

SUSSEX SUNDAY

FOOTBALL LEAGUE

RULES

2025 - 2026

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

STANDARD CODE OF RULES

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

The Standard Code is mandatory for all Competitions at Regional NLS Feeder League level and below, and Tier 7 and below of The FA Women's Pyramid.

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

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

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

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

Competitions may add to the core of the Standard Code, which is mandatory, providing the additions are approved by the Sanctioning Authority and do not conflict with the mandatory rules or any relevant principles and policies established by The FA.

1. DEFINITIONS

(A) In these Rules:

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

"AGM" shall mean the annual general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

"Club" means a club for the time being in membership of the Competition.

"Club Portal" means the system used by Clubs to affiliate teams as determined by The FA from time to time.

"Competition" means the SUSSEX SUNDAY FOOTBALL League.

"Competition Match" means any match played or to be played under the jurisdiction of the Competition.

"Contract Player" means any Player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play under a written contract of employment with a Club.

"Deposit" means a sum of money deposited with the Competition as part of the requirements of membership of the Competition.

"Fees Tariff" means a list of fees approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any matters for which fees are payable under the Rules, as set out at Schedule A.

"Fines Tariff" means a list of fines approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any breach of the Rules, as set out at Schedule A.

"Ground" means the ground on which the Club's Team(s) plays its Competition Matches.

"Management Committee" means in the case of a Competition which is an unincorporated association, the management committee elected to manage the running of the Competition and where the Competition is incorporated it means the Board of Directors appointed in accordance with the articles of association of that company.

"Match Officials" means the referee, the assistant referees and any fourth official appointed to a Competition Match.

"Mini Soccer" means those participating at ages under 7s to under 10s

"Non-Contract Player" means any Player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play for a Club but has not entered into a written contract of employment.

"Officer" means an individual who is appointed or elected to a position in a Club or Competition which requires that individual to make day to day decisions.

"Participant" shall have the same meaning as set out in the rules of The FA from time to time.

"Player" means any Contract Player, Non Contract Player or other player who plays or who is eligible to play for a Club.

"Player Registration System" means The FA system to register players as determined by The FA from time to

time.

“Playing Season” means the period between the dates on which the first competitive fixture in the Competition is played each year until the date on which the last competitive fixture in the Competition is played.

“Rules” means these rules under which the Competition is administered.

“Sanctioning Authority” means the Sussex County Football Association Limited.

“Scholarship” means a Scholarship as defined in The FA rules.

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

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

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

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

“The FA” means The Football Association Limited.

“Virtual Meetings” means meetings held electronically.

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

“Youth Football” means those participating at ages under 11s to under 18s.

(B) Unless stated otherwise, terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and also the other way around.

GOVERNANCE RULES

2. COMPETITION NAME, CONSTITUTION

- (A) The Competition will be known as the SUSSEX SUNDAY FOOTBALL LEAGUE (or such other name as the Competition may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A Club which ceases to exist, or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall thereupon automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.
- (B) This Competition shall consist of not more than 200 Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority.
- (C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be the counties of SUSSEX, SURREY and KENT.
- (D) The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Management Committee in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of The FA.
- (E) All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a member of the Competition, to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee in relation to them, subject to the provisions of Rule 7.
- (F) The Rules are taken from the Standard Code of Rules (the "Standard Code") determined by The FA from time to time. In the event of any omissions from the Standard Code then the requirements of the Standard Code shall be deemed to apply to the Competition.
- (G)
 - 1. All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association.
 - 2. This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Sanctioning Authority and the constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding 15 in number.
- (H) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination
 - 1. The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (including those contained in the Equality Act 2010).
 - 2. This Competition and each Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise.
 - 3. Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.
- (I) Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including, but not limited to, England Football Accredited and RESPECT programs. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (J) All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children and Regulations for Safeguarding Adults at Risk as determined by The FA from time to time.
- (K) Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing in the Competition in any other competitions (with the exception of FA and County FA Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. A Club must immediately inform the Competition of the details of any fixture(s) in any other competition in which the Club has entered, for which written consent of the Management Committee has been obtained.
- (L) At the AGM or an SGM called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the constitution of the divisions at their discretion. When necessary this Rule shall take precedence over Rule 22.
- (M) Only one Team from a Club shall be permitted to participate in a single division unless there is no viable

alternative because of logistical issues and/or reasons linked to participation and geographical boundaries in which case the Competition will obtain the prior approval of the Sanctioning Authority. This Competition will ensure that, where permission is given, Teams from a Club operating in the same division are run as separate entities with no interchange of players other than by transfers of registration in accordance with these Rules.

- (N) Each Club is required to have a Club bank account, with a minimum of two signatories, not a personal named account. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

3. CLUB NAME

Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority. In the event that permission is granted, the Club must advise the Competition Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

4. ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

- (A) Applications by Clubs for admission to the Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same Club must be made in writing to the Secretary by 31st May and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee for each Club as set out in the Fees Tariff, which shall be returned in the event of non-election. Applications, of which due notice has been given, will be received at the AGM or an SGM if confirmed by a majority of the accredited voting members present.

When Rule 22(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 payable, in accordance with the Fees Tariff for each Club payable at a date agreed at the AGM or set by the Competition. The annual subscription of £40 paid by 31st May and £60 by the 31st July. The annual subscription for Vets and Masters Clubs of £50 paid by 31st July.
- (C) In the event of any issue concerning the membership of any Club with the Competition the Management Committee may require a Deposit (returnable on completion of fixtures and debts) to be paid (in accordance with the Fees Tariff) by or on behalf of the Club on such terms and for such period as it may in its entire discretion think fit. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the entry fee, annual subscription and deposit (if required) have been paid.
- (E) Clubs must ensure that all its teams participating in the Competition are recorded as affiliated on the Club Portal for the forthcoming Playing Season by the following date, 1st August. Clubs must advise the Competition Secretary in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, its Officers and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

5. MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

- (A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and a minimum of one member (but no more than 12 members), who shall all be elected at the AGM.
- (B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination provided that the Officer notifies the Secretary in writing not later than 1st July in each year.

All other candidates for election as Officers of the Competition or members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the secretaries of two Clubs, not later than 31st May in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being no nomination for any office by the date stated in the earlier part of this Rule, nominations may be received at the AGM.

- (C) The Management Committee shall meet a minimum of twice a season or as and when required.
On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Management Committee.
- (D) Except where otherwise mentioned, all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.
- (E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Officers and sent to the Secretary.
Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

6. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

- (A) The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all sub-committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of The FA or Affiliated Association.
- (B) Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained, the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each Season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call on each Club to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the Season.
- (C) Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee meetings and have one vote at all such meetings, but no member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly relating to that member or to the Club so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest. (This shall also apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).
- (D) In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chair shall have a second or casting vote.
- (E) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition. Any action by the Competition must be taken within 28 days of the Competition being notified.

With the exception of Rules 6(J), 8(H), and 9, for all alleged breaches of a Rule the Management Committee shall issue a formal written charge to the Club concerned. The Club charged shall be given 7 days from the date of notification of the charge to reply. In such reply a Club may:

1. Accept the charge and /or submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee; or
2. Accept the charge and notify the Competition Secretary that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or
3. Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee; or
4. Deny the charge and notify the Competition Secretary that it wishes to have a hearing before the Management Committee.

Where the Club charged fails to respond within 7 days, the Management Committee shall determine the charge in such manner and upon such evidence as it considers appropriate.

Having considered the reply of the Club (whether in writing or at a hearing), the Management Committee shall make its decision and, in the event that the charge is accepted or proven, decide on the appropriate penalty (with reference to the Fines Tariff where applicable).

Where required, hearings shall take place as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of the reply of the Club as more fully set out above.

With the exception of Teams playing at Regional NLS Feeder League of the National League System, the maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Management Committee must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offense; taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

The maximum fine permitted for a breach of a Rule by a Team playing at Regional NLS Feeder League level is £500.

No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

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

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

Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 7 days.

- (G) A minimum of 50% of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any of its sub-committees.
- (H) The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill any vacancies that may occur in their number.
- (I) A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (J) Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision. Any Club failing to do so will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.
- (K) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or Competition Match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.
- (L) The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the AGM or SGM called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Playing Season, subject to the provisions of the National League System Regulations or Women's Football Pyramid Regulations (which shall take precedence if applicable).
- (M) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail.
- (N) Each club is required to have a club email address e.g. MelchesterFC@gmail.com.

7. PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

- (A) 1. All questions of eligibility, qualification of Players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee.
2. Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee prior to the commencement of the Match.
- (B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within 14 days (excluding Sundays) of the Competition Match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of their Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

- (C) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the inquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.
- (D) All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.
1. All parties must have received a minimum of 7 days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.
 2. Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should indicate such when forwarding the written response.
- (E) The Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Management Committee shall direct.
- (F) An intention to appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority, with a copy sent to the Secretary, within 7 days of the Management Committee providing written notification of its decision.
- A notice of appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority, with a copy sent to the Secretary, within 14 days of the Management Committee providing written notification of its decision, accompanied by the relevant fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff) which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority.
- Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee.
- (G) No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.
- (H) All protests, claims or complaints relating to these Rules and appeals arising from a Player's contract shall be heard and determined by the Management Committee, or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee. The Clubs or Players protesting, appealing, claiming or complaining must send a copy of such protest, appeal, claim or complaint and deposit a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff) which shall be forfeited in the event of the protest, appeal, claim or complaint not being upheld, and in these circumstances may, in addition, be ordered to pay the costs at the direction of the Management Committee.
- All such protests, claims, complaints and appeals must be received in writing by the Secretary within 14 days of the event or decision causing any of these to be submitted.

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- (A) The AGM shall be held not later than July in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least 20 members are present and entitled to vote: -
1. Confirm the minutes of the last AGM.
 2. Adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts from the previous season or accounting period.
 3. Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
 4. Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Season.
 5. Election of Competition Officers and the Management Committee members.
 6. Appointment of auditors.

7. Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14)
 8. Agree the date for the beginning of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.
 9. Agree the date for the end of the Playing Season (save for Regional NLS feeder League which shall be determined by The FA).
 10. Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted by the Chair as being relevant to an AGM.
- (B) A copy of the duly audited balance sheet, statement of accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 14 days prior to the meeting, together with any proposed Rule changes.
 - (C) A signed copy of the duly audited balance sheet and statement of accounts shall be sent to the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of its adoption by the AGM.
 - (D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. 14 days' notice shall be given of any AGM.
 - (E) Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the Playing Season being concluded or who are not continuing membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the Season being concluded. This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 12.
 - (F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of hands, or count of email or virtual responses (for virtual meetings) unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chair so decides.
 - (G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Club.
 - (H) 1. Any continuing Club must be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
2. Any club that has submitted a valid application to join the Competition for the forthcoming season must have the opportunity to be put forward for membership and to have a vote taken on their membership application.
 - (I) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM, but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a club (See Rule 8(G)).
 - (J) Where a Competition is an incorporated entity, the Officers of the Competition shall ensure that the Articles of Association of the Competition are consistent with the requirements of these Rules.

9. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- (A) On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call an SGM.
- (B) The Management Committee may call an SGM at any time.
- (C) At least 7 days' notice shall be given of a meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.
- (D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.
- (E) Any Club failing to be represented at an SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (F) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs, but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a club (see Rule 9(D)).

10. AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

Each Club shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the Competition together with the application for membership for the coming Season.

“We, (A) (name) of (address) [] (Chair)/(Director) and (B) (name) [] of (address) [] (Secretary)/(Director) of [] Football Club (Limited) have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Sussex 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 7.”

The agreement shall be signed

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

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

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

11. CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

- (A) Any Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a Team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfillment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the Secretary in writing of such intention by 31st May each playing season. This does not apply to a Club moving in accordance with Rule 22(B). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (B) The Management Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a Team being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season, including, but not limited to, issuing a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (C) Notwithstanding the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 6(I), in the event of a Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50, the Management Committee shall be empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.
- (D) In the event of a club withdrawing from the Competition without discharge of its financial obligations, the Officers and Associates of that club shall not be allowed to participate in the Competition unless otherwise agreed by the Management Committee.

12. EXCLUSION OF CLUBS, TEAMS. MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- (A) At the AGM or SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, notice of motion having been duly circulated on the agenda by direction of the Management Committee, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to: (1) remove a member of the Management Committee from office; (2) exclude any Club or Team from membership, both of which must be supported by more than two thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A member of the Management Committee or Club which is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.
- (B) At the AGM, or at an SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, provided this is supported

by more than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

- (C) Any Officer or member of a Club found guilty of either a breach of Rule, other than field offenses, or of inducing or attempting to induce a Player or Players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of clause 12(A) and/or 12(B) of this Rule.

13. TROPHY

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

“We (A) (name) and (B) (name), the Chair and Secretary of xxxxx FC (Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of cup or trophy, and the cup or trophy 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 31ST JANUARY and ensure it has been suitably engraved.

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.”

A cup/trophy must be returned in a clean condition.

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

- (B) At the close of each Competition awards may/shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.
- (C) If a club ceases to have a team in the competition any trophies they have in their possession must be returned to the Sussex Sunday Football League office immediately.

14. ALTERATION TO RULES

- (A) Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at an SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. Any alteration made during the Playing Season to these Rules shall not take effect until the following Playing Season, except in exceptional circumstances where approved by Sanctioning Authority or The FA.
- (B) Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by 31ST March in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 15th May and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the League Secretary by 30th May. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if 20 clubs of those present, entitled to vote and voting are in favor.
- (C) A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or SGM shall be submitted to the Sanctioning Authorities or The FA (as applicable) at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

15. FINANCE

- (A) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.
- (B) All expenditure in excess of £200 shall be approved by the Management Committee.
- (C) The financial year of the Competition will end on 31ST May.
- (D) The accounting records, or a certified balance sheet, of a competition shall be prepared and shall be

audited annually by a suitably person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

16. INSURANCE

- (A) All Clubs must have valid Public Liability Insurance cover for a minimum of ten million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.
- (B) All Clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Players' personal accident insurance cover must be in place prior to the Club taking part in any Competition Match and shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time to time by the Sanctioning Authority. In instances where The FA is the Sanctioning Authority, the minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which a Club affiliates.
- (C) Failure to comply with Rule 16(A) or 16(B) will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

17. DISSOLUTION

- (A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at an SGM by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant SGM.
- (B) In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.
- (C) The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:
 - 1. Any surplus assets, save for a trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or Affiliated Association or The Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the Sanctioning Authority.
 - 2. If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the Sanctioning Authority may decide.

MATCH RELATED RULES

18. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

- (A) A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:
 - 1. Registered through the Player Registration System and received approval from the Competition.
 - 2. Any registration that is not fully and correctly completed will be returned to the Club unprocessed and the player classed as unregistered. If a Club attempts to register a player via the Player Registration System but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via the Player Registration System the registration will not be processed. For Clubs registering Players by the Player Registration System, Clubs must access the Player Registration System in order to complete the registration process. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
 - 3. Must submit a photo of passport quality, head and shoulders only.
- (B)
 - 1. Contract players are not permitted in this Competition with the exception of those Players who are registered under Contract with the same Club who have a team operating at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System, or Tiers 1-4 of the Women Pyramid System.
 - 2. It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any Player registered to the Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any Player aged 10 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

3. Each Team must have at least 9 Players registered 14 days before the start of each Playing Season. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
 4. In the event of a Non Contract Player changing their status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, or with a club in another Competition their registration as a Non Contract Player will automatically be cancelled and declared void for the remainder of the current season, unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 18(B)1. Any player who has played a match whilst under contract will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff and the matches may be awarded to the opposition.
- (C) A Player that owes a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) shall be permitted to register for a Club but will be suspended from football activities if the Player does not comply with the terms of the Football Debt Recovery Regulations in respect of that Football Debt.
- (D) A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered in advance.
- (E) 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 in the competition, the valid registration submitted first shall take precedence. The Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

- (F) It shall be a breach of Rule for a Player to: -
1. Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.
 2. Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season except for the purpose of a transfer.
 3. Submit a registration through the Player Registration System that the Player had willfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff and may be suspended for 28 days.

- (g) 1. The Management Committee shall accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rules 18 (G2) and 18 (G3) below.
2. The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player or may fine any Player, at their discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 7).
3. The Management Committee shall have power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 7) subject to the right of appeal to the Sanctioning Authority. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the Player is registered or intending to be registered with.
- Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition.
4. A Player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18(G) 3 but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the Player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition may consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

(Note: Action under Rule 18(G) 3 shall not be taken against a Player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and then only in cases of the Player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any event be subject to an appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. All decisions must include the period of restriction. For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the Competition into disrepute can only be considered where the Player has received in excess of 112

days' suspension, or 10 matches in match based discipline, in any competition (and is not restricted to the Competition) in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.)

- (H) Subject to compliance with [FA Rule C](#) when a Club wishes to register a player who is already registered with another club it shall submit a transfer notification to the Competition via the Player Registration System. A fee, in advance, as set out in the Fees Tariff will be required.

Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to the club for which the player is registered. Should this club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the player concerned within 3 days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within 3 days, the 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 1 day after receipt of such transfer. This rule shall also apply to players registered with clubs withdrawing from the Competition during the playing season.

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

- (I) A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 31st MARCH 8pm.
- (J) Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.
- (K) A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding Competition Match (as specified in Rule 22(A)) unless the Player has played 5 Competition Matches for that Team in the current Playing Season. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (L) A Team shall not include more than 3 Players who have played in 5 or more senior Competition Matches during the current Playing Season unless a period of 21 clear days has elapsed since they last played. 21 clear days is counted by excluding the day when the relevant Player last played and the day when the Player intends to play again. For the purpose of this Rule a senior competition(s) is/are a higher division. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (M) 1. Subject to Rule 18(M)2, any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a Competition Match or Matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that Competition Match deducted from its record, up to a maximum of 12 points, and have levied upon it a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).
2. The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18(M) 1 only in circumstances where the ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate or where the ineligibility is related to the Player's status.
3. Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 18(M) 1 above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion order one or more of the following (if appropriate):
- Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed;
 - Levy penalty points against the Club in default;
 - Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).
- (N) The following clause applies to Competitions involving Players in full-time secondary education: -
- Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
 - The availability of children must be cleared with the Head Teachers (except for Sunday leagues competitions).
 - To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16.
- (O) A Player who has played for a Team in the higher division 5 times or more shall not in that Playing

Season be eligible to play in a lower division except by permission of the Management Committee.

- (P) In a playing season, only 1 player per club per 28 days can transfer to the same club except by permission of the management committee. This rule shall also apply to players registered with clubs withdrawing from the League during the season.
- (Q) No registration/transfers of players or financial transactions will be effective on a Sunday or after 10.30am hours on a Saturday. For midweek games players must be registered by 6pm the previous day.
- (R) The minimum age of a player in a Vets Club is 35, in all League and Cup competitions.
- (S) Clubs must notify the Secretary in writing of all Sussex County FA findings/suspensions within 7 days from the date of the Sussex County FA notification. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff.
- (T) The minimum age of a player in a Masters Club is 45, in all League and Cup competitions.
- (U) A player can only sign for 1 Team in any competition age group i.e. Open Age, Vets(over 35's) or Masters(over 45's). If signing on in multiple age groups, this is defined as a dual or triple registration.
- (V) No player is allowed to transfer more than once in 28 days.

19. CLUB COLOURS

- (A) Every Team must register the colour and design of its shirts, shorts and socks, which must differ for home and away, with the Competition Secretary by 31st July and the Competition Secretary shall decide as to their suitability.
- (B) Any Team wishing to change the colour(s) and/or design(s) of its shirt(s) and short(s) during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the Competition Secretary in advance of making that change.
- (C) Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all other Players and the Match Officials.
- (D) Not Applicable to this Competition.
- (E) Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents of the colours in which they will play (including the colours of the goalkeeper's jersey) at least 3 days before the Competition Match.
- (F) If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the away Team shall make the change. Should a Team delay the scheduled time of kick off for a Competition Match by not having a change of colours they will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff, also see Rule 20(E)(5).
- (G) Shirts must be numbered, and no two shirts shall have the same number, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

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

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

The Management Committee shall have power to decide whether a pitch and/or facility are suitable for Competition Matches and to order the Club concerned to play its Competition Match(es) on another ground.

Artificial Football Turf Pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition provided they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA's Register of Football Turf Pitches - <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register>. All Football Turf Pitches used must be tested (by a FIFA accredited test institute) every three years and the results passed to The FA. The FA will give a

decision on the suitability for use and add the pitch to the Register.

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

Within Regional NLS Feeder Leagues, all Competition Matches shall have a duration of 90 minutes. All other Competition Matches outside of the NLS shall have duration of 90 minutes unless a shorter time (not less than sixty (60) minutes) is mutually arranged by the two Clubs in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves. Two matches involving the same two Teams can be played on the same day providing the total playing time is not more than 120 minutes.

The times of kick-off shall be agreed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs and the Competition. Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition.

Late kick-offs will incur a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff, with the exception of Remembrance Sunday (11.02). Where necessary the Competition Fixture Secretary can adjust the kick-off times with 5 days clear notice.

The home Team must provide goal nets, corner flags and at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if not provided. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

No overhead netting is allowed for 9v9 and 11v11 affiliated matches.

Regional NLS Feeder Leagues: Overhead wires used to support pitch divider netting are removed for all affiliated matches at Regional NLS Feeder League level.

For those leagues which are not Regional NLS Feeder Leagues: Overhead wires used to support pitch divider netting are ideally removed for affiliated matches but if they cannot be removed then discretion is given to the match official to restart the match in accordance of the laws of the game.

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

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

- (C) 1. An Officer of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the Ground and time of kick-off and kit colours (including goalkeeper) and their up to date squad list to the Match Officials and an Officer of the opposing Club at least 4 clear days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. The opposing Club must confirm receipt and give notice of its kit colours (including goalkeeper) and their up to date squad list at least 2 days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. Match officials must also acknowledge that notice within 2 days of the Competition Match.

If either is not provided, the relevant Club shall seek details and report the circumstances to the Competition. Any players registered between match confirmation and the fixture must be notified to the opposing team match day official. Any club failing to show a team sheet before the match will be notified to the fixture secretary who will then discuss with the management committee. Clubs will face sanctions for breaches of this rule. The management committee will have the power to award matches where a clear breach of rule 20 C(1) is proven. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (D) In accordance with the Laws of the Game, the minimum number of Players which will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is 7. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (E) 1. Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall decide whether it should be either:
- a. award the points from the Competition Match in question to the Club's opponent (without the awarding of goals)

OR

- b. order the Competition Match to be rescheduled. The Management Committee shall also have the power to order the rescheduled Competition Match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent Club's Ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

In addition, the Management Committee may at its discretion order one or more of the following (if appropriate):

- a. impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff),
 - b. deduct points from the defaulting Club,
 - c. order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents.
2. Any Club with more than one Team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence: - First Team, Reserve Team, A Team.
3. Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a Competition Match has been postponed or abandoned for any reason must, without delay, by telephone, give notice to the Fixtures Secretary, the secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials.

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

4. In the event of a Competition Match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Competition. Failing such agreement and notification to the Competition within 7 days the Competition shall have the power to order the Match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand.
5. The Management Committee shall review all Competition Matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a Competition Match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Team or its Club member(s) they shall 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 their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule that neither Team will be awarded any points for that Match and it shall not be replayed. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned Match.

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

Any team that is not ready to kick off 15 minutes after the scheduled time will be deemed as absent and fined as decreed by the Management Committee. Their match will be awarded to their opponents and the offending team where one exists shall meet all expenses, to include the referee and / or assistant referee's fees and traveling expenses and any reasonable expenses (maximum radius 25 miles of Brighton) incurred by the offending team. All claims for these should be received

by the Competition office within 7 days of the match concerned and must be paid by the offending club with 14 days of the competition's notification of the agreed expenses for subsequent reimbursement to the offended club.) A club failing to commence at the appointed time shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

6. Where a Competition Match has been abandoned for any reason both Clubs must, within 24 hours, give notice to the Competition Fixtures Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff
 7. In the event of adverse weather conditions, it may be necessary to alter Competition kick off times as decreed by the Management Committee to facilitate 2 consecutive matches, divided into 2 halves (e.g. Double-Headers). For each match 3 points will be awarded to the winning team, 1 point each in the event of a draw. All costs are to be shared equally with the referee receiving match fees shared equally between both clubs, as per the Fees Tariff.
 8. In the event of adverse weather conditions on Sunday mornings, it may be necessary to alter kick off times to 11.15.
 9. Any Club suspended by the Competition must have paid any outstanding debts 72 hours prior to their fixture. Rule 20(k) shall apply.
- (F) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use substitute Players in any Competition Match. A Club may name up to 5 substitute Players of whom not more than 5 may be used. A Player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace a Player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of the game.
- Where a Competition does allow return substitutes, a Team may use up to 5 from 5 substitutes Players in a Competition Match.
- The referee and a representative of the opposing Club shall be informed of the names of the Players taking part in the Match (including the substitutes) not later than 15 minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a Player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match.
- A Player who has been named as a substitute before the start of the Competition Match but does not actually play in that game shall not be considered to have been a Player in that Competition Match within the meaning of Rule 18 of this Competition.
- (G) The half time interval shall be of 5 minutes' duration, but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.
 - (H) The Teams taking part in a Competition Match shall identify a Team captain who shall wear an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of their teammates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
 - (I) Where a suspension imposed in relation to a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) upon a Club by The FA or Affiliated Association is not lifted, and/or the Club does not provide confirmation from The FA or Affiliated Association that such suspension is lifted to the Competition Secretary by 2 days before a fixture, that fixture will be treated as an unfulfilled fixture and dealt with in accordance with Rule 20(E).
 - (J) All Teams requesting a free Sunday must give 28 day's clear notice in writing, for the request to be considered. Each Team is entitled to one postponement per season before/including 28th February. Any additional days with 28 days' notice are by permission of the Management Committee. Any requests with extenuating circumstances under 28 days should be made at the earliest opportunity.
 - (K) The only persons who may call off matches due to pitch conditions are the appointed referee, local council or grounds person. Offences against this rule may be dealt with by the Management Committee, as an unfulfilled fixture.
 - (L) Any club under suspension by the Competition or the Sanctioning Authority will forfeit their fixtures and the match awarded to the opposition. No goals will be awarded.

- (M) For all fixtures official Competition Team Sheets must be presented to the referee and opponents in the referee's changing room at least 15 minutes before the scheduled kick-off. Players must wear the shirt numbers shown on the Team Sheets. (Note: A pack of official Team Sheets will be issued each season for each team, a fee of £10.00 per pack of 10 team sheets shall be paid by any Club requesting replacement of any lost or damaged, in the same season). Any Club failing to show an Official Team Sheet shall be reported by the opposing Club, who will inform the referee (before the commencement of the match) and the Competition (within 2 days of the match played). The Management Committee will have power, to award the match to their opponents or issue a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff where a clear breach of this Rule is proven.
- (N) All Teams within the competition must ensure that they have a First Aider present at all of their matches who has a minimum Emergency First Aid qualification and a suitable first aid kit. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine, in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (O) Any team wishing to film a match, must seek permission from the opposition before filming commences, especially if a team has players under the age of 18 years old. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (P) All grounds must have changing rooms and toilet facilities as a minimum.

21. REPORTING RESULTS

- (A) Each Team must complete an online match return within 2 days of the date played, the result of each Competition Match (including 2 x for double headers), external Competition Matches, i.e. County Football Association Cups and abandoned matches, 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 23, or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (B) The Home and Away Club shall use telephone/SMS/email/FA Full Time/FA Match day as directed by the Competition to notify the result of each Competition or external Competition Match within 2 hours of the completion of the match. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be submitted by an Officer of the Team, or as prescribed by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (D) Any Club found to have falsified a match return card, may result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

22. DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

- (A) Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn Competition Match. The Teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the end of the Playing Season shall be adjudged the winners. Competition Matches must not be played for double points.

In the event of two or more Teams being equal on points at the end of the Playing Season, rankings shall be determined by the following criteria, in the order of priority in which they appear:

(NB: for Regional NLS Feeder Leagues criteria 1 & 2 are mandatory; for all other Competitions they are optional):

1. *[Goal difference (where the goals scored against each Team shall be deducted from the goals scored by that Team and the Team with the most favourable goal difference shall be placed highest).*
2. *In the event of two or more Teams being equal, the Team which has scored the most goals during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.]*

3. In the event of two or more Teams being equal, the Team that has won the most matches during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.
 4. In the event of two or more Teams being equal, the Team which has the better playing record against the other Team in their head to head Competition Matches during the Playing Season will be placed highest.
 5. One-off fixture or play-off games as determined by the League management committee.
- (B) Not applicable to this Competition.
- (C) Not applicable to this Competition.
- (D) In the event of a Team withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the Playing Season, all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting Team shall be expunged from the Competition table. For the purposes of this Rule 22(D) a completed fixture shall include any Competition Match(es) which has been awarded by the Management Committee.
- (E) Not applicable to this competition.

23. MATCH OFFICIALS

- (A) Registered referees (and assistant referees where approved by The FA or County FA) for all Competition Matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Authority.
- (B) 1. In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed referee the appointed senior assistant referee shall take charge and a substitute assistant referee appointed by the competing Teams.
2. In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that Competition Match, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any Competition Match. Where the clubs are unable to agree on a referee the home team shall provide one.
- Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff.
- (C) Where assistant referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club assistant referee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (D) The appointed referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground in all Competition Matches and that decision shall be final, subject to the determination of the Local Authority or the owners of a Ground, which must be accepted.
- (E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Authority, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff.
- Match Officials will be paid their fees by the home Club before the Competition Match, in either cash or bank transfer. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (F) In the event of a Competition Match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to their travel expenses of 40p per mile, up to £18.00 total expenses only. Where a Competition Match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Ground, their full fee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (G) A referee not keeping their engagement and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Affiliated Association with which they are registered.
- (H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The FA, award marks to the referee for each Competition Match and the name of the referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) or dealt with as the Management Committee shall

determine.

- (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 Sanctioning Authorities.
- (J) The referee shall submit a report form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the Competition Match, the number of Players in each Team and the time of kick-off to the Fixtures Secretary within two days of the Competition Match.
- (K) Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.
- (L) Match Officials shall comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA and/or Sanctioning Authorities adopted by the Competition.

24. CUP RULES

- (A) The entire control and management of Cup Competitions shall be vested in the Management Committee, and their decisions shall be final.
- (B) The Rules of the Competition shall apply to these Cup Competitions except where they are inappropriate or are amended by these Rules.
- (C) Clubs may be allotted to The George Millyard Senior Cup, The Ron Pavey Memorial Bowl, The Vic Bettney Memorial Trophy, The SSFL Roy Terrington Trophy(Higher)* and the SSFL Dave Beattie Trophy(Lower) *, The Sussex Sunday Junior Cup, The Sussex Sunday Invitation Cups, the Divisional Cups and the Vets Trophy, as decreed by the Management Committee. No club will have more than one team entered into any cup competition, with exception of the Divisional Cups. Subject to Management Committee approval clubs are eligible to enter one team into the SSFL Trophy Higher and Lower. Entry fee payable by the 1st October. (Omission from this Trophy must be made in writing to the League Secretary). *This competition is subject to minimum entry of 32 teams.
- (D) In all cup ties except the finals, pitch fees and referees and assistant referees (when appointed), fees and expenses shall be shared by both teams. Semi-Finals will be arranged by the competition and will be played at a neutral venue.
- (E) Finals will be arranged by the Competition who will pay all ground expenses and cost of Trophies and take all receipts.
- (F) In the event of a tie being drawn at 90 minutes, the result will be decided by the taking of penalty kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the regulations governing knock out competitions – obtaining a result as set out in the FA Handbook and Laws of Association Football.
- (G) All teams involved Cup draws will be notified by email. The team drawn first in any tie to be the Home Team.
- (H) Players must be registered in accordance with Competition Rule 18(A). A player is only eligible to participate in a Semi-Final or Final if they meet the following criteria:
 - For an Open Age Semi-Final: The player must have played in at least three matches for the team prior to the Semi-Final (or any lower team of the same club within the competition)
 - For an Open Age Final: The player must have played in at least five matches for the team prior to the Final (or any lower team of the same club within the competition)
 - For Vets and Masters Semi-Final: The player must have played in at least two matches for that team prior to the Semi-Final
 - For Vets and Masters Final: The player must have played in at least three matches for that team prior to the Final

Appearances in external competitions (e.g. County Cups) do not count toward eligibility.

Exceptions to these rules may be granted only with special permission from the Management Committee.

Any club found in breach of these rules will be expelled from the competition and may be fined in accordance with the fines tariff.

- (I) All teams shall pool grounds for cup-ties and be reimbursed by the teams using them.

- (J) No player having previously represented any Club in a Cup Competition may subsequently in the same season represent another Club in the Competition.
- (K) Except in the semi-finals and finals, Assistant Referees will not normally be appointed.
- (L) Knock-out Competitions obtaining a result by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in the circumstances as stated in section (F) of this Rule a result may be obtained by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark as set out in the F.A. Handbook and the Referees chart and Players guide to the Laws of the Game.
- (M) No player having previously represented any club or team in the Divisional Cup Competition may subsequently, in the same season, represent another club or team.

25. BENEVOLENT FUND

- (A) Benefit will not be paid for the first week of injury, until the player has been incapacitated for two or more weeks. Benefit will then be paid for the first week on production of the necessary Medical Certificate which must be produced from date of incapacity to substantiate injury.
- (B) Benefit will be paid for a maximum of eight weeks. In exceptional circumstances however the committee will consider making additional payments over and above the eight weeks limit on application in writing by the Club Secretary.
- (C) The injury must have occurred whilst playing in a Competition Match or cup tie sanctioned by the Sussex Sunday Football League and the Sussex County Football Association. Claims must be submitted within 28 days of the date of injury. The benefit will be £100.00 per week to be reviewed annually.

26. SPORTSMAN AND CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREES TROPHIES

These trophies will be awarded to the teams gaining the highest mark, averaged throughout the current Playing Season based on the Referees award system 1-10. Teams offending against any Competition Rule may be disqualified at the discretion of the Management Committee.

27. APPOINTED MANAGERS

Club or team managers will only be recognised if their appointment is recorded in the Clubs minute book, and the Sussex Sunday Football League Office informed of their name, address and telephone number in writing signed by a Club Officer.

SCHEDULE A

FEES TARIFF		
RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
4 (A)	OPEN AGE CLUB ENTRY FEE	£40.00
4 (B)	OPEN AGE CLUB ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£100.00
4 (B)	VETS CLUB ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£50.00
4 (B)	MASTERS CLUB ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£50.00
4 (C)	NEW CLUB DEPOSIT	£100.00
7 (C), 7 (F), 7(H)	PROTEST/APPEAL FEES	£25.00
18 (D)	PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE (PRE-PAID)	£4.00
18 (D)	VETS PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE (PRE-PAID)	£4.00
18 (H)	TRANSFER FEE (PRE-PAID)	£15.00
20 (E) 7	DOUBLE HEADER REFEREE FEE – PREMIER/VETS PREMIER & INTERMEDIATE DIVISIONS	£70.00
20 (E) 7	DOUBLE HEADER ASSISTANT REFEREE FEE	£45.00

20 (E) 7	DOUBLE HEADER REFEREE FEE - JUNIOR DIVISIONS	£60.00
23 (E)	REFEREE FEES – PREMIER\VETS PREMIER & INTERMEDIATE DIVISIONS	£45.00
23 (E)	REFEREE FEES – JUNIOR DIVISIONS	£40.00
23 (E)	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES	£30.00
24 (C)	SUSSEX SUNDAY FOOTBAL LEAGUE TROPHY ENTRY FEE (Payable on or before 1 st October)	£20.00

FINES TARIFF		
RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
2 (I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£50.00
2 (K)	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	£50.00
2 (N)	FAILURE TO HAVE A CLUB BANK ACCOUNT	£25.00
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	£50.00
4 (C)	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£25.00
4(E)	FAILURE TO ENSURE TEAMS ARE RECORDED AS AFFILIATED IN THE CLUB PORTAL	£25.00
5(E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£25.00
6 (I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£50.00
6 (J)	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£50.00
8 (H)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£25.00
9 (E)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM	£75.00
10 (2)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES	£25.00
11(A)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE	£150.00
11 (B)	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£150.00
13 (A)	FAILURE TO RETURN TROPHY BY 31 ST JANUARY	£25.00
13 (A)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY AND/OR RETURNING THE TROPHY IN A CLEAN CONDITION AND ENGRAVED	£25.00

16 (C)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£25.00
18 (A) (2)	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER VIA THE PLAYER REGISTRATION SYSTEM	£25.00
18 (B) (3)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE SEASON COMMENCING	£25.00
18 (B) (4)	PLAYING AS A CONTRACTED PLAYER	£125.00
18 (F) (3)	REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS, OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM	£25.00
18 (G) (2)	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£25.00
18 (K) & (L)	FIELDING MORE THAN THE PERMITTED NUMBER OF PLAYERS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SENIOR COMPETITIONS MATCHES	£125.00
18 (M)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£250.00
18 (N)	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£25.00
18 (S)	FAILURE TO NOTIFY LEAGUE OF SCFA FINDINGS AND SUSPENSION	£25.00
19 (F)	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS	£25.00
19 (G)	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS	£25.00
19 (G)	FAILURE TO HAVE DIFFERENT NUMBER SHIRTS	£25.00
20 (A)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT	£25.00
20 (A)	FAILURE TO KICK-OFF AT THE CORRECT TIME	£25.00
20 (B)	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	£25.00
20 (C) (1)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£25.00
20 (C) (1)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE SQUAD LIST	£25.00
20 (D)	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS (7)	£25.00
20 (E)(1) & (3) & (5)	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	£120.00
20 (E) (6)	FAILURE TO NOTIFY POSTPONEMENT/ABANDONMENT	£25.00
20 (H)	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£25.00
20 (M)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE/INCORRECT TEAM SHEET TO REFEREE/OPPONENTS	£25.00

20 (N)	FAILURE TO HAVE A QUALIFIED FIRST AIDER PRESENT AND/OR FIRST AID KIT	£125.00
20 (O)	FAILURE TO SEEK PERMISSION FOR FILMING	£25.00
21 (A)	FAILURE TO COMPLETE \OR A LATE MATCH RETURN CARD	£25.00
21 (B)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE AND\OR A LATE RESULT	£25.00
21 (C)	INCORRECT MATCH RETURN CARD	£25.00
21 (D)	FALSIFYING A MATCH RETURN CARD	£125
23(B)	FAILING TO FULFILL A FIXTURE DUE TO NO APPOINTED REFEREE	£25.00
23 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£25.00
23 (E)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES	£25.00
23 (F)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£25.00
23 (H)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£25.00
24 (H)	ELIGIBLE PLAYERS – NUMBER OF GAMES PLAYED	£25.00

SCHEDULE B – INDEX

Rule 1 Definitions

GOVERNANCE RULES

Rule 2 Name and Constitution

Rule 3 Club Name

Rule 4 Entry Fee, Subscription, Deposit

Rule 5 Management, Nomination, Election

Rule 6 Powers of Management

Rule 7 Protests, Claims, Complains, Appeals

Rule 8 Annual General Meeting

Rule 9 Special General Meeting

Rule 10 Agreement to be Signed

Rule 11 Continuation of Membership, Withdrawal of a Club

Rule 12 Exclusion of Clubs, Teams. Misconduct of Clubs, Officers, Players, Management Committee

Rule 13 Trophy

Rule 14 Alteration to Rules

Rule 15 Finance

Rule 16 Insurance

Rule 17 Dissolution

MATCH RELATED RULES

Rule 18 Qualification of Players

Rule 19 Club Colours

Rule 20 Playing Season. Conditions of Play, Times of Kick-Off. Postponements. Substitutes

Rule 21 Reporting Results

Rule 22 Determining Championship

Rule 23 Match Officials

Rule 24 Cup Rules

Rule 25 Benevolent Fund

Rule 26 Sportsman and Club Assistant Referee's Trophies

Rule 27 Appointed Managers

SCHEDULE A

Fees Tariff

Fines Tariff