) Not applicable in this League.

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.

(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, who must wear a high visibility Jacket. Failure to comply will result in a fine of £15.00 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.

(E) Match Officials fees are the same as the fee paid by the Lancashire Football Association to Referees officiating in the Lancashire Sunday Trophy. Fees are inclusive of expenses. The Management committee shall determine the fee paid to Assistant Referees. The Management committee subject to any Limits laid down by the sanctioning Association will appoint the Referees and Assistant Referees.

The Home Club shall pay the Officials their fees and expenses before or immediately after the match. In the event of a game having two Assistant Referees each club shall be responsible for paying one Assistant Referee. In the case of there being only one Assistant Referee the away team is responsible for paying the Assistant Referees fee.

(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. 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 £10.00 and/or dealt with, as the Management Committee shall determine. Any Club awarding a mark of less than 40 must send a letter of Explanation for the low mark to the League Secretary within 5 days of the match.

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) Not applicable in this League.

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

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 by 31st March each Season or be liable to a fine not exceeding £20.00

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 30 April.

(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 £50.00 per team and shall also be liable for its share of any call, which may be made under Rule 5(B).

(C) Not applicable in this League.

(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.

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 four days (excluding Sundays) of the match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A Member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.
- (C) Any dispute occurring between Clubs in the Competition shall be referred for determination by the Management Committee whose decision shall be binding upon all parties subject to Rule 16.
- (D) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum of £10.00. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making 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 receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.
- (i) All parties must have received 7 days' notice of the Hearing should they be instructed to attend.
- (ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then they should forward a deposit of £10.00 and indicate such when forwarding the written response.

BOARD OF APPEAL

16. 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 Lancashire Football Association, including a fee of £35.00, 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) Any Club or Team failing to complete any 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.

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 1st June. If the Cup or Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair.”

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

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 £20.00.

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

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

ALTERATION TO RULES

20. Alterations, **for which consent has been given by the sanctioning Association**, shall be made to these Rules only at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 19. Any 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 31 March in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by the end of May and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 2 June. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if two thirds (2/3) 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 14 days prior to the date of the meeting.

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 Rule 16. Each Member Club must abide by any issued Football Association Code of Conduct.

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 £100.00 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 30 April.
- (D) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be audited annually by some suitable person(s) who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

By Order of the Management Committee

BARRY HAUGHEY
League Secretary

CHILD PROTECTION

- 1 Any act, statement, conduct or other matter which harms a child or children, or poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children, shall constitute behaviour which is improper and brings the game into disrepute.
- 2 In these Regulations the expression "Offence" shall mean any one or more of the offences contained in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and any other criminal offence which reasonably causes The Football 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 Football 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 Football Association reasonably to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children then The Football Association shall have the power to order that the individual be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
4. In reaching its determination as to whether an order under Regulation 3 should be made The Football 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 Football 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 Football 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 Football Association shall bring and conclude any proceedings under the Rules of The Football 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 Football Association and The Football 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 Football 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.

CUP COMPETITIONS

(A) These Competitions shall be called “The Challenge Cup”, “The Presidents Cup”, “The Youth Cup” and “The Youth Trophy” and all cup competitions shall be governed by the rules of the league.

(B) With the exception of clubs in the Premier Division, all other clubs in the adult section of the league will be eligible for entry into the preliminary round draw of The Challenge Cup. Only clubs eliminated from either the preliminary round or first round of the Challenge Cup will be eligible for entry into the Presidents Cup Competition.

Premier Division clubs will join the Challenge Cup Competition at the second round stage and therefore will not be eligible to enter the Presidents Cup Competition.

Reserve teams will not be eligible for the preliminary or first round of the Challenge Cup Competition but will be eligible for entry into the Presidents Cup Competition.

Teams in the Youth Division will be eligible to play in the Youth Cup Competition and the Youth Trophy Competition.

(C) Cups will be competed for annually and held for one year by the winners and shall never become the permanent property of any club.

(D) Any club holding one of the League cups, which leaves the League must return the cup to the Management Committee immediately.

(E) The Management Committee of the Lancashire Evening Post Sunday Football League shall have the entire control and management of all cup competitions.

(F) No club or team shall scratch from any cup competition without the consent of the Management Committee. Any club or team refusing or failing by their own default to play the tie on the date fixed, shall be struck out of the competition and may be further dealt with.

(G) The Management Committee shall arrange the dates of all cup ties and games must be played on the set dates unless;

- (i) A club or team is competing in the Lancashire Football Association Sunday Trophy Competition.
- (ii) In the event of two clubs or teams using the same ground, the club drawn first in the competition shall have priority use of the ground. The second club or team will play their game on the following Sunday or on a date set by the Management Committee.

These shall be the only circumstances under which any alternative date may be arranged. No request for a postponement of a cup fixture (i.e. "taking a life") will be granted in relation to any cup competition.

(H) With the exception of the semi-final and final ties, all games must be played on the ground of the club drawn first in the tie, provided the ground is available.

(I) Any club or team receiving a bye shall not be entitled to a bye in the next round.

(J) No player shall play for more than one team in any cup competition during the course of a season. All questions of eligibility, qualification of players or interpretation of the rules shall be referred to the Management Committee.

(K) If two teams who have similar colours are drawn together, the home team must play in their alternative colours.

(L) The duration of each tie shall be 90 minutes. If the scores are level after 90 minutes, 15 each way extra time will be played. Any tie still level after extra time shall be decided by the taking of penalty kicks in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Any cup tie not completed may be ordered to stand as a completed game or replayed as the Management Committee decide. The Management Committee shall decide the arrangements for extra time and penalty kicks in the cup finals.

(M) A team sheet must be sent to the League by each club after every cup tie. A representative of the home side must telephone the result and the names of scorers from both teams to the person designated by the Management Committee within one hour of the final whistle.

(N) The semi-final and final ties must be played on the grounds and dates set by the Management Committee.

(O) If the Management Committee is of the opinion that any team has deliberately effected the result of a game in the preliminary or first rounds of the Challenge Cup Competition by playing an under strength team or by any other means in order to gain entry into the Presidents Cup Competition, The Management Committee shall have the power to bar that team from all cup competitions for the remainder of the season. The team concerned may also be dealt with by the Management Committee.

(P) Any team wishing to lodge a protest about any cup tie shall give written notice to the League Secretary within five days of the match and shall forward a deposit of £10.00, which may be forfeited if the protest is dismissed.

(Q) The Management Committee shall take the whole of the receipts for semi-final and final ties. Winners and losing finalists shall be awarded medals or souvenirs providing the finances of the league permit.

(R) Fees for cup competitions are included in league fees.

(S) The League may request the use of any club's ground for any match that they desire to arrange.

(T) Anything not provided for in these rules shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.

(U) Any club wishing to appeal against any decision of the Management Committee should do so as per League Rule 15.

FIRST AID KIT, INSURANCE, SPORTSMANSHIP TROPHY

(A) All teams shall provide a first aid kit containing the items listed on the appropriate page of the league handbook. The first aid kit must be made available for inspection by a league official, if requested. Any club failing to provide a fully stocked first aid kit will be dealt with by the Management Committee.

(B) Each team must have a qualified first aider.

(C) ALL clubs and teams shall provide adequate insurance cover for their players via the scheme approved by the League unless there are exceptional and extenuating circumstances and premiums **MUST** be paid in full on or before the August League Meeting. Clubs who do not comply will be liable to have their fixtures cancelled and will have to pay an administration charge.

(D) Each team shall award their opponents a sportsmanship mark 1-5 (where 1 is the lowest and 5 the highest) on the official team sheet. The team with the highest average sportsmanship mark at the end of the season will be awarded the Sportsmanship Trophy.