

Marcliff

Gloucestershire County Football League

Established 1968

www.countyleague.co.uk



Official Handbook

2016-17

League Officers

President & Life Member

Peter. T. McPherson

Chairman

ROBIN STEWART

Development Manager

DAVE C HERBERT

Vice-Chairman

PETER LANGLEY

Club Representatives

CHARLES BARRON (Henbury)
ANDREW MYLAND (Rockleaze Rangers)
DARETH DALY (Hardwicke)
MIKE SMITH (Stonehouse Town)

General Secretary

RON HOLPIN
27 Brockley Close, Little Stoke
Bristol. BS34 6HA
Tel: 01454-612842
Mobile: 07816-947169
Email:
sec.gloscountyleague@btinternet.com

G.F.A. Representative

RON HOLPIN

Auditor

TIM SMITH

Bankers

NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK
(Avonmouth)

Treasurer

MIKE WHEATLEY - FCMA

Co-opted Officers

Referees Appointments Officer

MARK ROGERS

Registration—Transfer Secretary & Web Site Editor

NIGEL MEANEY

Match Observer Co-ordinator

PHILIP PROSSER

Fixture Secretary

MARK SIMPSON

OFFICERS OF THE LEAGUE SINCE FORMATION

Patron

2000-01 - 2005-06	L.V. James
2006-07 - 2012-13	A.C.D. Barrett

President

1992-93 - 2000-01	L.V. James
2000-01 - 2005-06	A.C.D. Barrett
2006-07 -	P.T. McPherson

Vice Presidents

1995-96 - 2002-03	R.W. Jay
2000-01 - 2001-02	J.D. Hart
2000-01 - 2013-14	B.M. Latchem
2000-01 - 2006-07	P.T. McPherson
2003-04 - 2003-04	N.S. Hale
2006-07 - 2012-13	J.W.V. Crowther

Chairman

1968-69 - 1969-70	F. Dowling
1970-71 - 1977-78	C.M. Evans
1978-79 - June & July	R.G. Phillips
1978-79 - 1999-00	A.C.D. Barrett
2000-01 - 2005-06	P.T. McPherson
2006-07	R. Stewart

Vice-Chairman

1968-69 - 1969-70	C.M. Evans
1970-71 - 1971-72	R.G. Phillips
1972-73 - 1977-78	A.G. Neal
1978-79 - June & July	A.C.D. Barrett
1978-79 - 1979-80	P.T. McPherson
1980-81 - 1999-00	J.D. Hart
2000-01 - 2005-06	R. Stewart
2006-07	P.G. Langley

Hon Treasurer

1968-69 - 1979-80	N.E. Fox
1980-81 - 2003-04	P.T. McPherson
2004-05	M. Wheatley

Hon Secretary

1968-69 - 1988-89	L.V. James
1989	A.E. Stone
1989-90 - 2005-06	D.J. Herbert
2006-07	R.F. Holpin

Asst. Hon Secretary

2009-10 - 2012-13	S.J. Parsons
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Fixture Secretary

2006-07	M.G. Simpson
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Registration - Transfer Secretary & Website Editor

2006-07	N.J. Meaney
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Development Manager

2003-04	D.C. Herbert
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Referee Secretary

2010-11 - 2012-13	A.D. Shilston
2013-14	M. Rogers

Assessor Co-ordinator

2011-12 - 2012-13	D.K. Curtis
2013-14 - 2014-15	D. Taylor
2015-16	P.J. Prosser

USEFUL INFORMATION

Laurence C Jones
 Head of League & Club Services
 Football Participation and Development Division
 The FA Group
 Wembley Stadium
 PO Box 1966
 London
 Tel. 07739592517
 Email. Laurence.Jones@TheFA.com

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Wembley Stadium, Wembley,
 Middlesex, London. HA9 0WS
 Tel: 0844 980 8200
 Fax: 0844 980 8201
 E-mail: info@TheFA.com
 www.TheFA.com

MATCH RESULT SERVICE

Ron Holpin

01454 612842

(Saturdays and Bank Holidays)

**Must be telephoned to the number detailed above
within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the game**

(Midweek Fixtures)

**Must be telephoned
after the conclusion of the game**

Advice for Club Secretary's

Please study your League Rules. It contributes to an efficient League

Your Club must be represented at all League Meetings — make sure if you are not able to attend, your representative is able to answer any items that may arise affecting your club.

Minute Book

All Clubs are requested to keep an up to date minute book, recording all meetings and day to day business of the Club. The minutes are to be signed by the Chairman of the Club and dated when approved. The League may be calling for Club Accounts and Balance Sheets at random.

Production of Balance Sheet

(i) A duly audited Balance Sheet and where necessary any other accompanying Accounts shall be sent by the leagues, Competitions and clubs affiliated to the Association within 28 days after the Annual General Meeting at which they were approved.

(ii) Clubs classified Challenge Trophy shall send their Balance Sheets and accompanying Accounts to the Chief Executive or nominated member, or in default be fined. All other clubs shall submit their Balance Sheets to the Chief Executive of the Association.

(iii) All Leagues and Competitions shall submit their Balance Sheets to the Chief Executive of the Association.

All League Forms

Make sure you complete all League Forms and send to the appropriate officer of the league within the time specified on the form.

Management Committee Meetings

GFA Headquarters
Oakland's Park,
Gloucester Road,
Almondsbury,
Bristol.
BS32 4AG

Tuesday 19th July 2016

Tuesday 18th October 2016

Tuesday 17th January 2017

Wednesday 19th April 2017

***May 2017 (Constitution)
Date & Venue to be Arranged***

Commencing at 7-30 pm

Competition League Meetings

GFA Headquarters
Oakland's Park,
Gloucester Road,
Almondsbury,
Bristol.
BS32 4AG

Tuesday 19th July 2016

Tuesday 14th November 2016

Tuesday 14th March 2017

Commencing at 7-30 pm

Annual General Meetings

GFA Headquarters
Oakland's Park, Gloucester Road, Almondsbury, Bristol. BS32 4AG

Tuesday 6th June 2017

Commencing at 7-30 pm

**PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE COMMITTEE AFTER 9.30 PM
AND ONLY ON EXTREME EMERGENCIES ON A SUNDAY**

Respect



CONSTITUTION OF LEAGUE SEASON 2016 - 2017

AEK Boco F.C.	Henbury F.C.
Bishops Cleeve Reserves F.C.	Kingswood F.C.
Bristol Telephones F.C.	Lebeq United F.C.
Broadwell Amateurs F.C.	Little Stoke F.C.
Cheltenham Civil Service F.C.	Patchway Town F.C.
Frampton United F.C.	Rockleaze Rangers F.C.
Gala Wilton F.C.	Southmead CS Athletic F.C.
Hanham Athletic F.C.	Stonehouse Town F.C.
Hardwicke F.C.	Thornbury Town F.C.

G.F.A. CHALLENGE TROPHY DATES SEASON 2016-2017

Round 1.....	10th September 2016
Round 2.....	15th October 2016
Round 3.....	26th November 2016
Round 4.....	9th January 2017
Semi-Finals.....	25th March 2017
Final.....	27th April 2017

AEK BOCO (2003)

Website	www.aekboco.co.uk
Secretary	Ian Trotter Email: ian.trotter4@btinternet.com
Alternative Contact	David Hayes Email: gabbyhayes@blueyonder.co.uk
Chairman	Roger Hayes
Programme Editor	Dean Patton Email: dpatton@blueyonder.co.uk
Ground	True Clarity Pavilion, Greenbank Road, Hanham, Bristol. BS15 3RZ.- Tel: 0117 9477331
Directions	From Ring Road A4174 proceed into Hanham along A431 turn right into Greenbank Road. - From Hanham High Street proceed along A431 past the Blue Bowl Public House turn left into Greenbank Road.
Colours	Sky Blue Shirts / Navy Blue Shorts / Sky Blue Socks
Change Colours	Green & Black Shirts / Black Shorts / Black Socks

Bishops Cleeve Reserves (1958)

Website	www.bishopscleevefc.com
Secretary	Nigel Green Email: themitres@outlook.com
Alternative Contact	Dave Walker Email : mrdavidwalker@gmail.com
Chairman	Dave Walker
Programme Editor	John Hunt Email: cheltenhamleague@aol.com
Ground	Kayte Lane, Bishops Cleeve, Gloucester GL52 3PD Tel: 01242 676166
Directions	From junction 11(M5) - Cheltenham, turn left at round about after GCHQ into Princess Elizabeth Way, proceed for a mile until you come to a large round about, go straight over (McDonalds on your left) and carry on passing under railway bridge until you come to traffic lights. Straight over the lights into Southam Lane and take the left turn just before the hump-backed bridge. Ground is half mile on left hand side.
Colours	Green Shirts / Black Shorts / Green Socks
Change Colours	Yellow Shirts / Yellow Shorts / Yellow Socks

Bristol Telephones (1948)

Website

Secretary Steve Watkins
Email: steve.watkins56@talktalk.net

Alternative Contact Shaun Collins
Email: shaunomac@hotmail.co.uk

Chairman Shaun Collins

Programme Editor Steve Watkins
Email: steve.watkins56@talktalk.net

Ground BTRA Sports Ground, Stockwood Lane, Stockwood,
Bristol. BS14 8SJ. Tel: 01275 891776

Directions **From Bristol**:- Leave Bristol via the A37 Wells Road. At Whitchurch, turn left at the traffic lights by the Toby Carvery. Continue on this road crossing two mini roundabouts, after the second the ground can be found on the right. **From Keynsham**:- Leave Keynsham towards Bristol. At Keynsham Town FC bear left before 'Rest a While' Café into Stockwood Hill. Continue on this road past Stockwood Vale Golf Club, and across two mini roundabouts. The ground can be found on the left just after the entrance to BS14 Club.

Colours Light Blue Shirts / Blue Shorts / Blue Socks

Change Colours Yellow Shirts / Yellow Shorts / Yellow Socks

Broadwell Amateurs (1905)

Website

Secretary Les Lewis
Email: les.lewis1955@btinternet.com

Alternative Contact Patrick Sargeant
Email: patsarg@live.co.uk

Chairman Pat rick Sargeant

Programme Editor Mark Gabriel
Email: gabriel.mark@sky.com

Ground The Hawthorns, Poolway Road, Broadwell. Coleford, Glos.
GL16 7BE Tel: 01594 837097

Directions **From South**. From Severn Bridge take A48 marked Chepstow follow signs to Lydney. On entering Lydney take the first turning left after Tesco's signposted Coleford. After passing Orepool Inn on right side continue on to Coleford. At second set of lights turn right onto Gloucester Rd B4028. approx ½ mile turn right into Bakers Hill B4226. Broadwell Football Club top of hill on right. **From North**. From Gloucester take the A48 signed Chepstow. After approx 8 miles at Elton corner turn right to the Forest of Dean (Petrol station on right) A4151 head towards Littledean. Top of hill head towards Coleford B4226. Stay on road past Dilke Hospital on right Speech House on left, continue on road past Cannop cross Road up hill. At top of hill cross roads straight over Broadwell Football club on left.

Colours Claret & Light Blue Shirts / Claret Shorts / Light Blue Socks

Change Colours Yellow & Blue Shirts / Blue Shorts / Blue Socks

Cheltenham Civil Service (1948)

Website	www.ccsafc.co.uk
Secretary	Alan Wakefield Email: ccsafc@outlook.com
Alternative Contact	Kristian Churchley Email: kristianchurchley@yahoo.com
Chairman	Rob Morrison
Programme Editor	Rob Morrison Email: ccsafc@outlook.com
Ground	Cheltenham Civil Service Sports Ground, Tewksbury Road, Uckington, Cheltenham GL51 9SL. Tel: 01242 680424
Directions	Into Cheltenham: on the A4019 on the right-hand side approx 1 mile after M5 Junction 10 (Please note this junction is Southbound exit only). Out of Cheltenham: on the A4019 just past Sainsbury's on the left-hand side next door to Sports Direct Gym
Colours	Orange Shirts / Orange Shorts / Orange Socks
Change Colours	Claret & Sky Blue Shirts / Sky Blue Shorts / Sky Blue Socks

Little Stoke (1969)

Website	Www.littlestokefootballclub.co.uk
Secretary	Laura Coles Email: lauraharris240@yahoo.co.uk
Alternative Contact	Tim Hewer Email: tim.hewer@blueyonder.co.uk
Chairman	Mike Harris
Programme Editor	John Rugman Email: graphicjax@outlook.com
Ground	Little Stoke Park, Little Stoke Lane, Little Stoke, Bristol. BS34 6HR Tel: 01454 865202
Directions	From North: Leave M5 at junction 16 signposted Patchway / Bradley Stoke proceed down A38 over roundabout and continue until you come to a slip road on the left after half a mile signposted Patchway. Approach the roundabout and take the 1st exit. Continue along little Stoke Lane across 2 mini roundabouts and you will approach the ground and car park on the right. Bristol Clubs should know where the ground is situated.
Colours	Black & White Stripe Shirts / Black Shorts / Black Socks
Change Colours	Blue & White Shirts / Blue Shorts / Blue & White Socks

Frampton United (1891)

Website	Http//.www.clubwebsite.co.uk/framptonunited/Home
Secretary	Nick Peacey Email: nickpeacey@yahoo.com
Alternative Contact	Kevin Jackson Email: kevrjackson@aol.com
Chairman	Richard Bull
Programme Editor	Anne Jackson eannejackson@aol.com
Ground	The Bell Field, Bridge Road, Frampton-on-Severn, Glos. GL2 7HA Tel: 07817 486933 (m)
Directions	From M5 Junction 13, head towards Dursley. At next Round about take 1 st exit left. After ½ mile turn right, just past the garage. Proceed for approx. 2 miles. The ground is opposite the Bell Inn
Colours	Blue & White Shirts / Blue Shorts / Blue Socks
Change Colours	Red Shirts / White Shorts / Red Socks

Gala Wilton (1952)

Website	www.pitchero.com/clubs/galawiltonfc
Secretary	Terry Onions Email: onionsterry@gmail.com Email: terence.onions@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Alternative Contact	Paul Bowers Email: paul@visionprofiles.co.uk
Chairman	Terry Onions
Programme Editor	Ian Avent Email: ian@servexcon.co.uk
Ground	The Gala Club, Fairmile Gardens, Tewkesbury Road, Longford, Gloucester GL2 9EB Tel: 01452 524447
Directions	From Bristol, Leave Junction 11 of M5 and turn towards Gloucester at next roundabout turn towards Ross on Wye and at next roundabout turn left towards city centre. Then take second left, after about 350 yards, into Fairmile Gardens where Gala Wilton's ground can be found
Colours	Yellow & Black Shirts / Black Shorts / Yellow Socks
Change Colours	Pale Blue Shirts / Pale Blue Shorts / Pale Blue Socks

Hanham Athletic (1896)

Website	www.hanhamathleticfc.co.uk
Secretary	Bob Sperring Email: Bob.sperring@blueyonder.co.uk
Alternative Contact	Mark Cozens Email: Markcozens@hotmail.co.uk
Chairman	Mark Cozens
Programme Editor	Lauren Sollis Email: laurends@hotmail.co.uk
Ground	Sports Pavilion, 16, Vicarage Road, Hanham, Bristol. BS15 3AH - Tel: 0117 9678291
Directions	From Bristol: A4 Bath Road into Hanham - Memorial Rd 3rd right into Henderson Rd, up to top, bear left, Playing Fields on right. From Ring road - Hanham right at Blue Bowl Whitucks Rd - bottom Memorial Rd Henderson Rd.
Colours	Black & White Stripe Shirts / Black shorts / Black Socks
Change Colours	Yellow Shirts / Yellow Shorts / Yellow Sock

Hardwicke (1933)

Website	No Website - Facebook Page & Twitter Account @HardwickeAFC
Secretary	Michael Addle Email: michaeladdle.hafc@hotmail.com
Alternative Contact	Dareth Daly Email: dareth.daly@gmail.com
Chairman	Dareth Daly
Programme Editor	Lee Chivers Email: LeeC@clarksonevans.co.uk
Ground	Village Hall Flaying Fields Green Lane, Hardwicke, Gloucester. GL2 4QA. Tel: 01452 540998
Directions	From North Take M5 to junction 12, take 3rd exit at roundabout cross motorway bridge onto A38.continue to next roundabout take third exit marked Gloucester. Take first exit signpost Quedgeley / Hardwicke after 200 yards turn left into Green Lane. Playing Fields and changing rooms 200 yards on right. From South Take M5 to Junction 12 take first exit at top of slip road and then follow the above instructions.
Colours	Royal Blue & White Shirts / Royal Blue Shorts / White Socks
Change Colours	Red Shirts / Red Shorts / White Socks

Henbury (1962)

Website	www.henburyfc.co.uk
Secretary	Edward Wright Email: wrighte00@yahoo.co.uk
Alternative Contact	Shaun Heal Email: Sean.heal@lancerscott.co.uk
Chairman	Paul Elliott
Programme Editor	Edward Wright Email: wrighte00@yahoo.co.uk
Ground	Arnell Drive. Lorain Walk, Henbury, Bristol. BS10 7AS - Tel: 0117 9590475
Directions	Exit J17 M5 South, follow signs for Bristol West & Clifton A4018, continue on dual carriageway until 3rd roundabout, take 3rd exit Crow Lane, turn 2nd left into Ellsworth Road, take 3rd turning on right into Richeson Walk, take first turning on your left into Satchfield Crescent, take next turning on right into Loraine Walk. The car park is at the end of road.
Colours	Orange Shirts / Black Shorts / Black Socks
Change Colours	Yellow Shirts / Blue Shorts / Blue Socks

Kingswood (1894)

Website	www.clubwebsite.co.uk/kingswoodafc
Secretary	Adam Eldridge Email: kingswoodafc@gmail.com
Alternative Contact	Rob Bateman Email: rob.bateman@me.com
Chairman	Ian Evans
Programme Editor	Adam Eldridge Email: kingswoodafc@gmail.com
Ground	Kingswood Playing Field, Kingswood, W-U-E. Glos GL12 8RF - Tel: 07971 682091 (m)
Directions	Leave the M5 at junction 14, then at traffic signals proceed onto the B4509 to Wotton-Under-Edge. At crossroads turn left onto the B4058 to Wotton-Under-Edge. At roundabout take the 3rd exit onto Charfield Road - B4062 to Kingswood. At T-junction turn right onto Old Rectory Road - B4060 to Chipping Sodbury. Follow road until you see a sign on the left hand side for Kingswood Playing Field pointing right Turn right into the ground.
Colours	White & Black Shirts / Black Shorts / Black Socks
Change Colours	Amber Shirts / Amber Shorts / Amber Socks

Lebeq United (2009)

Website

Secretary Errol Thompson
Email: lorre46@yahoo.co.uk

Alternative Contact George Philipou
Email: george.philipou@yahoo.co.uk

Chairman Owen Smith

Programme Editor George Philipou
Email: george.philipou@yahoo.co.uk

Ground Gloucestershire Football Association, Oakland's Park,
Almondsbury, Bristol. BS32 4AG. Tel: 01454 615888

Directions Exit M5 at junction 16. Arriving from the south take the left exit Lane. Turn left at lights and ground is 100m on left hand side. Arriving from the east take right hand lane on slip road. Take 3rd exit at roundabout onto Gloucester Road/A38 and Ground is 100m on left hand side.

Colours Red Shirts / Red Shorts / Red Socks

Change Colours Blue Shirts / Blue Shorts / Blue Socks

Patchway Town (1958)

Website

Secretary Richard Ashley
Email: richard-ashley@hotmail.co.uk

Alternative Contact Jason Franklin
Email: Jason.franklin@hp.com

Chairman Kevin Horseman

Programme Editor Jason Franklin
Email: Jason.franklin@hp.com

Ground Scott Park, Coniston Road, Patchway, Bristol. BS34 5JR
0117 9493952 (Patchway Sports & Social Club)

Directions **From the North:** exit the A38 signposted Patchway, at mini roundabout take 2nd exit right. Proceed over rail bridge to next roundabout and take right leaving roundabout at 2nd exit marked Coniston Road. Proceed to mini round about straight over then take next exit left into Scott Park. **From the South:** Leave A38 signposted Patchway proceed over round about taking 2nd exit marked Coniston Road. Proceed to mini round about straight over then take next exit left into Scott Park.

Colours Black & White Stripe Shirts / Black Shorts / Black Socks

Change Colours Blue Shirts / White Shorts / White Socks

Rockleaze Rangers (1976)

Website	www.rockleazerangers.org.uk
Secretary	Richard Bray Email: richard.bray@fgould.com
Alternative Contact	Neil Simmons Email: neil_simmons@ymail.com
Chairman	Andrew Myland
Programme Editor	Andrew Myland Email: Andrew.myland@fgould.com
Ground	Combe Dingle Sports Complex, Coombe Dingle, Bristol.
Directions	Exit J17 M5 South, follow signs for Bristol West & Clifton A4018, continue on dual carriageway over 3 roundabouts onto Falcondale Road, once on Falcondale Road, take a right turn at second set of traffic lights onto Canford Lane. Take the 4th left onto Coombe Lane. Sports Ground is ½ on left.
Colours	Red Shirts Black Trim / Black Shorts / Red Socks
Change Colours	Sky Blue Shirts / White Shorts / Sky Blue Socks

Southmead CS Athletic (1973)

Website	
Secretary	Danny Daly Tel: Email: dannydalyscs@hotmail.com
Alternative Contact	Matthew King Email: matty.king2010@hotmail.co.uk
Chairman	Jason Cunningham
Programme Editor	Tony Paisley Email: tony197475@gmail.com
Ground	Pen Park Sports Pavilion, Jarrads Road, Southmead, Bristol. BS10 6WF. Tel: 0117 9508362
Directions	Exit M5 @ Junction 17, take the A4018, Exit left at third roundabout onto Knowle Lane, then at mini roundabout exit right onto Pen Park the ground is third turning on your left
Colours	Green & White Shirts / Green Shorts / Green Socks
Change Colours	Red Shirts / Red Shorts / Red Socks

Stonehouse Town (1898)

Website	www.stonehousetown-yfc.co.uk
Secretary	Michael Smith Email: msmith5699@aol.com
Alternative Contact	Hayden Murray Email: haydnmurray@aol.com
Chairman	Nigel Sanders
Programme Editor	Ian Neville Email: ianneville01@gmail.com
Ground	Oldends Lane, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire. GL10 2DG Rob Owen (Magpies Club) 07849 551656 (m)
Directions	Leave M5 at Junction 13 - follow the A419 to Stroud. Straight across next roundabout. At next Mini Roundabout turn left into Oldends Lane - take the second exit and then the first exit at the pair of roundabouts followed by a right turn at the next Mini Roundabout. Proceed across Level Crossing - Ground immediately on left.
Colours	Black & White Stripe Shirts / Black Shorts / Black Socks
Change Colours	Cyan Blue Shirts / Blue Shorts / Blue Socks

Thornbury Town (1897)

Website	www.thornburytownfc.co.uk
Secretary	Mike Pengelly Tel: Email: Pengelly.Mike@gmail.com
Alternative Contact	Tony Watola Email: toniwatola@blueyonder.co.uk
Chairman	Tony Watola
Programme Editor	Richard Shorey Email: shoreys@blueyonder.co.uk
Ground	Mundy Playing Fields, Kington Road, Thornbury, Bristol. BS35 1NA. Tel: 01454 413645
Directions	From the bottom of Thornbury High Street take road to left marked Castle Street, take second left into Kington Road, take first turning left after the cemetery sign marked Mundy Playing Fields.
Colours	Red Shirts / Black Shorts / Red Socks
Change Colours	Sky Blue Shirts / Sky Blue Shorts / Sky Blue Socks



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Gloucestershire County Football League**

The FA Charter Standard Leagues Programme

League Equality Policy and Complaints Procedure

The aim of this policy is to ensure that all members of the community are treated fairly and with respect and that The Gloucestershire County Football League is equally accessible to them all.

The Gloucestershire County Football League is responsible for setting standards and values to apply throughout the league at every level. Football belongs and should be enjoyed by everyone, equally. Our Commitment is to confront and eliminate discrimination whether by reason of gender, sexual orientation, marital status, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religious beliefs or disability and to encourage equal opportunities.

This policy is fully supported by the League Officers at The Gloucestershire County Football League and who is responsible for the implementation of this policy.

Equality at The Gloucestershire County Football League means in all our activities we will not discriminate, or in any way treat anyone less favourably, on grounds of gender, sexual orientation, marital status, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religious beliefs or disability. It means we will ensure that we treat people fairly and with respect and that we will provide access and opportunities for all members of the community to take part in, and enjoy, our activities. And it means we will not sanction any action, or lack of action, which might disadvantage a member compared to other people for any reason related to the list above.

The Gloucestershire County Football League will not tolerate, harassment, bullying, abuse or victimisation of an individual (which for the purposes of this policy and the actions and sanctions applicable is regarded as discrimination). This includes sexually or racial based harassment or other discriminatory behaviour, whether physical or verbal.

The Gloucestershire County Football League will work to ensure that such behaviour is met with the appropriate action in whatever context it occurs.

We are committed to the development of a programme of ongoing training and awareness raising events and activities in order to promote the eradication of discrimination within The Gloucestershire County Football League and in the wider context, within football as a whole. We are also committed to circulating this policy to all our members.

The Gloucestershire County Football League is committed to a policy of equal treatment to all members and require all members to abide and adhere to these policies and the requirement of the following (but not limited to) equalities legislation. Equality Act 2006, Race Relations Act 1976, Sex Discrimination Act 1975 and Disability Discrimination Act 1995 as well as any amendments to these acts.

The Gloucestershire County Football League commits itself to immediate investigation of any claims of discrimination on the above grounds and where such is found to be the case, a requirement that the practice stop and sanctions be imposed, as appropriate.

League Complaints Procedure

In the event that any member feels that he or she has suffered discrimination in any way or that the leagues policies, Rules Code or Conduct has been broken they should report the matter to the League Secretary or another member of the committee.

If that complaint is with regard to the League's Management Committee the member has the right to report the discrimination direct to the County Football Association or to the Football Association

RULES
NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

DEFINITIONS

1. (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.

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

“Club” means a Club for the time being in membership of the Competition and “Team” means a side from a Club especially where a Club provides more than one Team in a division in accordance with the Rules.

“Competition” means the Gloucestershire County Football League.

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

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

“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.

“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.

“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.

“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.

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

“Playing Season” means the period between the date 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 Gloucestershire County Football Association Limited.

“Scholarship” means a Scholarship as set out in Rule C 3 (a) (i) of the Rules of The FA.

“Team Sheet” means a form provided by the Competition on which the names of the Players taking part in a Competition match are listed.

“The FA” means The Football Association Limited.

“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.

(B) 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 thereto, subject to the provisions of Rule 16.

(C) The Competition will be known as “the Gloucestershire County 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.

(D) The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Competition acting (save where otherwise specifically mentioned herein) through the Management Committee in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of The FA.

2. (A) This Competition shall consist of not more than 20 Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority. *SCR*

(B) All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on the Form “D” to the Gloucestershire County Football Association and must have a constitution approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Gloucestershire County Football Association and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding 20 in number.

(C) Only one team shall be permitted from any Club to participate in the same division as another team from the same Club unless there is no viable alternative because of logistical issues and/or reasons linked to participation and geographical boundaries. The Competition will obtain the prior approval of the Sanctioning Authority in the event of a division comprising of more than one team from the same Club. 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 via transfers of registration in accordance with these Rules. *SCR*

(D) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

(i) The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination

(iv) Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation. *SCR*

(E) Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including but not limited to, Charter Standard and RESPECT programmes. *SCR*

New Member Clubs have one year to achieve the Charter Standard club award. The League has the right to refuse membership to a Club if it fails to demonstrate commitment to achieving the award.

The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be Clubs having grounds or Headquarters within the County of Gloucestershire and in those parts of the City of Bristol which were in the boundary of that City in 1908.

Clubs who are members of a Competition affiliated to the Gloucestershire Football Association Limited, but whose parent County is other than the Gloucestershire Football Association Limited, may apply for Membership providing they are affiliated to the Gloucestershire Football Association Limited at the commencement of the season prior to the date of application and meet all the requirements of the County League as specified in the rules.

The Gloucestershire County Football League will not accept applications from a Club wishing to enter a Reserve team into its competition.

Clubs with Reserve teams in the constitution of the league will not be affected unless they finished in a relegation position or are promoted to a higher level.

(F) 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. *SCR*

(G) At the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting 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 12. *SCR*

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

3. (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 and must be accompanied by the Entry Fee set out in the Fees Tariff per team which shall be returned in the event of non-election. *SCR*

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. *SCR*

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. *SCR*

(B) The Annual Subscription shall be **£120** per Club payable on or before the Annual General Meeting of the Competition, in each year.

(C) In the event of any issue concerning the membership of any Club with the Competition the Management Committee may require a Deposit to be paid by or on behalf of the Club on such terms and for such period as it may in its entire discretion think fit. *SCR*

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

(E) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by **31st July** of its Sanctioning Authority affiliation number for the forthcoming Season. 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. *(See Fines Tariff) SCR*

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

4. (A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and [4] ordinary members who shall all be elected at the Annual General Meeting. *SCR*

(B) All 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 **28th February** 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. *SCR*

(C) The Management Committee shall meet as and when required with no more than three calendar months between each meeting. *SCR*

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

(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. *SCR*

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

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. *SCR*

(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 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. *SCR*

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

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

(D) 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. *SCR*

With the exception of Rules 5(I), 6(H), 10(A), 11 and 19, for all breaches of Rule a formal written charge must be issued to the Club concerned The Club charged shall be given seven days from the date of notification of the charge to reply to the charge and given the opportunity to:-

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

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 Association.

Any fines levied shall be in accordance with the Fines Tariff. *SCR*

The maximum fine permitted for any breach of a 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. *SCR*

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

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

(F) More than fifty percent (**50%**) of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any sub-committee thereof. *SCR*

(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. *SCR*

(H) 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. (*See Fines Tariff*) *SCR*

(I) All fines and charges are payable forthwith and must be paid within **21 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 **14 days** will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid. *SCR*

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

(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. *SCR*

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

(M) A Club failing to be represented at a League Meeting shall be fined for the first offence, for the second offence and for each subsequent offence. Failing to be represented at three consecutive meetings without satisfactory reasons being given, shall be further dealt with as the Management Committee may determine. (*See Fines Tariff*).

No person will be allowed to represent more than one club at a meeting

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6. (A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than **30th June** in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least 10 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.
- (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.
- (ix) Fix the date for the commencement of the season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.
- (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting. *SCR*

(B) A copy of the duly audited/verified Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least fourteen days prior to the meeting, together with any proposed change of Rules. *SCR*

(C) A signed copy of the duly audited/verified Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to Sanctioning Authority within **14 days** of its adoption by the Annual General Meeting. *SCR*

(D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Fourteen days' notice shall be given of any Meeting. *SCR*

(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. *SCR*

(F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least **50%** of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides. *SCR*

(G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Member Club. *SCR*

(H) Any continuing Club must be represented at the Annual General Meeting. *(See Fines Tariff)*
SCR

(I) Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an Annual General Meeting. *SCR*

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

7. The Chairman and the Secretary of each Club which is an unincorporated Association and two directors of each Club which is an incorporated entity 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) (name) [.....] of (address) [.....]
(Chairman) / (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 Gloucestershire County Football League Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club 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." SCR

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

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

8. (A) (i) 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. SCR

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 **10** and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland. SCR

(ii) Each Club must have at least **11** Players registered **7** days before the start of each Playing Season. SCR

(B) A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by an Officer of the Club and either (a) submitted to the Competition [**1**] days prior to playing and whose registration has been confirmed by the Competition prior to that Player playing in a Competition Match, or (b) signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink on a match day prior to playing, countersigned by an Officer of the Club and witnessed by an Officer of the opposing Club, and submitted to the Competition within 2 days of the match. (See Fines Tariff) SCR

The Player shall not again play until the Club is in possession of the approval of the Competition. A maximum of [2] players may be registered in accordance with sub paragraph (b). SCR

(C) A team shall not include *any player*/more than **3** players who has/have taken part in **8** or more senior competition matches during the current season unless a period of **21** days has elapsed since they played. SCR

For the purpose of this Competition a senior competitions are Step 5 or 6, or above in the National League System. SCR

(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. In the event that a Player could be required to pay a proportion of a debt due under The FA Football Debt Recovery System then, whether or not the debt has been referred to the relevant County FA, the Competition must not affect the player's registration in any way or refuse to register a transfer due to that debt being outstanding. The Competition cannot refuse to register a Player for an unpaid non-footballing debt. *SCR*

(E) A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club / team for each player registered. *SCR*

(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 Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration. *SCR*

(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. *SCR*

(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. *SCR*

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

(H) (i) The Management Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any player subject to the provisions of clauses (ii) and (iii) below. *SCR*

(ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player or may fine any player, at their discretion who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 16). *SCR*

(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 proven misconduct, 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 or intending to be registered with. *SCR*

(iv) For a player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with clause (iii) 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 would be empowered to consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute. *SCR*

(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. 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 a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence). *SCR*

(I) Subject to compliance with FA Rule C2(a) when a Club wishes to register a Player who is already registered with another Club it shall submit a transfer form to the Competition accompanied by a fee as set out in the Fees Tariff. 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 three days of receipt of the notification? Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within three days, the Competition 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.

Transfer forms shall be available from the Competition Registration Secretary or the website who will charge the requesting Club for each transfer form supplied. (*See Fees Tariff*) *SCR*

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

(J) A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after **31st March** except by special permission of the Management Committee. *SCR*

(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. *SCR*

(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. *SCR*

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 unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 8(A)(i). *SCR*

(M) A player shall not be eligible to play for a team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding match (as specified in Rule 12(A)) unless the player has played **15** games for that team in this Competition in the current season. *SCR*

(N) Not applicable in this competition

(O) Any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a match or matches shall have any points gained from that match or matches deducted from its record, up to a maximum of **12** points, and have levied upon it a fine. The Management Committee may also order that such match or matches be replayed on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee which may also levy penalty points against the Club in default. (*See Fines Tariff*) *SCR*

The Management Committee may vary this decision in respect of the points gained 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. *SCR*

In exceptional circumstances 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. *SCR*

(P) (The following Clause applies to Competitions involving players in full-time secondary education):-

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

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

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

CLUB COLOURS - CLUB NAME

9. (A) Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by **30th June** who shall decide as to their suitability. *SCR*

Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all other players and the match officials. *SCR*

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

Any team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents the colours in which they will play (including the colour of the goalkeepers jersey) at least **5** days before the match. (*See Fines Tariff*) *SCR*

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the **away** team shall make the change. A club must delay the scheduled time of kick off for a completion match by not having a change of colours. Shirts must be numbered. (*See Fines tariff*) *SCR*

Details of their first choice colours (shirts shorts and socks) and such detail shall be printed in the handbook published by the League for the ensuing playing season. The colours registered by each Club shall be worn during the following season when playing at home. Shirts shall be numbered 1 - 17 such that the numbers can be clearly identified by officials and spectators and must match the numbers displayed on the Team Sheet. Striped, hooped or otherwise patterned shirts shall have numbers affixed to contrasting patches or numbers in a contrasting colour with bold outline. No changes to the first choice colours shall be permitted without the consent of the Management Committee. (*See Fines Tariff*)

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.

(i) Subject to the foregoing a Club may, if they wish, wear colours not registered with the Competition for away matches. It is the responsibility of the visiting Club, if they do not play in their registered colours, to notify the home team and check that the colours do not clash.

(ii) The players' shirts must be clearly numbered in accordance with the list handed to the referee before a match and there must be no change of numbers during the match except for changes of goalkeeper or permitted by the match referee because of blood injury. Any players playing in an un-numbered shirt, the Club shall be fined for each offence. (*See Fines Tariff*).

(B) Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority and from the Management Committee. Any Club wishing to change its colours during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the Management Committee. *SCR*

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

10. (A) The Annual General Meeting shall determine the date for the commencement of the season. *SCR*

(i) A Club due to play at home August/September & May but whose ground is not available, shall play the match on its opponents ground as its home fixture and shall pay the fees and expenses of the match officials.

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

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. *SCR*

Football Turf pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition providing they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA's Register of Football Turf pitches. For clubs playing at Step 7 and below a pitch 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. *SCR*

The home Club is also responsible for advising participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements in accordance with Rule 10(D). *SCR*

All matches 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. *SCR*

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. *SCR*

The times of kick-off shall be fixed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing clubs prior to the scheduled date of the match with written notification given to the Competition at least 7 days prior. *SCR*

Club Guide to kick-off times

August, September, October, March, April,	3-00 pm.
November, December, January, February,	2.00 pm.
Midweek Kick-off	6.15 & 6.30 pm

All clubs with floodlights may kick-off at 3.00pm on Saturdays and 7.30pm for midweek games, or at a time mutually agreed.

Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition. *(See Fines Tariff)* SCR

Clubs must use available boards to indicate time added at the end of each half as directed by the Referee.

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

(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 parent 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. SCR

All Clubs must be given **5** clear days' notice of a revised fixture date, (unless otherwise mutually agreed). SCR

(D) The Secretary of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the match officials and the Secretary of the opposing Club at least **5** clear days prior to the playing of the match. If not so provided, the away club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the competition. *(See Fines Tariff)* SCR

(E) A minimum of **7** players will constitute a team for a Competition match. *(See Fines Tariff)* SCR

(F) (i) 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 from the match in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the 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.* *(See Fines Tariff)* SCR

(ii) 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. SCR

(iii) Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a fixture has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the *(Fixtures)* Secretary, the Competition *Referees* *Appointments* Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the match officials. *(See Fines Tariff)* SCR

(iv) 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 **3** 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. *Providing gate money is taken and retained the visiting Club shall receive their actual standard class rail or bus fares or the equivalent for **18** persons, or car allowance at **36p** per mile for transporting **18** persons, or hire charge of a coach (receipt to be submitted). The residue (if any) to be equally divided between the two Clubs after deducting the cost of advertising, printing, posting, police and match officials charges. The home Club shall take the whole of the proceeds of the second match.* SCR

(v) The Management Committee shall review all matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one team or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the match to the opponent. In cases where a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule all points for the match as void. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match. SCR

(vi) 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 Association or Affiliated Association. 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 8(O) above. Where both teams were under suspension the game must be declared null and void. SCR

(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. SCR

The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than **30** minutes before the start of the match and a Player not so named may not take part in that match. SCR

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

(i) All Clubs must hand copies of the Official Forms listing all players taking part in the match including nominated substitutes, with the appropriate shirt numbers, to the Referee and a representative of their opponents in the presents of the Referee, not later than **30** minutes before the time of the kick-off. Any Club failing to comply shall be fined. (See Fines Tariff)

(ii) Any club altering its team selection or numbering after team sheets have been exchanged will be fined. A player who is named on the team sheet exchanged under rule (G) (i) may be replaced if he is injured warming up after exchange of the team sheet. Any subsequent changes must be notified to the referee and to a representative of the opponents before the kick-off. (See Fines Tariff)

(iii) Any Club submitting an incorrect team sheet shall be fined and dealt with by the Management Committee (See Fines Tariff).

(H) The half time interval shall be of **10** minutes' duration, but it shall not exceed fifteen minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee. SCR

(I) The Cubs taking part in fixture Competition Match shall identify a team captain who has a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his team mates. *scr*

(J) All Clubs and Officials shall conduct the respect handshake prior to the commencement of the match.

(K) (i) All Clubs when making a substitution shall use the boards supplied by the competition.
(See Fines tariff)

(ii) Substitutes must wear identifiable 'Bibs' as supplied by the Competition for all matches.
(See Fines tariff)

REPORTING RESULTS

11. (A) The Registration Secretary must receive within **4** 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. (See Fines Tariff) *scr*

(B) The home Club shall be responsible for notifying the Competition Secretary within **30** minutes, following the conclusion of each Saturday or Bank Holiday home Competition match the result of that match together with the attendance, the time of all goals scored and the scorer of each goal. (See Fines Tariff) *scr*

(C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of the Club. (See Fines Tariff) *scr*

(D) Evening Competition matches and GFA Cup Matches, the home club, or the Club if the match involves a team outside the Gloucestershire County Football League ,shall be responsible for notifying the Competition Secretary immediately following the conclusion of each Competition match the result of that match. The attendance, the time of all goals scored and the scorer of each goal must be given in all Competition matches. Clubs in default shall be fined.
(See Fines Tariff)

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

12. (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 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. *scr*

In circumstances where two or more teams are equal on points team rankings shall be determined by goal difference where the goals scored against by each team shall be deducted from the goals scored by that team and the largest positive difference shall be placed the highest. In the event of the goal difference being equal the highest placed team shall be the team which has scored the most goals. In the event that two or more teams have the same goal difference and have scored the same number of goals then the highest placed team shall be the team which has won the most matches. *scr*

In the event of the two teams still being equal the team which has the better playing record against the other team in their head to head Competition matches during the Season will be the highest placed team. *scr*

If the records of two or more teams are still equal and it is necessary for any reason to determine the position of each then the teams affected shall play a deciding match or matches as determined by the Management Committee. *SCR*

(B) Automatic promotion and relegation shall be applied for the first [5] and last [2] teams in each Division except as provided for hereunder, subject to the provisions of Rule 2(B). *SCR*

(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. *SCR*

(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 *SCR*

(iii) The last [2] teams in the lowest Division shall retire, but be eligible for re-election except as below, and be subject to the conditions of paragraph (B) (i) above. *SCR*

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

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

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

(D) Where a promotion and/or relegation link exists between The Gloucestershire County Football League, The Hellenic Football League and The Western Football League, Clubs, providing they meet the appropriate grading criteria, will be eligible to make application to The Hellenic Football League and The Western Football League Competition at their Annual General Meeting. Should the Champion Club not wish for promotion or, alternatively, not have the necessary grading criteria, then the second, third, fourth or fifth placed Club will be eligible under the same conditions. *SCR*

At the end of each season and depending on the geographical location of Clubs gaining promotion to or being relegated from The Hellenic Football League or The Western Football League, it may be necessary for the Competition either (a) to accept a Club from The Hellenic Football League and The Western Football League, or (b) have a Club transferred to the same Competition. *SCR*

The bottom **2** Clubs in The Gloucestershire County Football League will be relegated. Each relegated Club will be allocated either to the Premier Division of the Bristol Premier Combination, or the Premier Division 1 of the Bristol & Suburban League, or Division 1 of the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League or to the Competition recommended as most appropriate by the Joint Liaison Committee. *SCR*

If only two Clubs are eligible or wish for promotion, the bottom two Clubs in The Gloucestershire County Football League will be relegated. If only one Club is eligible or wishes promotion, only the bottom Club in The Gloucestershire County Football League will be relegated. *SCR*

If no Clubs are eligible, or wish for promotion, no Clubs will be relegated from The Gloucestershire County Football League. *SCR*

In the event of a Gloucestershire County Football League Club not being placed in the bottom two Clubs at the end of the season, wishing to resign from the Competition at the end of the season, or having been excluded under Rule 17 only one Club will be relegated at the end of the season. *SCR*

In the event of a Gloucestershire County Football League Club opting to be relegated or being relegated under Rule 12 such Club or Clubs will replace the Club or Clubs otherwise due for relegation. *SCR*

Any vacancies occurring in the Competition which are not covered by promotion and relegation link with the Feeder Leagues and outside of the Pyramid System will be decided by the Management Committee, who will make recommendations to the Annual General Meeting of the Competition.

Subject to the full provisions of this Rule having been met the recommended membership of the Competition for the forthcoming season to be submitted to the Annual General Meeting, based on the recommendations of the Management Committee at the meeting held for the purpose not earlier than the 30th April and not later than the 30th June each season.

2 Clubs will be promoted to The Gloucestershire County Football League from the Premier Division of the Bristol Premier Combination; or the Premier Division 1 of the Bristol & Suburban League; or the Division 1 of the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League providing that each Club is either the Champion Club or Runner-up and has the necessary grading criteria.

In the event of there being no eligible Club wishing promotion or not having the necessary grading criteria from any of the Competitions, this will reduce the number of Clubs to be relegated from The Gloucestershire County Football League.

REFEREES

13. (A) Registered Referees (and Assistant Referees where approved by the FA or County FA) for all matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Authority. *SCR*

(i) Match Officials appointed from the same area should travel together and the referee should be responsible for the arrangements.

(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. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that game, 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 open age competition. *SCR*

(C) Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee. *(See Fines Tariff) SCR*

(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. *scr*

(i) In the event of adverse ground conditions the Home Club shall contact the appointed Referee to attend the ground and decide as to the fitness of the ground. When the appointed Referee is unable to attend or unavailable, then the Home Club shall call a Gloucestershire County Football League Referee or Referee (Level **4 or 5** or above), not being a member of that club, to make a decision. If the match is Postponed then the Referee shall report in writing his reasons the home club shall forward that form to the Registration Secretary within **4** days. *(See Fines Tariff)*.

(ii) Where a match is postponed it shall be the duty of the Home Club to notify the Competition General Secretary, Fixture Secretary, Referees Secretary, Match Officials and the Visiting Club of the postponement. Match Officials shall only be entitled to travelling expenses actually incurred, prior to receiving the notification.

(E) Subject to any limits / provisions laid down by the sanctioning Association, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a Fixed Fee of **£110** . Match Officials can claim toll fees from the Treasurer of the league. *scr*

The Home Club shall pay the Officials their fees and / or expenses before / immediately after the match

(i) Officials must sign for the sum received on the Official Report Form.

(ii) The expenses paid to Match Officials shall be notified to the Registrations Secretary on the Referees Report Form

(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. *scr*

(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. *scr*

(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 Registration Secretary on the prescribed form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine, or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine. *(See Fines Tariff)* *scr*

(I) The Competition shall keep records of markings and on, the Form provided by the prescribed date each season, shall submit a summary to the Football Association / County Football Association Limited. *scr*

(J) Referees shall submit a report form, supplied by the Competition, giving the results of each match, the number of players in each team and the time of kick-off, to the Registration Secretary within **2** days of the match. *scr*

- (K) Referees shall be supplied each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge. *scr*
- (L) Referees and Assistant Referees shall have undertaken a Respect briefing offered by the FA / County FA of the league. *scr*
- (M) All Match Officials must report to the ground at least **60** minutes before the official time of kick-off. *scr*

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

- 14.** (A) 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. (*See Fines Tariff*) *scr*
- (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. (*See Fines Tariff*) *scr*
- (C) In the event of a Member Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of **£50**, the Management Committee are empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions. *scr*
- (D) A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its teams from the Competition after the *Annual General Meeting*. Any Club infringing this Rule shall be fined £100.

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. *scr*
- (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. *scr*
- (iii) 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 with the Secretary within 5 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. *scr*
- (ii) Any dispute occurring between Clubs in the Competition shall be dealt with by the Management Committee whose decision shall be binding upon all parties subject to rule 16.
- (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 enquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties. *scr*

(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. *SCR*

(i) All parties must have received 7 days' notice of the Hearing should they be instructed to attend. *SCR*

(ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then the Club should indicate such when forwarding the written response. *SCR*

PROTESTS, APPEALS

16. (A) 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 which shall be forfeited in the event of the protest, appeal, claim or complaint not being upheld, and the party not succeeding may, in addition, be ordered to pay the costs at the direction of the Management Committee. *SCR*

(B) All such protests claims complaints and appeals must be received in writing by the Secretary within fourteen days of the event or decision causing any of these to be submitted. *SCR*

(C) The Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Management Committee shall direct. *SCR*

(D) Any appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority within fourteen (14) days of the posting of the written notification of the decision causing the appeal, accompanied by a fee which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. A copy of the appeal must also be sent to the Secretary. *SCR*

(E) If so requested the Management Committee may arbitrate on any disputes, protests, appeals, claims or complaints between two Clubs in which event both Clubs shall send a non-returnable fee. Such arbitration shall be final and binding upon the parties to the arbitration. *SCR*

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 by direction of the Management Committee, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude any Club or Team from 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. A Club which is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting. *SCR*

(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 (2/3) 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. *SCR*

(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 Clause (A) of this Rule. *scr*

TROPHY:-

LEGAL OWNERS, CONDITIONS OF TAKING OVER, AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED, AWARDS.

18. (A) The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the Cup or Trophy:-
"We (A) (name)and (B) (name)..... the Chairman and Secretary ofFC (Limited), 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 **31st March**. If the Cup or Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair." (See *Fines Tariff*) *scr*

(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. *scr*

(C) If a Competition be discontinued for any cause, the Cup or trophy shall be returned to the Donor, if the conditions attached to it so provide, or otherwise dealt with as the Association may decide. A Competition Cup or Trophy shall be vested in the Association sanctioning the Competition as trustees. (i) At the close of the Competition awards shall be made to the winners and runners-up. The winning Club and the runners-up may be allowed to purchase through the Secretary, additional awards in respect of players who have played 50% or more of the Club's games in the Competition. The Competition shall be responsible for engraving all its Trophies

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

19. Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting. *scr*

The Management Committee may call a Special General Meeting at any time. At least seven days' notice shall be given of either meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting. Each Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only, as will members of the Management Committee. . *scr*

Any continuing Member Club must be represented at a Special General Meeting. (See *Fines tariff*) *scr*

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

ALTERATION TO RULES

20. Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, 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 these Rules shall not take effect until the following Season. *scr*

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by 1st March in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 15th March and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 31st March. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if [] [a majority] of those present, entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA (as applicable) 21 days prior to the date of the meeting.

FINANCE

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

(B) All expenditure in excess of **£250.00** shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee. *scr*

(C) The financial year of the Competition will end on **31st March** each year. *scr*

(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. *scr*

(E) Each year all Clubs are instructed to send a copy of their latest Accounts & Balance Sheet as submitted to the most recent Annual General Meeting to the league Treasurer.

INSURANCE

22. All Clubs must have public liability insurance cover of at least 10 million pounds (£10,000,000). *scr*

All Clubs shall be members of a Players' personal accident scheme. The policy cover shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time to time by the sanctioning Association. In instances where The Football Association is the sanctioning Association, the minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which a Club affiliates. *scr*

DISSOLUTION

23. (A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a Special General Meeting by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant Special General Meeting. *scr*

(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. *scr*

(C) The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:

(i) 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 Association.

(ii) 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. *SCR*

HOSPITALITY

24. (A) The home Club must offer Visiting Players and Match Officials a hot or cold drink at half-time. The home Club must also supply hot and cold drinks to spectators during the match. For non compliance of this rule Clubs will be fined. *(See Fines Tariff)*.

(B) Home Clubs are expected to provide after match hospitality to visiting Clubs and Match Officials. If a club fails to accept the hospitality from another club having not informed that club prior to the match, they will be liable for £20 costs.

SPONSORSHIP

25. (A) The Management Committee have full authority at their discretion to negotiate an agreement on behalf of the Competition Clubs shall comply with the provisions of any Sponsorship or promotional agreement made by the Management Committee by including full or half page advertisements of any League Sponsor in their match programme and display any advertising board provided by the sponsor on their ground.

(B) Any sponsorship deals that include Match Footballs, all Clubs shall use the balls provided; - at all League and League Cup matches throughout the current season. For non compliance of this rule the Club will be fined. *(See Fines Tariff)*.

CHILD PROTECTION

26. 1. Any act, statement, conduct or other matter which harms a child or children, or poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children, shall constitute behaviour which is improper and brings the game into disrepute.

2. In these Regulations the expression "Offence" shall mean any one or more of the offences contained in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and any other criminal offence which reasonably causes The Association to believe that the person accused of the offence poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children.

3. Upon receipt by The Association of:

3.1 notification that an individual has been charged with an Offence; or

3.2 notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the Police, Social Services or any other authority relating to an Offence

3.3 any other information which causes The Association reasonably to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children then The Association shall have the power to order that the individual be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.

4. In reaching its determination as to whether an order under Regulation 3 should be made The Association shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:

4.1 whether a child is or children are or may be at risk of harm;

4.2 whether the matters are of a serious nature;

4.3 whether an order is necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by The Association or any other authority or body to proceed unimpeded.

5. The period of an order referred to in 3 above shall not be capable of lasting beyond the date upon which any charge under the Rules of The Association or any Offence is decided or brought to an end.

6. Where an order is imposed on an individual under regulation 3 above, The Association shall bring and conclude any proceedings under the Rules of The Association against the person relating to the matters as soon as reasonably practicable.

7. Where a person is convicted, or is made the subject of a caution in respect of an Offence, that shall constitute a breach of the Rules of The Association and The Association shall have the power to order the suspension of the person from all or any specific football activity for such a period (including indefinitely) and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.

8. For the purposes of these Regulations, The Association shall act through its Council or any committee or sub-committee thereof, including the Board.

9. Notification in writing of an order referred to above shall be given to the person concerned and/or any club with which he is associated as soon as reasonably practicable.

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

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY FOOTBALL LEAGUE STANDING ORDERS

(Rules of debate at all meetings of the Gloucestershire County Football League)

1. All speakers shall address the chairman and not any other person present and must speak on a subject relevant to the issue being discussed. The chairman shall decide the question of relevance.

2. A motion or amendment, once seconded, shall not be altered or withdrawn without the consent of those present. If an amendment is carried it becomes the substantive motion and the mover of such amendment shall have the right to reply in the event of a further proposed amendment.

3. No person shall be permitted to move or second more than one amendment to any motion.

4. At the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting only people who are standing on their feet will be permitted to address the meeting.

5. Officers of the Management Committee may not represent any club, or vote against any motions submitted by the Management Committee at an AGM or SGM of the League, but may abstain from voting.

APPENDIX

OFFICERS

(A) The Officers of the Competition shall be determined by the Annual General Meeting and elected thereat. (N.B. Auditors/Verifiers are not Officers).

(B) The Officers of the Gloucestershire County Football League (hereafter referred to as "the Competition") shall be:- Patron, President, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, General Secretary, Assistant General Secretary, Fixture Secretary, Referees Secretary, Registration Secretary, Development Manager. Officer of the league to be representative on GFA Council. These positions shall be subject to election by ballot at Annual General Meeting.

(C) The Officers shall be entitled to attend all General Meetings and Management Committee Meetings and be entitled to vote. A person who has served as a County League Officer for at least 21 years (either continuous or in aggregate) shall become a Life Member of the County League and shall receive a memento to mark the occasion.



**This League operates
ZERO TOLERANCE
towards the use of
"Inappropriate Language"**

FACT
On average, 7,000 referees
quit football every year
because of the abuse they
receive from player's and
from the sidelines

**So for the enjoyment of everyone, please,
DO NOT use INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE
On the pitch, or the sidelines, including the Technical Area,
OR YOU COULD BE SEEING RED**

MATCH OFFICIALS FIXED FEE £110	
REFEREE	ASSISTANT REFEREE
£46	£32

<u>FEES TARIFF</u>		
<i>RULE</i>	<i>SUBJECT MATTER</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>
2 (A)	Annual Subscription	£120
2 (B)	Membership Deposit	£100
8 (E)	Registration Forms	£2.50
8 (I)	Transfer Fee	£20
10 (J) (ii)	Ground Inspection Fee	£50 for first inspection £30 any further inspections
10 (K)	Failure to carry out inspection procedure before season starts	£50
15 (C)	Protest by Club	£25
16	Appeal to board	£25
16	Appeal to FA	£50

Les James League Cup Competition

3.2	League Cup Entrance Fee	£30
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National League System

8.2	Appeal to the FA	£50
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<u>FINES TARIFF</u>		
<i>RULE</i>	<i>SUBJECT MATTER</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>
2 (A)	Failure to pay Annual Subscriptions on specified date	£20
3 (E)	Failure to provide affiliation Number	£10
5 (H)	Failure to comply with an instruction from the management committee	£30
5 (I)	Fines not paid within 21 days	Up to £50
5 (M)	Failure to attend League Meetings	£30 first offence £50 second offence £70 subsequent offence
6 (H)	Failure to attend A.G.M.	£50
7	Failure to submit the required written agreement or notify changes to Signatories	£10
8 (A) (iii)	Failure to register 11 players 7 days before season starts.	£20
8 (B)	Failure to correctly Register a player	£20
8 (O)	Playing an ineligible player	£50
9 (A)	Failure to play in registered colours at home	£20
9 (A)	Failure to change strip in the event of a clash	£20
9 (A)	Shirt (s) not numbered or incorrect shirt numbers	£20
10 (B)	Failure to kick-off game on time	£10 for each 10 minutes or part thereof
10 (B)	Failure to provide 2 Fit Match Balls	£10
10 (D)	Failure to contact Oppositions or Match Officials 5 clear days before match	£20
10 (E)	Failure to start with 11 players	£10 Each player short
10 (F) (i)	A Club failing to fulfil its arranged match engagements home or away	£100
10 (F) (ii)	A Club failing to fulfil its fixture in the competition in order: First Team, Reserve Team, 'A' Team	£10
10 (F) (iii)	Failure to notify postponed matches	£10

FINES TARIFF		
RULE	SUBJECT MATTER	AMOUNT
10 (G) (i)	Failure by clubs to hand the Referee official team Sheet 30 minutes before kick-off	£10
10 (G) (i) 2nd Part	Failure to notify Referee of changes to team sheet	£25
10 (G) (ii)	Submitting an incorrect team sheet	£25
10 (K) (i)	Failure to use Substitute Boards	£15
10 (K) (ii)	Failure to wear identifiable 'Bibs'	£25
11 (A)	Late Match Result Form	£25
11 (B)	Failure to telephone result	£20
11 (C)	Incomplete or incorrect Match Result Form	£50
11(D)	Failure to telephone result	£20
12 (C)	Club withdrawing during season	£50
13 (C)	Clubs failure to supply Assistant Referee	£20
13 (D) (i)	Failure to contact correct match official in the case of postponements	£25
13 (E)	Paying Match Officials	£10
13 (H)	Failure to mark Referee	£30
13 (I)	Failure to follow procedure to Postpone Fixtures	£30
14 (A)	Failure to notify Secretary after 31st December and by 31st March of withdraw at end of season	£50
14 (B) (i)	Club withdrawing after A.G.M.	£100
14 (B) (ii)	Any Club infringing the above Rule	£100

FINES TARIFF		
<i>RULE</i>	<i>SUBJECT MATTER</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>
18 (A)	Failure to submit the required written agreement or notify changes to Signatories	£10
19	Failing to attend a Special League Meeting	£30
24 (A)	Hospitality Food & Drinks	£10
25 (B)	Sponsorship Footballs Etc.	£20
Additional Requirements 5.1	Failure to produce a Match-day Programme	£40
Additional Requirements 5.1.1	Failure to place Match-day Programmes with Visitors and Match Officials	£20
Additional Requirements 5.1.2	Failure to send Match-day Programme To Secretary within 3 days	£20
Additional Requirements 5.2	Failure to provide information for Match- day programme	£20
<i>LES JAMES LEAGUE CUP COMPETITION</i>	<i>SUBJECT MATTER</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>
3.1	Failing to enter Competition	£10
4.5	Qualification of Players	£50
13.	Clubs Failing To Play	£50
14.1	Failure to reimburse Home Club	£20

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY FOOTBALL LEAGUE LES JAMES LEAGUE CUP RULES

TITLE

1. The Competition shall be called 'Les James League Cup Competition'.

The perpetual trophy shall be competed for annually on a knock-out basis by Clubs who are members of the Gloucestershire County Football League.

CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT

2. Shall be vested in the Management Committee of the Gloucestershire County Football League.

ENTRANCE FEES AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

3. All Clubs must enter the Competition by the 31st July of each year or be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

3.1 An entrance fee per team shall be to be paid at the time of entry, (*See Fees Tariff*).

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

4. Contract and Non-Contract players as defined in the Gloucestershire County Football League Competition shall be eligible.

4.1 Players at the time of representing a Club must be registered with the league at least 7 days prior to the date fixed for playing the match and may not in the same season play for more than one competing team

4.2 To be eligible to play in the semi-final or final tie, a player must be registered with his Club at least 28 days prior to the *original* date fixed for playing the semi-final tie, except in special circumstances and sanction is obtained from the Management Committee in writing.

4.3 For the Final tie Clubs will submit to the Competition Secretary a list of players not exceeding 17 at least 7 days before the date of the match.

4.4 A player must not have played more than 10 games in a more senior Competition (Step 6 or above) in the National League System during the current season. No player will be allowed to play in a semi-final or final match unless he has played in 3 or more League or League Cup games for his club, in the Gloucestershire County Football League prior to the *original* date fixed for the semi-final.

4.5 Any Club proved guilty of playing an ineligible player or players shall be fined for each ineligible player or players and the competing Club shall be disqualified from the Competition. (*See Fines Tariff*).

DURATION OF MATCHES

5. The duration of matches shall be 90 minutes [45 minutes each way]. If at the end of 90 minutes the scores are level the tie shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark as laid down by FIFA. Should the game be abandoned during the penalty kick competition, the result at the end of 90 minutes shall stand and a replay ordered accordingly.

PROVISIONS OF TIES PRIOR TO THE FINAL TIE

6. The Club drawn first shall be deemed the Home Team. In the event that the home Clubs facilities are unavailable then the game will be played on their opponents ground or on a ground decided by the Management Committee

6.1 All matches must be played on the date set by the Fixture Secretary. In the event that the home Clubs facilities are unavailable then the game will be played on their opponents ground. or on a ground decided by the Management Committee.

PROVISION OF THE FINAL TIE

7. The League Management Committee shall take full charge of the arrangements for the Final Tie, which may include playing the match under floodlights. The fees and expenses paid to match officials will be the responsibility of the league.

KICK-OFF TIMES / TEAM SHEETS

8. Kick-off times shall be agreed by the Management Committee.

8.1 Late kick-offs as per League Rule **10 (B)**

8.2 Team sheets as per League Rule **10 (G)**

SUBSTITUTES

9. As per League Rule (G)

APPOINTMENT OF REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES

10. As per League Rule 13 (A)

RESULTS

11. To the Registration Secretary as per League Rule **11 (A)**

DATES FOR THE SEASON

12. At the discretion of the Management Committee.

CLUBS FAILING TO PLAY

13. A team failing to play on the appointed day shall be fined and may be disqualified from the Competition. (*See Fines Tariff*).

MATCH EXPENSES

14.1 In all pre Final Ties both clubs will share Referee and Assistant Referee fees and expenses. It will be the responsibility of the HOME club to make the payment and to obtain reimbursement from their opponents. All reimbursements must be made within 7 days or the offending club will be fined. (*See Fines Tariff*).

14.2 In all ties Clubs shall meet their own travelling expenses.

14.3 In all ties prior to the Final Tie the Home Club shall retain the proceeds of any gate.

14.4 The League shall retain all net receipts of all matches played under the direct control of the Management Committee of the Gloucestershire County Football League.

MEMENTOES

15. The Competition will meet the cost of the mementoes and will be awarded as follows.

15.1 A total of 16 mementoes will be given to each competing team.

15.2 Mementoes instead of match fees will be presented to the Match Officials in the Final Tie.

OTHER RULES

16. The Rules of the Gloucestershire County Football League shall apply to all matters not specifically provided for in these Rules.

REGULATIONS OF THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

MINIMUM GROUND GRADING CRITERIA FOR ENTRY TO THE LEAGUE

Step 7 – Membership Requirements

1. GROUND

1.1 Security of Tenure

Where a club does not own the freehold of their ground then evidence of adequate security of tenure must be provided.

1.2 Ground Share

Ground sharing would be at the discretion of each league within the National League System, taking into account local circumstances. Where ground sharing is permitted the club must have sole control over and use of facilities on match days.

Ground sharing must not be allowed in order for a club to gain promotion to this league.

1.3 Shared Facilities

New Clubs applying to the join the league and share their ground with a Cricket Club must be able to negotiate a written agreement between the Football Club and the Cricket Club. This must be signed by both parties stating that the Football Club will be able to fulfil HOME evening fixtures during the months of August September and May.

Capacity

There is no stated ground capacity at this level.

1.4 Boundary of Ground

There is no requirement for a ground to be enclosed in any way at this level

1.5 Club House

There should be a clubhouse facility either on or adjacent to the ground, which should be open on match days to provide refreshments to spectators.

Where there is a clubhouse facility, a telephone must be provided.

1.6 Car Parking

There should be adequate car parking facilities on or adjacent to the ground.

1.7 Pitch Perimeter Barrier

There must be a permanent fixed barrier of sound construction on all four sides, height of the barrier to be 1.1 metres.

The barrier, if other than solid wall type of construction may be in-filled. Advertising boards may be acceptable as a means of infill.

There must be a minimum of 1.83 metres, ideally 2 metres between the touchline, goal line and the pitch perimeter barrier.

1.8 Pitch Standards

The playing surface will be grass, unless otherwise authorised by the respective league Management Committee, and must be of a high standard. It must be level and free from surface depressions and excessive undulations.

The maximum slope allowable shall not exceed an even gradient of vertical to horizontal 1 : 41 in any direction.

The playing surface must be maintained to the highest possible standards.

1.9 Playing Area

The playing area is to be in accordance with the requirements of the Laws of the Game. The playing area must measure between **100—110 metres (110—120 yards)** by **64—75 metres (70—80 yards)**. The size of the pitch must be checked prior to the commencement of the season.

Goal posts and goal net supports should be of professional manufacture and conform to the current safety requirements and to the requirements of the Laws of the Game.

Reference should be made to the Goalpost Safety Information published by The Football Association and in particular, it should be noted that the use of metal cup hooks is prohibited.

Distance

Clubs applying to join the League: - The distance of the playing area must not exceed 65 meters' from the Changing Rooms

1.10 Technical Area

Covered Trainer's Boxes must be provided for both teams on match days to accommodate at least **6 persons**. They must be clearly marked '**HOME**' and '**AWAY**' set at least **3 metres** apart and should be situated equidistant from the half-way line.

There is a requirement for a Technical Area to be marked out as defined within the laws of the game. The Technical Area extends 1 metre on either side of the designated seated area and extends forward up to a distance of 1 metre from the touch line.

1.11 Secure Walkway

A secure walkway is not a requirement.— but if a Club has a safe walkway installed it must be used and stewarded on match-days.

1.12 Adjoining Pitches

Where deemed that they are likely to interfere with the playing of a match, ball games will not be played on adjoining pitches whilst league or cup matches are in progress. An adjoining pitch is deemed to be where there is no natural barrier between pitches. There has to be a distance of 64 metres from either the touch-line or goal-line of the playing area.

1.13 Floodlighting

Floodlighting is not compulsory at this level

However, where it is provided it must be to an average lux reading of 120. No single reading can be less than one quarter of the highest reading so as to ensure an even spread of light.

Reading shall be on a grid of 88 markings (8 across, 11 down) evenly spaced with the outside readings falling on the pitch boundary line. The average of all the readings is taken to be the average illumination level in lux of the floodlighting installation.

The lux values must be tested every two years in accordance with current guidelines by an approved independent contractor.

When new or improved installations are being planned, an average lux. reading of 180 should be provided.

1.14 Public Address System

A public address system, whilst being desirable, is not compulsory at this level.

1.15 Entrances

There is no requirement for fixed entry points at this level.

However where a turnstile is installed, it must be fully operational and of the controlled revolving type.

1.17 Exits

Where fixed exit points are provided, there must be sufficient to ensure the safe evacuation of the ground if necessary.

All exits must be clearly sign posted.

1.18 Emergency Access

Access for emergency services must be provided

2. SPECTATOR FACILITIES

2.1 Seated Accommodation

Seated accommodation is not a requirement

2.2 Covered Standing Accommodation

Covered accommodation is not compulsory.

Where constructed of timber/steel/brick/concrete or any combination of these materials should be provided for a minimum of 50 spectators.

Hard standing is not compulsory.

however, where it is provided it must be a minimum width of 0.9 metres, measured from the spectator side of the pitch perimeter barrier.

2.3 Toilets

The following minimum toilet facilities must be provided:

- 2 Ladies WC's
- 1 Gents WC
- 2 Urinals or equivalent

In addition, there must be at least one hand basin in each Ladies and Gents toilet area, and warm air hand driers and/or paper towels together with a supply of toilet paper must be provided.

All toilet areas to be maintained to a high level of cleanliness.

2.4 Refreshment Facilities

Refreshment facilities for spectators shall be made available on match days and may be of a temporary or mobile type.

2.5 Disabled Facilities

A club must take full account of the needs of disabled spectators and be mindful of its obligations under the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Reference may be made to the publications / data sheets issued by both The Football Association and the Football Foundation.

No specific requirement is currently included in the Ground Grading Criteria but The Football Association strongly recommends that access is provided to both a covered viewing area and toilet and refreshment facilities.

3. DRESSING ROOM FACILITIES

All dressing rooms must be secure, heated, well ventilated and free from damp

3.1 Players

Separate dressing rooms must be provided for both teams. Existing dressing rooms dimensions will be in order, provided that they are of a minimum of 12 square metres. However, clubs wishing to progress should be aware of the need to increase to a minimum of 18 square metres. Where clubs are planning to build new changing rooms, these must be planned to be a minimum size of 18 square metres, excluding shower and toilet areas.

Each dressing room must have the following:

A shower area comprising of at least 4 showerheads

At least 1 WC and 1 wash hand basin.

Hot and cold running water

Shared showers are not acceptable

Ideally, there shall be a treatment table in each dressing room unless there is a separate medical room.

3.2 Match Officials

Separate dressing rooms must be provided for match officials, the minimum size of which shall be 4 square metres - excluding shower and toilet areas.

Each match officials dressing room must have the following:

At least 1 shower (*with hot & cold running water*)

At least 1 WC and 1 wash hand basin

Adequate toilet facilities which do not necessarily need to be situated in the dressing room, but must not be accessible to the general public

Provision should be made for separate changing accommodation for both male and female match officials.

When new changing rooms are being planned or existing changing rooms refurbished an area of 6 square metres and facilities for mixed gender match officials should be provided

There must be an audible warning device located in the match official's dressing room, which is linked to the player's dressing rooms.

All dressing room areas to be maintained to a high level of cleanliness and secure on match days.

4. MEDICAL

There must be a suitable qualified person (minimum F.A. Save a Life) in attendance to assist with spectator problems unless the St John Ambulance Brigade, Red Cross Society or a comparable voluntary agency are in attendance. The person may be a club physiotherapist

All clubs must provide first aid equipment at their ground including a stretcher, the location of which shall be clearly marked by notices placed in each team dressing rooms and the match official's room.

5. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

5.1 The home club is responsible for publishing a full match programme acceptable to the Management Committee for each of its competition matches played. Exemptions will be allowed for re-arranged evening fixtures during April & May. An A4 printed double-sided sheet will not be considered sufficient to comply with this rule. Failure to comply will result in a fine. *(See Fines Tariff)*.

5.1.1 The home club must place a minimum of **3** programmes both with the match officials and the visiting team. *(See Fines Tariff)*.

5.1.2 After each home game a MATCHDAY PROGRAMME must be sent to the General Secretary within **3** days of the game. *(See Fines Tariff)*.

5.2 The visiting club must send in writing to the home club details of the proposed team they plan to field together with their club history and up to date pen pictures of their current players registered with the Competition at least 5 days before the scheduled date of the match between the two clubs. Failure to do so will result in a fine. *(See Fines Tariff)*.

5.3 Clubs will be responsible for all comments in their match day programme in respect of the Competition, or other member clubs, notwithstanding any disclaimers to the contrary. No part of a clubs programme issued for a match in any competition shall, in the opinion of the Management Committee bring the Competition into disrepute.

5.4 A telephone must be easily available for emergency use.

5.5 Access to the ground in an emergency must be provided.

5.6 Adequate Public Liability Insurance must be provided.

OFFICIAL WEBSITE
www.countyleague.co.uk

GROUND GRADING CRITERIA

APPENDIX

1 Clubs applying to gain entry into the Gloucestershire County Football League must do so by 31st December in any year.

The ground and facilities of prospective new Member Clubs must conform to all requirements specified in the Competition Regulations. Any Club failing to meet these requirements by the *31st March* will not be considered for membership in the coming season.

2 Clubs who have been advised in writing of the work required to meet the conditions and who fail to complete such work within the time specified by the Management Committee, will not be considered for membership of the Competition for the coming season.

3 A fee will be charged to any new prospective member clubs for inspection of the ground and facilities of that club (*See Fees Tariff*).

4 All Clubs must meet the minimum standards of ground facilities as specified in the regulations of the Competition, unless written dispensation is given to the contrary. Any Club unable to comply with any parts of these regulations must give the reasons in writing to the Competition Secretary.

5 All Member Clubs shall at least 7 days prior to their first home match each season, send to the Competition Secretary a declaration in writing that their facilities are unchanged. Any Club whose ground, including facilities fails to comply with the regulations, will be barred from playing on that ground until all defects have been rectified and shall pay a fee along with the committee members travelling expenses for each inspection (*See Fees Tariff*).

ADJOINING PITCHES

Where deemed that they are likely to interfere with the playing of a match, ball games will not be played on adjoining pitches whilst league or cup matches are in progress. An adjoining pitch is deemed to be where there is no natural barrier between pitches. There has to be a distance of 64 metres from either the touch-line or goal-line of the playing area.

"Where it is reported that other sports events were taking place within the limits as laid down in Competition Rules, at the same time as a Competition Fixture, the Home Club will be liable to a Fine £100.

DISPUTES RELATING TO THE APPLICATION OF ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Any dispute or difference between a Club and Competition as to the application by the Competition of its eligibility criteria, shall be referred to the Appeal Board of the Football Association in accordance with the National League System. Such determination shall be final and binding. Any referral must be lodged at the Football Association within 7 days of posting of the relevant decision of the Competition and must be accompanied by a fee. (*See Fees Tariff*)

The following documents must be submitted with the application for entry into the League

- 1)** Copy of the Club Constitution.
- 2)** Copy of latest Accounts & Balance Sheet for the Club, as submitted to most recent Annual General Meeting.
- 3)** Copy of at least one statement of Club Bank Account as officially issued by your Bank.

4) Evidence that your Club has written permission to play at your ground.

5) A cheque for £50 - Inspection Fee made payable to Gloucestershire County Football League must accompany all applications failure to send fee will render application invalid.- Further Inspections will incur a £30 fee

REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM

1. DEFINITIONS

In the interpretation of these Regulations: any words and expressions, unless otherwise defined herein, shall be words and expressions as defined as follows:-

“AC” means the Alliance Committee appointed by FA Council.

“Association” means The Football Association Limited.

“Club” means a football club for the time being in a League in membership of the NLS
“Competition” in these Regulations means a League in the National League System.

“Conditional Licence” means a Licence with conditions attached to be met by a Club within a period determined by the Competition in which the Club holding the Licence is allocated by the Leagues Committee. Such period is not to exceed 1 March in the Membership Year to which the Licence relates. Save in exceptional circumstances a Conditional Licence cannot be granted to a Club for successive Membership Years in respect of the same Criterion.

“League” means any competition sanctioned by the Association and/or an Affiliated Association in membership of the NLS.

“LC” means the Leagues Committee appointed by FA Council.

“Licence” means an annual licence required to be held by a Club to be a member of a Competition that may be either an Unconditional Licence or Conditional Licence.

“NLS” means the National League System of competitions controlled by the Association where promotion and relegation links exist between participating Leagues.

“Playing Season” means the period between the date on which the first competitive fixture in the League is played each year until the date on which the last competitive fixture in the League is played. For Clubs participating in Play Off Matches this does include the period when Play Off Matches are played.

“Play Off Match(es)” means matches played between Clubs in a Play Off Position on a format to be determined by each League provided that the format is the same across each Step.

“Play Off Position” means the position of a Club at the end of each Playing Season which is provided for in Standardised Rule 13 as qualifying the Club to take part in a Play Off Match to qualify for promotion to the next Step for the next Playing Season.

“Regulations” means these regulations.

“Rules” means the FA Standardised Rules or FA Standard Code of Rules under which a League is administered.

“Step” means the level at which a Club participates in the National League System.

“Unconditional Licence” means a Licence without any conditions attached.

2. The National League System (“NLS”) shall be operated in accordance with the Regulations.

A Club shall be required to hold a Licence to be a member of a Competition at Steps 1 to 4 of the NLS.

The aims and objectives of the NLS are to provide:

2.1 Clubs with a level of competitive football appropriate to their playing ability, stadium/ground facilities and geographical location.

2.2 A framework for discussion on matters of policy and common interest to Leagues and Clubs.

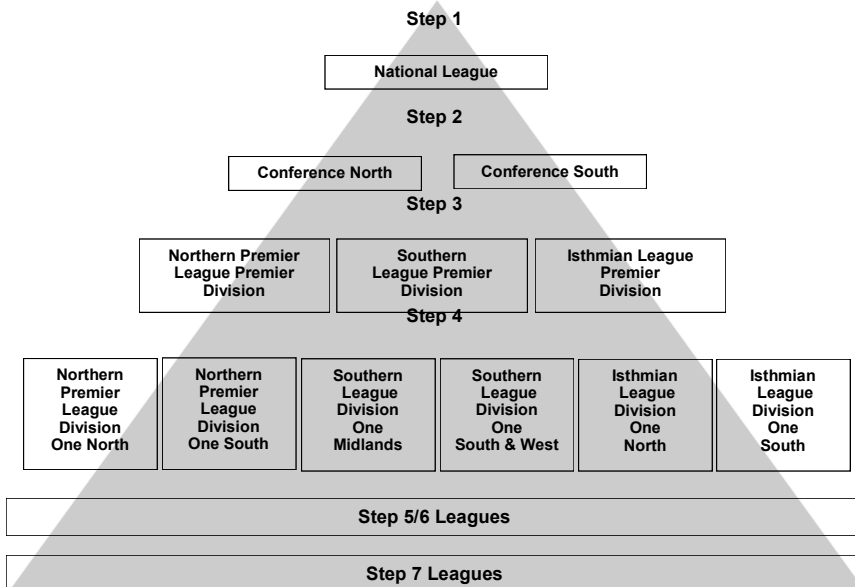
2.3 The seasonal movement of Clubs.

All Leagues are bound by the Regulations. A Club is bound by the Regulations from the date it has qualified for placement into the NLS until such time as it leaves the NLS for whatever reason.

3. Position of a League in the National League System

3.1 The current structure of the NLS is set out below:

The Leagues currently at Step 5, 6 and 7 are set out at the end of the Regulations.



3.2 Any league wishing to become part of the NLS must apply to The Association by 31st December in the relevant year in such form and/or providing such information as shall be required by the LC from time to time. The decision as to whether or not a league should be admitted to the NLS shall be made by the LC which will then decide on the Step at which the League will play.

3.3 Any League wishing to propose an adjustment to its position within the NLS must apply in writing to the LC by 31st December in any year for such proposal to be determined by the LC in order, if approved, to have effect in the following Playing Season.

4. Rules and Regulations for Promotion and Relegation

The LC shall provide for the seasonal promotion, relegation or lateral movement of Clubs. A League must be committed to promoting and relegating Clubs at the conclusion of each Playing Season.

5. Detailed Promotion and Relegation Issues

5.1 The criteria for entry to the NLS and the criteria for ground/stadium facilities and the criteria for participation in Play Off Matches shall be determined by the LC. All criteria so determined shall be published by The Association from time to time.

5.2 At the conclusion of each Playing Season, the following procedures will apply to promotion / relegation subject to the application of the Rules:

STEP 1 AND STEP 2

The following does not apply to promotion from Step 1

The Clubs finishing in the bottom four places at Step 1 at the end of the Playing Season will be relegated to a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 2 for the following Playing Season. They will be replaced by the Clubs finishing in 1st position in each of the divisions at Step 2 together with a further two Clubs determined by a series of Play Off Matches. Where a Club finishes in 1st position but does not meet the criteria for participation at the next Step, the Club finishing in 2nd position shall be promoted and the Club finishing in the next eligible position shall take part in the Play Off Matches. Where a Club finishes in a Play Off Position but does not meet the criteria for participation in Play Off Matches the Club finishing in the next eligible position shall take part in the Play Off Matches. The Play Off Matches shall be played so that in each Step 2 division the highest placed of the eligible Clubs plays against the lowest placed and the other two Clubs play each other. The aggregate winners will play each other and the winner of that match will be promoted. If there are only three eligible Clubs then the highest placed shall receive a bye to a second match where it will play the winner of the other Play Off Match and the winner of that match will be promoted. Clubs finishing below position 7 will not be considered for Play Off Matches.

STEP 2 AND STEP 3

The Clubs in the bottom three places in each of the two divisions at Step 2 at the end of the Playing Season will be relegated to a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 3 for the following Playing Season. They will be replaced by the Clubs finishing in 1st position in each of the divisions at Step 3 together with a further three Clubs determined by a series of Play Off Matches. Where a Club finishes in 1st position but does not meet the criteria for participation at the next Step, the Club finishing in 2nd position shall be promoted and the Club finishing in the next eligible position shall take part in the Play Off Matches. Where a Club finishes in a Play Off Position but does not meet the criteria for participation in Play Off Matches the Club finishing in the next eligible position shall take part in the Play Off Matches. The Play Off Matches shall be played so that the highest placed of the eligible Clubs plays against the lowest placed and the other two Clubs play each other. At Step 2 the aggregate winners will play each other and the winner of that match will be promoted and at Step 3 the winners of each first match will play each other and the winner of that match will be promoted. If there are only three eligible Clubs then the highest placed shall receive a bye to a second match where it will play the winner of the other Play Off Match and the winner of that match will be promoted.

Clubs finishing below position 7 will not be considered for Play Off Matches. The promoted Clubs will also be placed in a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 2.

STEP 3 AND STEP 4

The Clubs in the bottom four places in each of the three divisions at Step 3 at the end of the Playing Season will be relegated to a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 4 for the following Playing Season. They will be replaced by the Club finishing in 1st position in each of the divisions at Step 4 together with a further six Clubs to be determined by a series of Play Off Matches. Where a Club finishes in 1st position but does not meet the criteria for participation at the next Step, the Club finishing in 2nd position shall be promoted and the Club finishing in the next eligible position shall take part in the Play Off Matches. Where a Club finishes in a Play Off Position but does not meet the criteria for participation in Play Off Matches the Club finishing in the next eligible position shall take part in the Play Off Matches. The Play Off Matches shall be played so that the highest placed of the eligible Clubs plays against the lowest placed and the other two Clubs play each other. The winners of each match will play each other and the winner of that match will be promoted. If there are only three eligible Clubs then the highest placed shall receive a bye to a second match where it will play the winner of the other Play Off Match and the winner of that match will be promoted. Clubs finishing below position 7 will not be considered for Play Off Matches. The promoted Clubs will be placed in a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 3.

STEP 4 AND STEP 5

At the end of the Playing Season the Clubs in the bottom two places in each of the four divisions at Step 4 administered by the Northern Premier and Southern Leagues, together with the Clubs in the bottom three places in each of the two divisions administered by the Isthmian League will be relegated and placed in the most geographically appropriate League at Step 5. Irrespective of any provision contained within the Rules the Clubs finishing in bottom position in each of the six Step 4 divisions will be relegated and will not be reprieved. These Clubs will be replaced by the fourteen most suitable Clubs from the Leagues at Step 5 as determined by the LC. The suitability shall be determined as the Club finishing in 1st position in each Step 5 League which meets the entry criteria and wishes to be considered for promotion. In the event of the 1st placed Club not being eligible, the Clubs finishing in 2nd or 3rd position shall be subject to the same criteria. In usual circumstances, no more than one Club will be promoted from any one League. The Clubs to be promoted from Step 5 will be allocated to the most geographically appropriate division at Step 4.

If vacancies remain, consideration will be given to reprieving those Clubs other than bottom placed clubs relegated from Step 4 who will be ranked according to the average number of points gained per games played and the Club with the highest average shall be reprieved first. In the event of Clubs having an identical record the Club to be reprieved shall be determined by the LC.

Any Club seeking promotion from Step 5 to Step 4 must make application to the Association on the prescribed form, copied to their existing League, by 30th November in the relevant year. The application must be accompanied by the appropriate application fee, as determined by the LC, which is non refundable. Applicant Clubs must achieve a minimum E Grade by 31st March in the Playing Season when promotion is sought.

A Club seeking to be promoted to Step 4 shall also be required to apply for a Licence as set out in Appendix 1 to the Sanction and Control of Competitions Regulations.

STEP 5 TO STEP 6 AND STEP 6 TO STEP 7

The promotion and relegation of Clubs between Steps 5, 6 and 7 shall be dealt with as follows.

Movement of Clubs between Steps 5, 6 and 7, where a League operates at each Step, shall be included in their constitutional rules and regulations. Irrespective of any provision contained within the Rules, the Clubs finishing in bottom position in each of the fourteen Step 5 divisions will be relegated to Step 6 and will not be reprieved, as determined by the LC.

Clubs seeking promotion to Step 5 from a League at Step 6 which is not linked to Step 5, must make application using the prescribed form direct to the Association, copied to their existing League, by 31st December in the relevant year. Each application must be accompanied by the agreed application fee, as determined by the LC, which is non refundable.

Clubs seeking promotion to Step 6 from a League at Step 7 which is not linked to Step 6, must make application using the prescribed form direct to the Association, copied to their existing League, by 31st December in the relevant year. In order to be considered for promotion Clubs must finish in 1st position in their Step 7 league. If the Club finishing in 1st position does not wish to be promoted or fails to meet the entry criteria then the club finishing in 2nd position will be eligible for promotion. If the club in 2nd position does not seek promotion or fails to meet the entry criteria then clubs down to 5th position may be considered for promotion provided that they meet the appropriate entry criteria. Clubs finishing below 5th position will not be considered for promotion and only one club will be considered from each League. Each application must be accompanied by the agreed application fee, as determined by the LC, which is non refundable.

5.3 Where a vacancy occurs within the NLS the following procedures will apply:-

5.3.1 (a) Where a Club notifies its decision to resign from its League at the end of the Playing Season, then a vacancy is created on the date the notification of that decision is formally recorded by that League. Such resignation can only be withdrawn by the end of that Playing Season with the consent of the Board of that League.

In all cases, that Club is treated as a relegated Club. The final table of that division is not affected. In cases where the vacancy is created prior to the end of the Playing Season, the vacancy will be filled by the best ranked Club in that same division.

In cases where the vacancy is created after the end of the Playing Season but before the League's AGM, the vacancy will be filled in accordance with Regulation 5.3.2 below.

b) Where, during the course of the Playing Season, a Club notifies its decision to resign from its League with immediate effect or where a Club is removed from the League for any other reason, then the playing record of that Club will be expunged and a vacancy is created on the date the resignation or removal is formally accepted or recorded by that League.

In all such cases that Club is treated as a relegated Club and the vacancy will be filled by the best ranked Club in that same division.

5.3.2 Where a vacancy occurs at Step 1 following the completion of a Playing Season the best ranked Club in a relegation position in that division is reprieved.

Where a vacancy occurs at Steps 2 and 3 following the completion of a Playing Season the best ranked Club in a relegation position across the particular Step is reprieved. The ranking to be determined by the average points gained per game played and comparable league position. The Club with the highest average shall be reprieved first. In the event of Clubs having an identical record the Club to be reprieved shall be determined by the LC.

Where a vacancy arises and Clubs at Step 4 are to be reprieved and all Step 4 Leagues have a full complement of clubs at the end of the Playing Season, the four Clubs finishing second to bottom in the Northern Premier and Southern Leagues and the two Clubs finishing third from bottom in the Isthmian League would be ranked by the average points per game played. In the event of all of the above six Clubs being reprieved where there are further vacancies available the next two places would be allocated to the Clubs finishing second to bottom in the Isthmian League ranked on the average points per game played.

Where a vacancy arises and clubs at Step 4 are to be reprieved but for whatever reason a Step 4 division does not have its full complement of clubs at the end of the Playing Season then clubs to be reprieved will be determined by the Leagues Committee in its sole discretion.

5.3.3 Where a vacancy occurs after the date of a League AGM then a League is not able to replace the Club(s) concerned for the following Playing Season.

5.3.4 In the event that for any reason whatsoever there are more vacancies in a division before the end of a Playing Season than relegation places in that division, the question of relegation and reprieves shall be dealt with at the sole discretion of the LC.

5.4 Only internal changes to the constitution of a League are allowed following the holding of a League's Annual General Meeting.

5.5 Clubs are not allowed to enter into a ground share agreement in order to gain promotion or to retain membership at a particular Step where the Club has failed to attain or maintain the relevant Grade.

5.6 Ground grading requirements will be in accordance with the Rules

Step 1 - Clubs must comply fully with the requirements of Grade A.

Step 2 - Clubs competing at Step 2 must comply fully with the requirements of Grade B. To be considered for promotion to Step 1 or to be included in the Play Off Matches, Clubs must meet the requirements of Grade B together with any additional requirements by 31st March in the year in which they seek promotion. Clubs must also attain Grade A by 31st March in the year following promotion.

Step 3 - Clubs competing at Step 3 must comply fully with the requirements of Grade C. To be considered for promotion to Step 2 or to be included in the Play Off Matches, Clubs must meet the requirements of Grade C and attain Grade B by 31st March in the year following promotion.

Step 4 - Clubs competing at Step 4 must comply fully with the requirements of Grade D. To be considered for promotion to Step 3 or to be included in the Play Off Matches, Clubs must meet the requirements of Grade D and attain Grade C by 31st March in the year following promotion.

Step 5 - Clubs competing at Step 5 must comply fully with the requirements of Grade E. To be considered for promotion to Step 4, Clubs must meet the requirements of Grade E by 31st March in the year in which they seek promotion, and attain Grade D by 31st March in the year following promotion.

Step 6 - Clubs competing at Step 6 must comply fully with the requirements of Grade F. To be considered for promotion to Step 5 Clubs must meet the requirements of Grade F and attain Grade E by 31st March in the year following promotion.

Step 7 - Clubs competing at Step 7 must comply fully with the minimum requirements in force. To be considered for promotion to Step 6 Clubs must meet the requirements of Grade H and attain Grade G by 31st March in the year following promotion. Clubs can be promoted from Step 7 to 6 without floodlights provided that all other requirements of Grade H are met by 31st March in the Playing Season in which the Club wishes to gain promotion and that the Club has the following in place:-

- Planning permission for floodlights
- Funding applications submitted if required
- Quotations/estimates for the work to be carried out
- A development/business plan
- That by 30th September following promotion the floodlights are installed and in working order.

Failure to install floodlights in working order by 30th September following promotion will result in a sanction being imposed at the discretion of the League of which the Club is a member. If by 31st March in the year following promotion the floodlights are still not installed then the Club will be a relegated Club and be dealt with accordingly.

5.7 If a Club is relegated for not achieving the required Grade for the Step at which it is playing it will not be eligible for promotion again until it has attained the required Grade for the Step to which it wishes to be promoted. The Club must have that Grade at 31st March in the year in which it seeks promotion.

5.8(a) Where a Club resigns from a League that Club will not be eligible for promotion for at least one Playing Season following the Season in which it resigned.

(b) Where a Club qualifies for promotion and elects not to be promoted then that Club will not be eligible for promotion for at least one Playing Season following the Season in which it elected not to be promoted.

6. The Movement of Clubs within the National League System other than by Promotion or Relegation

6.1 Movement of a Club from participation in one League to another is not permitted other than by promotion and relegation or otherwise as set out in League Rules save with the approval of the LC.

It may be necessary from time to time to move Clubs laterally at the same Step. Each year the LC will consider whether any lateral movements may be necessary at each Step; if so the Clubs likely to be affected shall be notified and given the opportunity to present a case if that Club does not wish to be moved laterally. The final decision shall rest with a sub-committee of the LC. This sub-committee may include members of Step 5 or Step 6 Leagues if appropriate. Any appeal shall be to the LC using members who have not been involved in the original decision. The decision of that appeal shall be final and binding subject only to Arbitration under FA Rule K. In coming to its decision the LC will have regard to any representations made by any party, the distance to be travelled by any Club to be moved compared to the distance travelled in the Playing Season prior to movement; the financial impact on the Club to be moved, the frequency with which the Club has been moved in the past; the number of Clubs both in the division to which the Club is to be moved and in the division from which the Club is moved, and any other matter that it considers to be relevant.

6.2 Any Club proposing to move from one League to another must make application in writing to The Association on or before 31st March in each year to be effective for the following Playing Season. In the event of such application being successful the League from which the Club is moving shall not levy a financial penalty on that Club.

6.3 (i) If a Club (whether a Members' Club or a Company) is wound up, liquidated, or is removed from its League or withdraws from football competition ('the Former Club'), and a new Club ('the New Club') is established which wishes to be placed within the NLS it will be allowed to make an application only to join a League/division at Step 5 of the NLS unless the Former Club was in either Step 4 or Step 5 when the event which caused it to cease its membership occurred in which case it must re-join the NLS at a minimum of two Steps below the level at which it was at the time the event occurred, or withdrew from football competition, whichever is lower. Where the Former Club was a member of The FA Premier League or Football League then the LC shall at its absolute discretion determine in which League the New Club shall be placed for the following Playing Season and will set out at its complete discretion the requirements to be met by the New Club.

In order for consideration to be given to the placement in the NLS of the New Club in the following Playing Season, an initial application must be received by the LC by 1st March or within twenty-one days of the Former Club being wound up, liquidated, resigning or being removed from its League or withdrawing from football competition, if such date is later than 1st March.

The full application accompanied by all necessary documents including evidence of security of tenure having been granted to the New Club and affiliation to a County Football Association must be received by 31st March or within twenty-one days of the Former Club being wound up, liquidated, resigning or being removed from its League or withdrawing from football competition, if such date is later than 1st March. The application shall be copied to the League of which membership is being requested. The application will be determined by the LC.

In considering any application, the LC will set out at its sole discretion the requirements to be met by the New Club.

In the event of more than one application being received within twenty-one days of the Former Club being wound up, liquidated, resigning or being removed from its League or withdrawing from football competition, the LC will consider at its discretion which application will be considered in accordance with this Regulation.

(ii) If a Club is removed from its League and wishes to remain in the NLS it shall apply to the LC within five working days of it receiving written notification of its removal from its League. The LC will consider such application and will place the Club in what it considers at its sole discretion to be the most appropriate League/division for the following Playing Season.

6.4 If a Club (whether a Members' Club or a Company) ceases to be a member of its league and that Club (that is not a New Club as defined at 6.3 above) wishes to be placed within the NLS for the immediately following Playing Season, then unless otherwise determined by the LC, it may be allowed to make an application to join a League/division below the most recent League/division of which the Club was a member.

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In order for consideration to be given to the placement in the NLS by the Club in the immediately following Playing Season, an initial application must be received by the LC in accordance with the procedures set out at 6.3 above. The application shall be copied to the League of which membership is being requested. The application will be determined by the LC at its absolute discretion.

In considering any application, the LC will set out at its sole discretion the requirements to be met by the Club in determining whether to approve the application.

6.5 If two or more Clubs (“the Merging Clubs”) are proposing a transaction or series of transactions that result in the merging or consolidation (“the Proposed Merger”) of those Clubs into one Club (“the Merged Club”) then a formal application to do so must be received by the LC and the league(s) of which the Merging Clubs are members by 31st December to be valid for the following Playing Season.

A Deed of Agreement, which shall be legally binding on all parties must be submitted to The Association by 31st March in the year immediately following receipt of the application. The LC shall determine at its absolute discretion where the Merged Club is to be included in the NLS for the following Playing Season subject to the provisions of item 6.5.5 below.

In arriving at its decision the LC may apply the following minimum criteria:

6.5.1 The requirements of Standardised Rule 2.9 for the current Playing Season must be met by each of the Merging Clubs. If one or more of the Merging Clubs is subject to an insolvency event then Standardised Rule 2.9.2 shall be applied to such club(s), otherwise Standardised Rule 2.9.1 shall be applied;

6.5.2 The proposed playing name of the Merged Club must be acceptable to the LC; and

6.5.3 The Merged Club must have security of tenure to a ground that meets the relevant ground grading requirements;

6.5.4 Any other criteria that the LC may from time to time deem to be appropriate;

6.5.5 The Merged Club will ordinarily be placed at the lower of the Steps at which the Merging Clubs ended the Playing Season in which the application is made. For the purposes of this Regulation, if one of the Merging Clubs has finished that Playing Season in a relegation place, then they will be deemed to have ended the Playing Season at the Step to which they would have been relegated without the Proposed Merger proceeding.

Any decision regarding whether a proposed transaction or series of transactions falls to be considered under this Regulation shall be determined by the LC at its absolute discretion.

7. Placement of a Club into a League

7.1 Usually a club can only enter the NLS at Step 7. However a League may seek approval from the LC to receive a club not currently in membership of a League within the NLS provided that there is: (a) exceptional circumstances, (b) a vacancy within its constitution (c) the club meets the entry criteria and (d) promotion and relegation issues have been satisfied. Such request must be received from the league by no later than 1st February. Any decision shall only be capable of Appeal to The FA by the affected League.

7.2 Reserve teams, including a team from a club or Club which is not considered by the LC to be sufficiently separate from another club or Club, will not be permitted to compete above Step 6 in the NLS. There must be a minimum of two Steps between a first and reserve team. This does not apply at Steps 6 & 7. No two teams from the same Club can play at the same Step. Reserve teams currently at Step 5 can remain unless relegated, once relegated they will not be permitted to be promoted back to Step 5.

7.3 Teams from Higher Education or Further Education establishments are not permitted to compete above Step 5. This does not prevent any such establishment forming a Club which complies with all entry criteria and which is separate from the establishment itself.

7.4 Where a Club moves from one League to another, for whatever reason, the League from which it is being moved must provide the League to which the Club is being moved with a certificate confirming that the Club being moved does not owe any money or other property of any nature to the League from which it is being moved. The Club being moved cannot compete in its new League until such certificate has been provided and the onus will be on the Club being moved to ensure that it has cleared all indebtedness to its previous League.

8. Procedures for the Determination of any Matter, Dispute or Difference by the Leagues Committee

8.1 The LC may adopt such procedures for the determination of any matter, dispute or difference as it considers appropriate and expedient, having regard to the aims and objectives set out at Regulation 1. The LC may require the attendance at a meeting or the written observations of any League or Club, as it considers appropriate to assist its determination.

8.2 (a) Any dispute or difference between a League and a Club relating to promotion and relegation issues, lateral movement and/or other eligibility criteria must be referred for determination to the LC; such determination shall be final and binding subject only to Arbitration in accordance with Rule K.

(b) Any decision of the LC shall be subject to a right of appeal to an Appeal Board. The decision of that Appeal Board shall be final and binding on all parties.

All referrals of appeals shall be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for Football Association Appeals save for appeals in relation to Ground Grading decisions where the procedures are outlined in 8.2(c) below.

(C)Procedures for Ground Grading Appeals

(i) The ratification of the Ground Grading decision must be sent in writing within 14 days of the final decision date, currently 31st March.

(ii) Appeals in relation to Ground Grading Appeals must be submitted to The FA Judicial Services Department within seven days from the date of the written decision outlining the Grounds of Appeal, with a copy to The FA Leagues & Clubs Department.

(iii) The Ground Grading Technical Panel will appear before an Appeal Board with the Appellant to respond to the application and there is no requirement to make a formal response in writing.

(iv) In all cases the Ground Grading Technical Panel will submit any documentation including the Ground Grading report that was considered by the Ground Grading Technical Panel in relation to the Ground Grading decision, (which the appellant would already have received).

(v) Dates would be set annually in advance by the Judicial Services Department for the hearing of Ground Grading appeals and details of the dates would be notified to all Clubs in the correspondence from the Ground Grading Technical Panel notifying the decision of the Ground Grading assessment.

8.3 The LC may, at its discretion, delegate the resolution of any matter, dispute or difference arising under these Regulations to any body it considers to be appropriate (including a sub-committee or commission which may include members of council not on the LC or a body constituted by a County Football Association).

9. Arbitration

The fact of participation in the NLS and signifying agreement to be bound by the Regulations shall constitute an agreement between each League and Club to refer to Arbitration any challenge in law arising out of, or in relation to, the Regulations in accordance with the provisions of FA Rule K.

10. Precedence

In the case of conflict between the Regulations for the Operation of the National League System and the Rules, the Regulations take precedence.

National League System League/Divisions at Step 5 & 6 Season 2016 - 2017

Step 5	Step 6
Combined Counties League Premier Div	Combined Counties League Div 1
Eastern Counties League Premier Div	East Midlands Counties League
Essex Senior League	Eastern Counties League Div 1
Hellenic League Premier Div	Hellenic League Div 1 East
Midland League Premier Div	Hellenic League Div 1 West
North West Counties League Premier Div	Kent Invicta League
Northern Counties East League Premier Div	Midland League Div 1
Northern League Div 1	North West Counties League Div 1
Southern Counties East League	Northern Counties East Div 1
Spartan South Midlands League Premier Div	Northern League Div 2
Sussex County League Div 1	South West Peninsula League Premier Div
United Counties League Premier Div	Spartan South Midlands League Div 1
Wessex League Premier Div	Sussex County League Div 2
Western League Premier Div	United Counties League Div 1
	Wessex League Div 1
	West Midlands (Regional) League Premier Div
	Western League Div 1

**National League System
League / Divisions at Step 7
Season 2016 - 2017**

Step 7
Anglian Combination Premier Div
Bedfordshire County League Premier Div
Cambridgeshire County League Premier Div
Central Midlands League Div North
Central Midlands League Div South
Cheshire League Premier Div
Dorset Premier League
Essex & Suffolk Border League Premier Div
Essex Olympian League Premier Div
Gloucestershire County League Premier Div
Hampshire Premier League Senior Div
Herts Senior County League Premier Div
Humber Premier League Premier Div
Kent County League Premier Div
Leicestershire Senior League Premier Div
Liverpool County Premier League Premier Div
Manchester Football League Premier Div
Middlesex County League Premier Div
Midland League Div 2 *
Northamptonshire Combination Premier Div
Northern Football Alliance Premier Div
Nottinghamshire Senior League Senior Div

Step 7
Oxfordshire Senior League Premier Div
Peterborough & District League Premier Div
Sheffield & Hallamshire County Senior League Premier Div
Somerset County League Premier Div
South West Peninsula League Div 1 East
South West Peninsula League Div 1 West
Spartan South Midlands League Div 2 **
Staffordshire County Senior League Premier Div
Suffolk & Ipswich League Senior Div
Surrey Elite Intermediate League Intermediate Div
Teesside League Div 1
Thames Valley Premier League Premier Div
Wearside League
West Cheshire League Div 1
West Lancashire League Premier Div
West Midlands (Regional) League Div 1
West Riding County Amateur League Premier Div
West Yorkshire League Premier Div
Wiltshire Football League Premier Div
York Football League Premier Div

League Honours		
Season	Champions	Runners-up
1968-69	Stonehouse	Bristol St George
1969-70	Bristol St George	Cinderford Town
1970-71	Cadbury Heath	Sharpness
1971-72	Cadbury Heath	Cinderford Town
1972-73	Cadbury Heath	Bristol St George
1973-74	Cadbury Heath	Cinderford Town
1974-75	Matson Athletic	Cadbury Heath
1975-76	Matson Athletic	Greenway/Almondsbury
1976-77	Almondsbury Greenway	Matson Athletic
1977-78	Almondsbury Greenway	Hambrook
1978-79	Almondsbury Greenway	Hambrook
1979-80	Almondsbury Greenway	Shortwood United
1980-81	Almondsbury Greenway	Shortwood United
1981-82	Shortwood United	Almondsbury Greenway
1982-83	Old Georgians	Port of Bristol
1983-84	Sharpness	Old Georgians
1984-85	Old Georgians	Port of Bristol
1985-86	Patchway	Old Georgians
1986-87	Old Georgians	Ellwood
1987-88	Old Georgians	Lawrence Weston Hallen
1988-89	Lawrence Weston Hallen	Henbury Old Boys
1989-90	Ellwood	Old Georgians
1990-91	Tuffley Rovers	Cadbury Heath
1991-92	Patchway Town	Cadbury Heath
1992-93	Hallen	Old Georgians
1993-94	Cadbury Heath	Endsleigh
1994-95	Henbury Old Boys	Harrow Hill
1995-96	D.R.G. A.F.C.	Cadbury Heath
1996-97	Old Georgians	Bitton
1997-98	Cadbury Heath	Henbury Old Boys
1998-99	Cadbury Heath	Highridge United
1999-00	Highridge United	Cadbury Heath
2000-01	Winterbourne United	Highridge United
2001-02	Roman Glass St George	Slimbridge
2002-03	Patchway Town	Henbury Old Boys
2003-04	Almondsbury F.C.	Tytherington Rocks
2004-05	Highridge United	Longwell Green Sports
2005-06	Lydney Town	Highridge United
2006-07	Roman Glass St George	Patchway Town
2007-08	Hardwicke	Highridge United
2008-09	Slimbridge	Kings Stanley
2009-10	Thornbury Town	Highridge United
2010-11	Brimscombe & Thrupp	Axa
2011-12	Cribbs Friends Life	Henbury
2012-13	Longlevens	Tuffley Rovers
2013-14	Longlevens	Gala Wilton
2014-15	Cheltenham Civil Service	AEK Boco
2015-16	AEK Boco	Henbury

Leading Goalscorers Each Season				
Date	Games	Player	Club	Goals
1968-69	30	D.W. Loveday	Stonehouse	37
1969-70	30	D. Collins	Cinderford Town	28
1970-71	34	T. Delazzeri	Cadbury Heath	32
1971-72	34	A. Leitch	Cadbury Heath	33
1972-73	34	A. Leitch	Cadbury Heath	42
1973-74	34	A. Leitch	Cadbury Heath	32
1974-75	34	K. Blackburn	Sharpness	
		D. Foxwill	Matson Athletic	33
1975-76	34	H. Johnson	Oldland	22
1976-77	32	S. Moore	Yate Town	30
1977-78	34	S. Price	Almondsbury Greenway	34
1978-79	32	S. Price	Almondsbury Greenway	33
1979-80	34	S. Price	Almondsbury Greenway	49
				League Record
1980-81	34	D. Doughty	Frampton United	32
1981-82	32	S. Price	Almondsbury Greenway	34
1982-83	32	S. Pinker	Intermediate St. George	22
1983-84	34	N. Rock	Sharpness	31
1984-85	36	P. Williams	Harrow Hill	23
1985-86	36	P. Williams	Harrow Hill	27
1986-87	36	S. Pinker	Bristol St.George	26
1987-88	34	S. Collar	Old Georgians	26
1988-89	34	S. Price	Lawrence Weston Hallen	40
1989-90	34	P. Bartley	Henbury Old Boys	25
1990-91	34	S. Price	Hallen	32
1991-92	34	I. Day	Cadbury Heath	27
1992-93	32	S. Price	Hallen	32
1993-94	34	P. Turnbull	Endsleigh	23
1994-95	34	I. Beevor	Henbury Old Boys	23
1995-96	32	I. Day	Cadbury Heath	25
1996-97	34	K. Morse	Bitton	24
1997-98	34	N. Wilson	Cadbury Heath	25
1998-99	34	I. Day	Cadbury Heath	30
1999-00	34	S. Cameron	Winterbourne United	22
		I. Day	Cadbury Heath	22
2000-01	34	S. Cameron	Winterbourne United	30
2001-02	32	A. Sledge	Roman Glass St. George	30
2002-03	34	T. Beacham	Henbury Old Boys	27
2003-04	34	P. Westwood	Axa F.C.	28
2004-05	36	P. Jenkins	Highridge United	31
2005-06	31	M. Timmins	Lydney Town	28
2006-07	32	N. Baird	Henbury Old Boys	28
2007-08	27	S Dew	Hanham Athletic	25
2008-09	28	S Hobbs	Henbury	32
2009-10	29	S Hobbs	Highridge United	35
2010-11	32	M Beckingham	Brimscombe & Thrupp	31
2011-12	33	S Bone	Cribbs Friends Life	40
2012-13	29	S O'Connor	Longlevens	27
2013-14	34	B Martin	Longlevens	31
2014-15	28	J Sklenar	Cheltenham Civil Service	41
2015-16	30	D Golding	Bristol Telephones	37

**Tony Neather Memorial Shield
Top Marked Referee of the Season**

Season	Winner
2003-04	Mike Crooks
2004-05	Not Awarded
2005-06	Adrian Shilston
2006-07	Mark Russell
2007-08	Rob Cockle
2008-09	Tom Blanch
2009-10	Adam Ricketts
2010-11	Julian Hooper
2011-12	Steve Oakey
2012-13	Steve Fearnley
2013-14	Brian Lee
2014-15	Steve Fearnley
2015-16	Steve Irwin-Porter

**Chris Young Cup
Top Marked Assistant Referee of the Season**

Season	Winner
2011-12	Steve Cook
2012-13	Nigel Newport-Black
2013-14	Adam Wilson
2014-15	Matthew Dickinson
2015-16	Shaun Enever

Les James League Cup Competition (2002)		
Season	Winners	Runners-up
2002-03	Henbury Old Boys	Roman Glass St George
2003-04	Patchway Town	Tytherington Rocks
2004-05	Patchway Town	Ellwood
2005-06	Highridge United	Lydney Town
2006-07	Patchway Town	Yate Town Reserves
2007-08	Hardwicke	Ellwood
2008-09	Kings Stanley	Henbury
2009-10	Taverners	Kings Stanley
2010-11	Henbury	Thornbury Town
2011-12	Cribbs Friends Life	Longlevens
2012 13	Kings Stanley	Taverners
2013-14	Longlevens	Rockleaze Rangers
2014-15	Thornbury Town	Cheltenham Civil Service
2015-16	Hardwicke	Rockleaze Rangers

Dave Herbert Sportsmanship Cup	
Season	Winners
2006-07	Hardwicke
2007-08	Wotton Rovers
2008-09	Berkeley Town
2009-10	Thornbury Town
2010-11	Brimscombe & Thrupp
2011-12	Taverners
2012-13	Rockleaze Rangers
2013-14	Bristol Academy
2014-15	Rockleaze Rangers
2015-16	Rockleaze Rangers

Ron Jay Memorial Shield		
Most Efficient Administered Club of the Season		
Season	Winner	Club
2002-03	David C. Herbert	Whitminster F.C.
2003-04	Charles Barron .	Henbury Old Boys FC.
2004-05	Ian Edwards	Ellwood F.C.
2005-06	Roger Bassett	Kings Stanley F.C.
2006-07	Stanley Hine	Hardwicke F.C.
2007-08	Roger Bassett	Kings Stanley F.C.
2008-09	Stanley Higgins	D.R.G. Stapleton F.C.
2009-10	Roger Bassett	Kings Stanley F.C.
2010-11	Alan Green	Chipping Sodbury Town F.C.
2011-12	Charles Barron	Henbury F.C.
2012-13	*****	Southmead CS Athletic F.C.
2013-14	*****	Yate Town Reserves
2014-15	*****	Hanham Athletic
2015-16	*****	Broadwell Amateurs

Final League Table 2015-16								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	G/D	Pts
AEK Boco (c)	32	25	4	3	74	25	49	79
Henbury	32	21	3	8	95	43	52	66
Frampton United	32	19	8	5	76	30	46	65
Thornbury Town	32	20	5	7	64	29	35	65
Rockleaze Rangers	32	17	4	11	65	49	16	55
Broadwell Amateurs	32	17	3	12	65	46	19	54
Bishops Cleeve Res **	32	16	5	11	70	56	14	53
Patchway Town	32	16	5	11	52	48	4	53
Gala Wilton ##	32	16	3	13	74	56	18	48
Bristol Telephones ##	32	14	7	11	74	49	25	46
Hardwicke	32	14	3	15	69	59	10	45
Ellwood	32	8	5	19	43	83	-40	29
Kingswood	32	8	2	22	45	109	-64	26
Hanham Athletic #	32	6	8	18	37	66	-29	25
Yate Town Res	32	4	7	21	42	86	-44	19
Cheltenham Civil Service	32	4	7	21	32	82	-50	19
Southmead CS Athletic ##	32	6	3	23	37	98	-61	18
# 1 Pt Deducted ## 3 Pts Deducted								
** 3 Pts Awarded								

Leading Goal-scorers (League Only) 2015-16			
Player	Club	Played	Goals
Dhani Golding	Bristol Telephones	30	37
Aaron Anglin	Henbury	31	35
Craig Lancaster	Thornbury Town	30	27
William Matthews	Hardwicke	31	21
Myron Turner	Frampton United	32	21
Kane Simpson	Rockleaze Rangers & Henbury	22	17
Robert Reid	Bishops Cleeve Reserves	22	16
Michael Alvis	Yate Town Reserves & Bristol Telephones	25	15
Steven Bick	Hardwicke	25	14
Kye Simpson	Rockleaze Rangers	11	14
Kyle Bakewell	Gala Wilton	28	13

Respect



Marcliff Gloucestershire County Football League Respect and Fair Play Chart 2015-2016 Final Positions							
							Start
							45
		Matches	Dissent Yellow	Red	Other Yellow	Red	Points
1	Rockleaze Rangers	32	2	0	13	1	37
2	AEK Boco	32	2	0	20	3	24
3	Frampton United	32	5	0	23	1	15
4	Bishops Cleeve (Res)	32	2	0	37	1	14
5	Hardwicke	32	7	0	24	2	7
6	Patchway Town	32	6	0	32	3	2
7	Kingswood	32	3	0	33	6	1
8	Thornbury Town	32	11	0	22	1	-2
9	Gala Wilton	32	7	0	30	4	-8
10	Cheltenham Civil Service	32	4	1	31	5	-9
11	Broadwell Amateurs	32	6	0	39	3	-13
12	Bristol Telephones	32	6	1	35	5	-16
13	Yate Town (Res)	32	9	1	35	2	-19
14	Hanham Athletic	32	6	0	51	5	-27
15	Southmead CS Athletic	32	12	1	38	5	-31
16	Ellwood	32	11	1	44	6	-36
17	Henbury	32	13	1	38	5	-37
			112	6	545	58	

Every 5 matches 3pts are added to the start total if no yellow/red cards are issued

Respect & Fair Play Referees Marks - Winners								
Club	Points Ever 5 Games							Total
AEK Boco	130	113	140	125	124	139	51	822