

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY WOMEN'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE



Affiliated to the Gloucestershire Football Association
Ltd.



ACCREDITED
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

RULES

Season 2026/27

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY WOMEN'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE

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and
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USEFUL INFORMATION

Funding & Facilities

Below is a list of some of the funding streams available to adult clubs, for help and guidance in accessing any of them you can contact your local Women's & Girl's officer or the organisation directly:

Funding:

Awards for All

Awards for All is a Lottery Grants Scheme aimed at local communities. They award grants of between £300 and £10,000 for people to take part in art, sport, heritage and community activities, and projects that promote education, the environment and health in the local community.

Web: www.awardsforall.org.uk

Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) Scheme

This Government initiative allows amateur sports clubs who provide facilities and promote participation in sport to save money through tax refunds of £28 for every £100 donated to the club, income tax relief on those donations and 80% rate relief by registering as a Community Amateur Sports Club. Registration is simple and can take a matter of weeks to complete.

Web: www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/casc/trading.htm

Sportsmatch

This is a Government initiative to encourage sponsorship for projects aiming to increase participation in sport at grass roots level, and/or improve basic skills. New sponsorship, minimum of £1,000 (£500 for schools), is matched by Sportsmatch on a pound for pound basis.

Web: www.sportengland.org/funding.aspx

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Facilities:

Football Foundation Capital Projects Scheme

This scheme primarily supports organisations that wish to build develop and / or refurbish facilities in order to sustain and / or increase participation. Types of facilities funded include, grass pitches drainage / improvements, changing rooms, floodlights, artificial turf pitches, pavilions and clubhouses, funding is also available for revenue purposes e.g. a football development officer. The appropriate level of grant support will be decided on the merits of the case but normally the applicant is required to provide matching contributions. Where need is clear and priority objectives such as serving the disadvantaged or engaging the ethnic community will be met higher levels of support up to a ceiling of 90% are available.

Web: www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/

Support from your County FA

Gloucestershire FA have football development officers dedicated to the promotion and progression of female football in the county. As part of this role these officers are working with the GCWFL to offer support and advice to its member clubs. Over the course of the season these officers will be on hand to help with a number of areas of club development, some of which are outlined below:

Coach & Player Development

As well as information on a range of FA coaching courses eg FA Level 1, Treatment and Management of Injury etc the W&G officers are keen to provide the league with workshop sessions tailored to the needs of clubs such as goalkeeping.

Referee Development

The GFA Referees development officer is available to work with the W&G officers to support the league and its clubs with any information, training or development of officials

England Football Accreditation

England Football is an FA accreditation scheme for quality clubs. By becoming accredited, clubs demonstrate they meet FA standards of coaching, administration and child protection. By achieving Accredited status clubs can access funding for kit and equipment, workshops and can access free England and FA Cup tickets.

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Useful Contacts

League Website: <http://full-time.thefa.com/Index.do?league=879242925>

GFA General
support@gloucestershirefa.com

GFA Women's and Girls Development Officer
Skye Smith – skye.smith@gloucestershirefa.com

GFA Operations Manager
Chris Lucker chris.lucker@gloucestershirefa.com

General Club information is available on the website (link below), but if anyone would like to discuss it, the main contact is GFA Operations Manager, Chris Lucker. He is available on the telephone number 01454 615888, callers should select the "Administration and Discipline" option

<http://www.gloucestershirefa.com/clubs-and-leagues/affiliation>

FOOTBALL DEBT RECOVERY SCHEME

The debt Recovery scheme will be operated by the GFA this season. Details are available from the GFA

GFA County Message Board
<http://www.gloucestershirefa.com/volunteer/county-message-board>

This is the area for all clubs to submit information that they wish to be made available in the County. Whether you are a club looking for players, a manager/coach, volunteers or perhaps you are looking to set up some friendly fixtures and want to be contacted - this is the place to come. To add a message to this page, please email the GFA at support@gloucestershirefa.com

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League Entry Conditions for Teams Applying to Join the Gloucester County Women's Football League (GCWFL)

To ensure that clubs/teams are able to fully participate correctly in the GCWFL there are certain entry conditions

All such Member Clubs must be affiliated to an affiliated County Football Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date to the Gloucestershire County Football Association (G.F.A.). The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be the County of Gloucestershire. Any Club outside of the GFA boundary must obtain special dispensation from their own county FA if they wish to play outside of their own county.

The GCWFL runs a League Cup competition open to all members of the GCWFL with the League Cup Final normally being held in late April/early May.

Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition:

- Applications must be made in writing to the League Secretary and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee of £40 per team, which shall be returned in the event of non-election.
- Formal Applications must be made to the League Secretary by 30th April. (Late applications may be considered, at the discretion of the League Management Committee).
- Joining Clubs will start their first season in the lowest Division of the League, unless they are being relegated from a Higher league / Competition. Entry into a higher Division may be considered, at the discretion of the League Management Committee.
- Clubs with senior teams in Higher Leagues than the GCWFL must not be reliant on dual registering their players from their senior team. Their Reserve/Development team must have a suitable number of players who are not dual registered to maintain the team in their own right.
- Applications from Clubs who may have another team in the lowest Division are advised to contact the League Secretary to discuss this further.
- The application must include details of
 - the Club, the facilities and the match ground and an alternative pitch, the playing squad (which should ideally be a minimum of 16

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players and the number of players registered for the applying team.

- The facilities must include
 - Separated changing rooms and showers for the home and away teams. These must be segregated from any male facilities.
 - Separated changing rooms and showers for the Referees (note that male and female referees are used by the League and should be segregated from the opposite gender).
 - Club/Team Management/coaching staff and First Aiders will need to be identified and copies of any relevant certificates must accompany the application.
 - the Clubs Code of Conduct for club officials, players and management/coaches and Codes of Conduct for spectators must be submitted.
 - Details of any other Clubs/teams using the pitches and who owns the ground/pitches.
- The application will be initially reviewed by the League Management Committee and if acceptable the Club may be invited for an interview.
 - As there are U18 players in the League, the applying club must be aware of Child Welfare considerations.
 - The League is fully committed to the RESPECT campaign and expect all Clubs/teams in the competition to sign an agreement that they will abide to the RESPECT rules.
 - Following the application the Committee will then decide whether to put the team forward to the voting members for consideration at the League AGM normally held in June.

Admittance to the League.

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 AGM or an SGM.

At this AGM / SGM, the applying club will be asked to introduce themselves to the members of the competition and give a brief review of their Club/ team. They will also confirm the acceptance of the entry conditions to the members.

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If not accepted for admittance by the Competition members, then the £40 Entry fee will be refunded.

If accepted by the Competition members, the £40 Entry Fee to the competition shall apply. The Club/Team will be given copies of the relevant League forms for completion for the forthcoming season.

Should the Club/team not register the agreed number of players at the start of the season and have not completed their fixtures to the satisfaction of the Committee, as defined above, then they will be requested to attend a hearing and explain to the Committee the reasons for this. The Committee will then decide if an SGM is to be called to have the club/team membership revoked.

Basic Information for the Competition.

- The Annual Subscription shall be £50 per Team, payable on or before the 30th June in each year
- Member Clubs shall not enter any of their teams playing in this Competition in any other Competitions (with the exception of the FA and County FA Competitions) without the written consent of the Management Committee of this Competition.
- Joining Clubs will start their first season in the lowest Division of the League, unless they are being relegated from a Higher league / Competition or permission is granted from the managements committee for them to start in a higher division.
- Players must be at least 16 years of age
- Player Registration is only for 1 season and a registered playing member of a Club is one who is at least 16 (sixteen) years of age on 31st August in any playing season, or at any time of turning 16 after this date.
- It currently costs a total of £2.00 to register a player
- Players have to be registered through Whole Game (seven (7) days prior to playing if registering for the first game of the season) and at least seven (7) days prior to playing thereafter.
- The Secretary of the HOME Team is reminded that at least 5 days prior to their game (usually means Tuesday) they must have contacted the appointed MATCH OFFICIAL(S) and the Secretary of the AWAY Team to confirm directions to the ground and fixture.

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- The AWAY Team Secretary is responsible for confirming receipt of these directions or if not received, seeking such directions from the Home Team Secretary.
- It is the responsibility of both teams to report the match result within two (2) hours of the conclusion of the game directly to the League FA Fulltime website via SMS text message.
- Fully completed Match Report forms must be sent to the Results Secretary to arrive **no later than three (3) days** following the game (usually means by midnight Wednesday for Sunday games).
- If a match has to be postponed, it is the responsibility of the Secretary of the postponing Team **to speak** to the Fixture Secretary, Referee Appointment Secretary, the Match Official and the Opponents. Emails and/or text messages must be acknowledged. Consideration must be given in regards to timings of pitch inspections and away team travel. Pitch inspections should take place no later than 10.30 am to ensure the away team can be informed not later than 11 am.
- In the event of a colour clash, the AWAY Team must change.
- You must have committed members of your club and you will be asked to identify a Chairperson, Club/Team Secretary and a Match Secretary. These will be the only contacts the League will recognise and they must ensure they comply with any order or instruction of the Management Committee, or satisfactorily attend to the business and/or correspondence of the Competition, otherwise the club shall be liable to be fined or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- These personnel must give their contact details and phone number(s), postal address and email address which will be circulated to all other League members. Contact phone numbers for the Club/Team Secretary and a Match Secretary will be put on the League web site.
- Any changes to your contact details **must** be given to the League Secretary and the GFA as soon as possible.
- All match reports and Club Portal squadlists must be exchanged with the opposition and signed by them before the match and we advise that the players on the pitch are actually checked against the relevant team sheet to ensure that they are who they are supposed to be.
- If a player is present who does not appear on the Club Portal squadlist a matchday player registration form must be completed and signed by both

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teams on match day and suitable photo id of the player must be supplied to the opposition. If no form of photo id is supplied, then that player cannot play, and it is your responsibility to inform the Referee and the League Registration Secretary of this fact. See Rule 20(F).

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Pitch Requirements

The pitch size for the GCWFL is as per the FA (FIFA) sizes defined in "The Laws of the Game"

<http://www.thefa.com/my-football/referee/laws-of-the-game>

Currently anywhere between the dimensions below:

Length: min 90m (100yds) max 120m (130yds)

Width: min 45m (50yds) max 90m (100 yds)

The Laws of the Game stipulate other pitch requirements,
please see the Laws of the Game document available from the FA website.

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Child Protection

1. Any act statement, conduct or other matter which harms a child or children, or poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children, shall constitute behaviour which is improper and brings the game into disrepute.
2. In these Regulations the expression "Offence" shall mean any one or more of the offences contained in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and any other criminal offence which reasonably causes The League 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 League of:
 - 3.1 notification that an individual has been charged with an offence or
 - 3.2 notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the Police, Social Services, or any other authority relating to an Offence; or
 - 3.3 any other information which causes The Association reasonably to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children then The League 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 League 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 The League or any other authority or body to proceed unimpeded

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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 League or any Offence is decided or brought to an end.
6. Where an order is imposed on an individual under Regulation 3 above, The League shall bring and conclude any proceedings under the Rules of The League against the person relating to the matters as soon as is 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 League and The League 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 League shall act through its Management Committee or any committee or sub-committee thereof.
9. Notification in writing of an order referred to above shall be given to the person concerned and/or any club with which he/she is associated as soon as is 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.

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Rules

This document contains the Standard Code of Rules developed by The Football Association for open age football (the "Standard Code"). The Standard Code is mandatory for : (a) all Competitions at Regional NLS Feeder League level and below, and (b) all competitions at Tier 7 and below of the FA Women's Pyramid, and (c) all mixed adult football Competitions authorised by The FA.

DEFINITIONS

1. (A) In these Rules:

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

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

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

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

"Competition" means the Gloucestershire County Women's Football League.

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

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

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

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

"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

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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.

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

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

“Player Registration System” means the FA system to register players as determined by the FA from time to time.

“Playing Season” means the period between the 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 C3.1.1 of the rules of The FA.

“Season” means the period of time between one AGM and the next AGM.

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

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

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

“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.

“Virtual Meetings” means meetings held electronically

“Written” or “in writing” means the representation or reproduction of words or symbols or other information in a visible form by any method

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or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.

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

GOVERNANCE RULES

COMPETITION NAME, CONSTITUTION

2. (A) The Competition will be known as the Gloucestershire County Women's 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 automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.

(B) This Competition shall consist of not more than 60 Clubs (and/or 60 Teams) approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

(C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be Gloucestershire.

(D) The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Management Committee in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of the FA.

(E) All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a member of the Competition to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee in relation to them, subject to the provisions of Rule 7.

(F) The Rules are taken from the Standard Code of Rules (the "Standard Code") determined by The FA from time to time. In the event of any omissions from the Standard Code then the requirements of the Standard Code shall be deemed to apply to the Competition.

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(G)

1. All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association.
2. This Competition shall apply annually for sanction by the Sanctioning Authority and the constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped in divisions, (each not exceeding 12 in number).

(H) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

1. This Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (including those contained in the Equality Act 2010).
2. This Competition and each Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community.
3. Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Association for investigation.

(I) Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including, but not limited to, England Football Accredited and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

As an England Football Accredited League, the GCWFL requires all of its Clubs to have achieved England Football Accredited status. New Clubs have one year to achieve the England Football Accredited status. The League has the right to refuse membership to a Club if it fails to demonstrate commitment to achieving the status.

(J) All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children and Regulations for Safeguarding Adults at Risk as determined by The FA from time to time.

(K) Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing in the Competition in any other competitions (with the exception of FA and parent County Association Cup) except with the written consent of the Management

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Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. A Club must immediately inform the Competition of the details of any Fixture(s) in any other competition in which the Club has entered, for which written consent of the Management Committee has been obtained.

(L) At the AGM or a SGM called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the constitution of the divisions at their discretion. When necessary, this Rule shall take precedence over Rule 22.

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

CLUB NAME

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

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT.

4. **(A)** Applications by clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same club must be made in writing to the Secretary by 30th April and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee for each team as set out in the Fees Tariff, which shall be returned in the event of non-election but not if the club withdraws its application. Applications, of which due notice has been given, may be received at the AGM or an SGM if confirmed by a majority of the accredited voting members present.
When Rule 22(B) is applied, or a Team seeks a transfer or, is compulsorily transferred to another division, no Entry Fee shall be payable.

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(B) The Annual Subscription shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff for each Team. It shall be payable by a date set by the Management Committee.

(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 (in accordance with the Fees Tariff) by or on behalf of the Club on such terms and for such period as it may in its entire discretion think fit. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the entry fee, annual subscription and deposit (if required) have been paid.

(E) Clubs must ensure that all its teams participating in the Competition are recorded as affiliated on the Club Portal for the forthcoming Playing Season by 31st July. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, its Officers and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

5. (A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and up to two representatives from each division who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

(B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination provided that the Officer notifies the Secretary in writing not later than the AGM in each year.

All other candidates for election as Officers of the Competition or members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two Clubs, not later than 30th April in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being no nomination by the date stated in the earlier part of this Rule, nominations may be received at the AGM.

(C) The Management Committee shall meet a minimum of twice a season or as and when required.

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On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Committee.

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

(E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their nominated Officers and sent to the Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(F) Any Club whose secretary is to be unavailable for any length of time shall notify the Competition Secretary, 7 days prior to the secretary becoming unavailable, if possible, of an alternative person who may deal with the business of the Club in their absence.

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

6. (A) The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all sub- committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of the FA or Affiliated Association.

(B) Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained, the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each Season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition, and, if necessary, may call on each Club to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the season.

(C) 1. Each Member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee meetings and have one vote at all such meetings, but no Members shall be allowed to vote on any matter directly relating to that 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).

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

(E) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition. Any action by the Competition must be taken within 28 days of the Competition being notified.

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

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

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

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

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

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

No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

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

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

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

(G) A minimum of 50% of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any sub-committees.

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

(I) A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee and must attend to the business and/or correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(J) Subject to a Club's right to appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision. Any Club failing to do so will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine, within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.

(K) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or Competition Match, may have any expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.

(L) The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the AGM or SGM called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Playing Season, subject to the provisions of the National League Systems Regulations or Women's Football Pyramid (which shall take precedence if applicable)..

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

(N) The Competition shall not cancel, postpone or withdraw an entire programme of Competition Matches (e.g. all Competition Matches, or all Competition Matches within a single age group or division, taking place over a single day/week) without prior written approval from the Sanctioning Authority, except in exceptional circumstances of a serious nature (in which event, the Competition must provide notification of cancellation, postponement or withdrawal to the Sanctioning Authority at the same time as affected Teams).

PROTEST, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

7. **(A)**1. All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretation of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee.

2. Objections relative to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the Referee prior to the commencement of the match.

(B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged in duplicate with the Secretary within three days (excluding Sundays) of the Competition Match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A Member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of their Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

(C) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole or part in the event of the protesting or complaining Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or

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complaint to pay the expenses of the inquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

(D) All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days before the protest or complaint being heard.

1. All parties must have received a minimum of 7 days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.

2. Should a Club elect to state its case in person then they should indicate such when forwarding the written response.

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

(F) An intention to appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority, with a copy sent to the Secretary, within 7 days of the Management Committee providing written notification of its decision.

A notice of appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority, with a copy sent to the Secretary, within 14 days of the Management Committee providing written notification of its decision, accompanied by the relevant fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff) which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority.

Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee.

(G) No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

(H) All protests, claims or complaints relating to these Rules and appeals arising from a Player's contract shall be heard and determined by the Management Committee, or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee. The Clubs or Players protesting, appealing, claiming or complaining must send a copy of such protest, appeal, claim or complaint and deposit a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff) which shall be forfeited in the event of the protest, appeal claim or complaint not

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being upheld, and in these circumstances may, in addition, be ordered to pay the costs at the direction of the Management Committee.

All such protests, claims complaints and appeals must be received in writing by the Secretary with 14 days of the event or decision causing any of these to be submitted.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8. **(A)** The AGM shall be held not later than 30 June in each year. At this meeting the following business (in the following order) shall be transacted provided that at least two-thirds of members are present and entitled to vote:-
 1. Confirm the Minutes of the last AGM.
 2. Adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts from the previous accounting period.
 3. Election of Clubs to fill vacancies
 4. Constitution of the Competition for ensuing season.
 5. Election of Competition Officers and Management Committee members.
 6. Appointment of Auditors/verifiers
 7. Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14).
 8. Agree the date for the beginning of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.
 9. Agree the date of the end of the Playing season (save for Regional NLS Feeder League which shall be determined by the FA)
 10. Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted by the Chair as being relevant to an AGM.

Clubs currently in membership of the Competition shall be entitled to vote on items 1 to 3 above.

Those clubs set to be accepted as Clubs in accordance with item 3 above shall be entitled to attend the AGM, but cannot vote on items 1 to 3 above.

All Clubs (i.e. those Clubs currently in membership of the Competition and those accepted as Clubs in accordance with item 3) shall be entitled to vote on items 4 to 10 above.

(B) A copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet, statement of accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 14 days prior to the meeting, together with any proposed Rule changes.

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(C) A signed copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet and statement of accounts shall be sent to the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of its adoption by the AGM.

(D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. 14 days' notice shall be given of any AGM.

(E) Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the Playing Season being concluded or who are not continuing Membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the Season being concluded. This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 12.

(F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of hands, or count of email or virtual responses (for virtual meetings), unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chair so decides.

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

(H)

1. Any continuing Club must be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

2. Any club that has submitted a valid application to join the Competition for the forthcoming season must have the opportunity to be put forward for membership and to have a vote taken on their membership application.

(I) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM, but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a club (see Rule 8.G)

(J) Where a Competition is an incorporated entity, the Officers of the Competition shall ensure that the Articles of Association of the Competition are consistent with the requirements of these Rules.

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SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

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

AGREEMENT TO RULES OF THE COMPETITION

10. (A) Membership of the Competition shall constitute an agreement between the Competition and a Club to be bound by and comply with these Rules (including any decision of the Management Committee made pursuant to these Rules).

(B) Any change of Chair, Secretary or Directors of the Club must be notified to the parent County Football Association to which the Club is sanctioned and to the Secretary of this Competition.
Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF CLUB

11. (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 of such intention by 31st March each season. This does not apply to a Club moving in accordance with Rule 22(B). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) The Management Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a team being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season, including, but not limited to, issuing a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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(C) Notwithstanding the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 6(I), in the event of a Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50 the Management Committee shall be empowered to refer the debt under the FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.

EXCLUSION OF CLUBS OR TEAMS, MISCONDUCT, CLUBS, OFFICIALS, PLAYERS.

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

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

(C) Any Officer or member of a Club found guilty of a breach of Rule, other than field offences, 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 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 above 12.A and/or 12.B of this Rule.

TROPHY

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

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"We A _____ and B _____, the Chair and Secretary of _____ FC (Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of the _____ cup or trophy, and the cup or trophy having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the Cup or Trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before 31st 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."

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

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

ALTERATION TO RULES

14. (A) Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at an SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. Any alteration made during the Playing Season to these Rules shall not take effect until the following Playing Season.

(B) 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 5th May and any amendments to these proposals shall be submitted to the Secretary by 15th May. The proposals and proposed amendments to these proposals 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 and entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

(C) A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or SGM shall be submitted to the Sanctioning Authority or the FA (as applicable) at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

FINANCE

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

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(B) All expenditure in excess of £50.00 shall be approved by the Management Committee.

(C) The financial year of the Competition will end on 31st May.

(D) The accounting records, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be audited/verified annually by a suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

INSURANCE

16. (A) All Clubs must have valid public liability insurance for a minimum of ten million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.

(B) All Clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Players' personal accident cover must be in place prior to the Club taking part in any Competition match and shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time to time by the Sanctioning Authority. In instances where The FA is the Sanctioning Authority, the minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which a Club affiliates.

(C) Failure to comply with Rule 16(A) or 16(B) will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

DISSOLUTION

17. (A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at an SGM by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant SGM.

(B) In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.

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

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- 1.** Any surplus assets, save for a Trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or Affiliated Association or The Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the Sanctioning Authority.
- 2.** If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the Sanctioning Authority may decide.

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MATCH RELATED RULES

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS.

18. (A) A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:

1. Submitted a registration through the Player Registration System, at least 7 days prior to the match, and received approval from the Competition prior to the date of the match.

Or

2. signed a fully and correctly completed Competition match day registration form in ink, on a match day prior to playing, which is countersigned by an Officer of the Club and witnessed by an Officer of the opposing Club. The player must be submitted through the Player Registration System and the completed form must be submitted to the Competitions Results and Registration officer within two days subsequent to the Competition match. The Player shall not play again in a subsequent match in the Competition until the Club has registered the player through The FA Player Registration System and is in possession of approval from the Competition. A maximum of 2 Players per match may be registered in this manner. For Clubs registering Players under this Rule 18.A.2. registration forms will be provided in a format to be determined by the Competition. For Clubs registering Players by the Player Registration System, Clubs must access the Player Registration System in order to complete the registration process.

Any registration that is not fully and correctly completed will be returned to the Club unprocessed and the player classed as unregistered. If a Club attempts to register a player via the Player Registration System but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via the Player Registration System, the registration will not be processed.

The fee for player registrations will be invoiced to clubs 3 times a year on 1 October, 1 January and at season end.

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

(B) 1. Contract players are not permitted in this Competition with the exception of those Players who are registered under Contract with the same Club who have a team operating at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System.

2. It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any Player registered to the Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any Player aged 10 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

3. Each team must have at least 14 Players registered 7 days before the start of each Playing Season. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

4. In the event of a Non Contract Player changing their status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, or with a Club in another Competition their registration as a Non Contract Player will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 18.B.1.

(C) A Player that owes a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) shall be permitted to register for a Club but (will/may) be suspended from football activities if the Player does not comply with the terms of the Football Debt Recovery Regulations in respect of that Football Debt.

(D) A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered.

(E) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes. In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club in the Competition, the valid registration submitted first shall take precedence. The Registration Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

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(F) It shall be a breach of Rule for a Player to:-

1. Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same season without first being transferred
2. Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that season except for the purpose of a transfer
3. Submit a registration as per Rule 18.A.2 or submit a registration through the Player Registration System that the player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

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

(G) 1. The Management Committee shall accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rules 18.G.2, 18.G.3 and 18.G.4 below (as applicable).

2. The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player or may fine any player, at their discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 7).

3. The Management Committee shall have power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 7) subject to the right of appeal to the Sanctioning Authority. Application should be made to the Parent County of the Club the Player is registered or intending to be registered with.

Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition.

A player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18.G.3 but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition may consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

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(Note: Action under Rule 18.G.3 shall not be taken against a player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any event be subject to an appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. All decisions must include the period of restriction. For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the Competition into disrepute can only be considered where the player has received in excess of 112 days' suspension, or 10 matches in match based discipline, in any competition (and is not restricted to this Competition) in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.)

(H) Subject to compliance with FA Rule C when a Club wishes to register a player who is already registered with another Club it shall submit a transfer notification to the Competition via the Player registration System. A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff may be required.

Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to the Club for which the player is registered. Should this Club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the player concerned within 3 days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within 3 days, the Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or within 7 days after receipt of such transfer.

(Instruction to Clubs – transfers must be requested through the Player Registration System and supporting email to the League Player Registration Officer. There is no fee involved).

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

In the event of a Non-Contract 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 their registration as a Non-Contract Player will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 18.B.1.

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(I) 1. A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club after the 1st April except by special permission of the Management Committee.

2. Permission to register player(s) reaching the age of 16 after the Registration deadline date may be granted by the Management Committee; in such cases a copy of the player's birth certificate shall accompany the Registration documentation.

(J) Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.

(K) A player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding Competition Match (as specified in Rule 22.A) unless the player has played 6 Competition Matches for that Team in the current Playing Season.

(L) A Team shall not include more than two (2) players who have played in five (5) or more senior competition matches during the current Playing Season unless a period of 21 clear days has elapsed since they played. 21 clear days is counted by excluding the day when the relevant Player last played and the day the player intends to play again.

For the purpose of this Competition, senior competitions are: FA Women's Super League, Women's Championship, National Women's Football Leagues, Regional Women's Football Leagues and higher divisions of this competition where the club has more than 1 team competing.

Where a Team fields a Player in a Competition Match or Matches in breach of this Rule, the Management Committee may determine that it has fielded an ineligible player and that the provisions of Rule 18.M. shall apply.

The Management Committee may request that Clubs must provide a copy of the Team Sheet, for all fixtures played in these Competitions to the League Secretary every week, failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(M) 1. Subject to Rule 18.M.2 any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a Competition Match or Matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that Competition Match deducted from its record, up to a maximum of 12 points, and have levied upon it a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

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2. The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out in Rules 18.M.1 only in circumstances where the ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate or where the ineligibility is related to the Player's status.

3. Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 18.M.1 above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion, order one or more of the following:

a) Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed; and/or

b) Deduct points from the record of the Club in default up to a maximum of 3 points; and/or;

c) Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).

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

1. Priority must be given at all times to activities of schools and school organisations. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

2. The availability of children and young people must be cleared with the Head Teachers or Principals (except for Sunday leagues competition).

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

(O) Not Used

(P) 1. Subsequent to Rule 18L, where the higher placed team has not played 5 or more fixtures in the current playing season, a team competing in this competition cannot include more than 2 players who have played 10 or more games for a team in a higher division of this competition or a competition listed in rule 18L in the previous playing season, except by permission of the Management Committee (excluding teams who played in the Regional League in the previous season and have been relegated and newly formed teams unless the player is dual signed in the current season).

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2. Where a period of 21 days has passed since the higher placed team last played a fixture, a team competing in this competition cannot include more than 2 players who have played 5 or more times, in the current playing season, for a team in a higher division of this competition, or a competition listed in rule 18L, except by permission of the Management Committee.

3 clear days must be given to the Management Committee for all such requests.

CLUB COLOURS

19. (A) Every team must register the colour and design of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 31st July and the Competition Secretary shall decide as to their suitability.

(B) Any team wishing to change the colour(s) and/or design of its shirts(s) and shorts(s) during the Playing Season must obtain permission from Competition Secretary in advance of making that change.

(C) Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from the other Players and the Match Officials.

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

(E) Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents of the colours in which they will play (including the goalkeepers jersey) at least five days before the Competition Match.

(F) If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the away team shall make the change. Should a Team delay the scheduled time of kick off for a Competition Match by not having a change of colours they will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(G) Shirts must be numbered and no two shirts shall have the same number, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

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

Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their Grounds in a playable condition. All Competition Matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee. If through any fault of the home team a match has to be replayed, the Management Committee shall have the 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 Competition Matches and to order the Club concerned to play its Competition Match(es) on another ground; as a minimum there should be separate changing rooms for the home team, away team and match officials (which for match officials should not link or be connected to the opposite sex changing rooms/showers).

Artificial 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 – <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register>. All Football Turf Pitches used must be tested (by a FIFA accredited test institute) every three years and the results passed to the FA. The FA will give a decision on the suitability for use and add the pitch to the Register.

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

Within the Regional NLS Feeder Leagues all Competition Matches shall have a duration of 90 minutes. All other Competition 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. Two matches involving the same two teams can be played on the same day providing the total playing time is not more than 120 minutes.

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

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

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

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

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

If due to weather conditions the pitches are unplayable, then the away Club **SHOULD** offer a pitch to play on if in fit condition, all costs to be met by the Home team.

In the event of a season experiencing multiple postponements, due to adverse weather conditions for example, clubs will be expected to play on any Sunday throughout the season. Weekday matches may be required, where practical, if there are no Sundays available.

(B) Except by permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches must be played on the dates originally agreed but priority shall be given to FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary.

Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward after a Competition Match with the consent of the Competition.

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

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

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(C) An Officer of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the Ground, time of kick-off and kit colours (including goalkeeper) to the Match Officials and an Officer of the opposing Club at least 5 clear days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. The opposing Club must confirm receipt and give notice of its kit colours (including goalkeeper) at least 3 days prior to the Playing of the Competition Match. If either is not so provided, the away Club shall seek such details. If not so provided, the relevant Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

(E) 1. Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagements the Management Committee shall decide whether it should either:

- a. Award the points from the Competition Match in question to the Club's opponent (without the awarding of goals)

OR

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

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

- a. Impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).
- b. Deduct points from the defaulting Club.
- c. Order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents.

2. Any Club with more than one team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixtures, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence: - First Team, Reserve Team, 'A' Team.

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3. Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a fixture has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the Competition Fixtures Secretary and Referees Appointments Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials. Where a message has been left by voicemail or text, the reporting Club should request a confirmation from the recipient. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff

4. In the event of a Competition Match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Competition. Failing such agreement and notification to the Competition within seven days the Competition shall have power to order the match to be played or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand.

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

5. The Management Committee shall review all Competition matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a Match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Team or its Club member(s) they shall award the points for the Match to the opponent. In cases where a Competition Match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule that neither Team will be awarded any points for that Match and it shall not be replayed. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned Match.

The Management Committee shall review any Match that has taken place where either or both teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by the FA 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

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18(N) above. Where both teams were under suspension the game must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.

6. If a Competition Match is abandoned each participating Club must give notice of the abandonment to the Competition Results Secretary by the deadline set out in Rule 21(B). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(F) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use substitute players in any Competition Match. A Club may name up to 5 substitute Players of whom not more than 5 may be used.

A Player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace a Player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of the Game.

Where a Competition does allow return substitutes, a team may use up to 5 from 5 substitute Players in a Competition Match.

The referee and a representative of the opposing Club shall be informed of the names of the Players taking part in the Match (including the substitutes) not later than 20 minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match. Where a Team fields a Player in a Competition Match or Matches in breach of this Rule, the Management Committee may determine that it has fielded an ineligible player and that the provisions of Rule 18(M) shall apply.

A player who has been named as a substitute before the start of the Competition Match but does not actually play in that game shall not be considered to have been a player in that Competition Match within the meaning of Rule 18 of this Competition.

Both teams must offer to exchange team sheets and Player Identification Cards (or Player Registration System Team Sheets) with a full list of players (Surname & Forename), correct shirt number; including substitutes at least 20 minutes before the scheduled kick off time with a representative of the opposition. The team sheet with named substitutes must be shown to the referee prior to kick off. Substitutes

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not so named may not take part in the match. Any Club failing to comply will incur a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

For each match, a team SHALL have their Player Identification Cards (or Player Registration System team sheets) available for inspection by the opposition in order to determine each player's validity for the match. Failure to do so SHALL mean that the defaulting team forfeits the match; the points and the game will be awarded to the opposition. The Referee must agree that the ID cards (Player Registration System team sheet) are not available for inspection.

(G) The half time interval shall be of 10 minutes duration but shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

(H) The Teams taking part in the fixture shall identify a Team captain who shall wear an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of their teammates. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(I) Where a suspension imposed in relation to

- (i) a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations); or
- (ii) The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children or Regulations Safeguarding Adults at Risk

upon a Club or Team by The FA or Affiliated Association is not lifted, and/or the Club does not provide confirmation from The FA or Affiliated Association that such suspension is lifted to the Competition Secretary by 2pm 2 days before a fixture, that fixture will be treated as an unfulfilled fixture and dealt with in accordance of Rule 20(E).

(J) The Competition shall require all players and club officials to have signed the FA's Respect Codes of Conduct and produce these if so requested by the League management committee.

Prior to each match the participating teams and officials shall conduct the 'Respect' handshake and/or participating teams to offer 'three cheers' and handshakes to the opposing team after the match.

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All teams must have a fully equipped first aid case, and at least one person at a match who is a) NOT a player/substitute on the day and b) is a qualified first aider (as a minimum in FA Emergency Aid); such person or persons to be named to the League secretary prior to the commencement of the playing season.

Friendly matches are to be allowed as and when a Club desires, as long as it does not interfere with any Competition Matches. In the event of a Competition Match being rearranged for the same day as a friendly, the Competition Match will take precedence.

REPORTING RESULTS

- 21. (A)** The Competition Results Secretary must receive within three days of the date played, the result of each Competition Match in the prescribed manner. These must include the forename and surname of the team players (in block letters) and also the referee markings required by Rule 23 or any other information required by the Competition. Match reports may be scanned and sent electronically to the Fixtures Secretary.

The match or club secretary, or Full Time admin must upload the match statistics - including first 11 players, any substitutes, goals, cards and/disciplines received within the Competition Match, onto the Full-time website within the same time constraints as the match reports being sent.

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

(B) Both Clubs shall use SMS to notify the result of each match directly to the League Website within two hours of the end of the match. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of the Club. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

- 22. (A)** Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn Competition Match. The teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the end of the Playing Season shall be

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adjudged the winners. Competition Matches must not be played for double points.

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

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

1. Goal difference (where the goals scored against each Team shall be deducted from the goals scored by that Team and the Team with the most favourable goal difference shall be placed highest).
2. In the event of two or more Teams being equal, the Team which has scored the most goals during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.
3. In the event of two or more Teams being equal, the Team that has won the most matches during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.
4. In the event of two or more Teams being equal, the Team which has the better playing record against the other Team in the head to head Competition Matches during the Playing Season will be placed highest.
5. 5. One off fixture or play-off games as determined by the League Management Committee.

(B) Automatic promotion shall be applied for the top 2 Teams and automatic relegation shall be applied for the last 2 Teams in each Division except as provided for below, subject to the provisions of Rule 2.L.

1. Should one or more teams withdraw from any one Division after the Playing Season has commenced an equal number of teams to those withdrawing in that division shall not be automatically relegated.

2. Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the Playing Season may be filled on any of the following ways:

- (a) retention of otherwise relegated Team(s); or
- (b) additional promotion of the next ranked Team(s) from the division below; or

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(c) election.

3. The last Team in the lowest division shall retire, but be eligible for re-election except as below, and be subject to the conditions of Rule 22 (B)(i) above.

4. Save for where Rule 2(M) applies, when a senior Team is relegated to a lower division of which its reserve (or other less senior) Team of the same Club is a member, or entitled to be a member, such reserve (or other less senior) 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 (or less senior) team of the same Club automatically retires from the Competition.

5. Should either or both of the leading Teams in any of the divisions have its senior Team in the next higher division, promotion shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next highest Team or Teams in the division concerned.

(C) In addition to the Team(s) automatically promoted under Rule 22.B, a maximum of one further Team shall be promoted in virtue of being the winner of the play-off match or series of matches (the "Play-Offs").

(D) In the event of a team withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the Playing Season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting team shall be expunged from the Competition table. For the purposes of this Rule 22.D a completed fixture shall include any Competition Match(es) which has been awarded by the Management Committee.

(E) Where a promotion and/or relegation link exists between Competitions, The Winners of this Competition, provided they meet the appropriate grading criteria, will be eligible to make application to the South West Regional Women's Football League Competition at their AGM.

Should the Champion Club not wish for promotion, or, alternatively, not have the necessary grading criteria, then the second placed team will be eligible under the same conditions.

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MATCH OFFICIALS

23. (A) Registered referees (and assistant referees where approved by the FA or County FA) for all Competition Matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the sanctioning Authority.

(B) 1. In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed referee the appointed senior assistant referee shall take charge and a substitute assistant referee appointed by the competing Teams.

(I) In cases where there is no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that Competition Match, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any Competition Match.

(C) Where assistant referees are not appointed each Team **MUST** provide a Club assistant referee for the whole match. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

The Management Committee may, if they consider it desirable, or upon application by the two competing Clubs, appoint Assistant Referees if available, to any match.

(D) The appointed referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground in all Competition Matches and that decision shall be final, subject to determination of the Local Authority or the owners of the Ground, which must be accepted.

(E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the sanctioning Authority Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff and travel expenses of 45p per mile.

Match Officials will be paid their fees and/or expenses by the home Club before/immediately after the Competition Match. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff plus travel expenses or private car expenses of 45p per mile and any other permitted expenses actually incurred subject to any limits laid down by the sanctioning Association(s).

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The GCWFL will only pay match officials travel costs at the rate determined by the GFA from the officials home address (as stated in the League handbook) to the said fixture location and return to home address.

BACs payments are permitted with the agreement of the referee. Any fee agreed to be paid by BACs must be paid no later than the following day of the fixture.

(F) In the event of the match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to half fee plus expenses. Where a Competition Match is not played, owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Ground, their full fee and expenses. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a Fine in line with the Fines Tariff.

(G) A referee not keeping their engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Affiliated Association with which they are registered.

(H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The FA, award marks to the referee for each Competition Match and the name of the referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed form provided and on Full Time. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine. Clubs scoring a referee 60 or less must write a report for the reasons for the low score on full-time, plus a copy must be sent to the League & Referee Secretary. If in the opinion of the league, the report is not valid then the club will be liable to be fined in accordance with the fines tariff.

(I) The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided by the prescribed date each Season, shall submit a summary to the Sanctioning Authority.

(J) If requested by the Competition the referee shall submit a report form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the Competition

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Match, the number of Players in each Team and the time of kick-off to the (Registration) Secretary within two days of the Competition Match.

(K) Match Officials shall be supplied, each Season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.

(L) Match Officials shall comply with the provisions of any initiatives of the FA and/or Sanctioning Authority adopted by the Competition.

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Fees Tariff

Rule Number	Description	Maximum Fee
4(A)	Club Entry Fee	£40
4(B)	Team Annual Subscription	£50
4(C)	Deposit	£50
7(C)	Protest Fee	£20
18(D)	Player Registration Fee	£2
18(H)	Transfer Form	£0
23(E)	Referee Fees	£32
23(E)	Assistant Referee Fees	£25

Fines Tariff

Rule Number	Description	Maximum Fine
2(I)	Failure to comply with FA initiatives	£30
2(K)	Unauthorised entry of teams into Competitions	£50
3	Failure to obtain consent for a change of Club name	£30
4(C)	Failure to pay a Deposit	£20
4(E)	Failure to ensure teams are recorded as affiliated in the Club Portal.	£50
5(E)	Communications conducted by persons other than nominated officers.	£50
6(I)	Failure to comply with an instruction of the Management Committee.	£100
6(J)	Failure to pay a Fine within required timeframe	£50
8(H)	Failure to be represented at AGM	£50
9(E)	Failure to be represented at SGM	£50
10	Failure to notify changes to signatories	£50
11(A)	Failure to provide notice of withdrawal before deadline	£30
11(B)	Failure to commence/complete fixtures	£100
13(A)	Failure to submit the required written agreement regarding the trophy	£30
16(C)	Failure to have the required insurance	£25

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Rule Number	Description	Maximum Fine
18(A)	Failure to correctly register a player	£40
18(B) 3	Failure to have the required number of registered players prior to the season commencing	£50
18(F)	Registering or playing for multiple Clubs or inaccurate completion of a Registration Form	£50
18(G) 2	Registration irregularities	£50
18(M)	Playing an ineligible player.	£50*
18(N)	Failure to give priority to School activities	£20
19(F)	Delaying kick off due to no change in colours	£25
19(G)	Failure to number shirts	£25
20(A)	Failure to provide required equipment	£25
20(B)	Failure to play matches on the date fixed	£40
20(C)	Failure to provide details of a fixture	£25
20(D)	Playing match with less than required number of players	£5 per player
20(E) 1 & 4	Failure to play fixture	£50**
20(E) 3	Failure to give notice of being unable to fulfil fixture	£50
20(E) 6	Failure to Notify of Abandonment of Match	£25
20(F)	Failure to offer to exchange team sheet	£50
20(H)	No Captain's Armband	£5
21(A)	Late team sheet and/or failure to upload match statistics to website	£20 each
21(B)	Failure to provide result	£30
21(C)	Result notification not signed by appropriate signatories	£30
23(C)	Failure to provide Club Assistant Referee	£30
23(E)	Failure to pay match officials fees and expenses	£40
23(F)	Failure to pay match officials where a match is not played	£40
23(H)	Failure to provide Referees mark	£25

* plus any other sanction contained within Rule 18(M)

** plus any other sanction contained within Rule 20(E) 1 and 4

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GORDON PERRETT MEMORIAL CUP COMPETITION

&

SUE HENSON-GREEN CUP COMPETITION

Rules

1. This competition shall be called the Gordon Perrett League Cup and the Sue Henson-Green Cup. The teams entered into these cups will be split by division as decided by the management committee.
2. The League Management Committee shall have complete control and management of the League Cup Competitions including the exact form the Competitions will take.
3. The competitions may be played on a "Knock-out" basis.
The ties shall be drawn at a time and venue as decreed by the Management Committee.
Clubs will be drawn in pairs up to and including the semi-finals, the tie shall be played on the ground of Club first drawn.
In the event of a Club not being able to play the tie on its own ground on the date fixed (whether due to pitch availability or weather conditions), it must be played on the ground of its opponents, who shall be considered the Home Club for the purpose of the match.
Arrangements to reverse the fixture must be made at the first available opportunity. Ties postponed too late for this arrangement to be carried out shall be rearranged by the League Fixture Secretary and played on the ground of the Club drawn at home.
4. The Cups will remain the property of the Gloucestershire County Women's League. When the winning Club has been ascertained, the League shall deliver the Cup to such Club, which shall be responsible for its return to the League on or before the date specified on the TROPHY AGREEMENT signed by the winning club, in good order and condition. Should the Cup be lost, destroyed or damaged by any cause whilst under the care or custody of the Club, the latter shall refund to the League the cost of replacement or thorough repair in addition to any other penalty which the Management Committee may impose.
5. In addition to the Cup, the League shall (if League funds permit) make awards to the players and substitutes in the Final tie.

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6. The League Cup will be competed for annually by Clubs in membership of the Gloucestershire County Women's League. The dates of ties (with the exception of the Final) will be fixed and recorded in the League handbook.
7. A player at the time of representing a team must have been registered with the League in line with League Rule 18(A) and shall not in the same season be allowed to play for more than one team in this competition. With the exception of the Semi Final and Final players may be registered on match day by completing a competition registration form in accordance with League Rule 18(A)(2).

Any player who has played in a cup competition (excluding the FA Women's Cup and County Association Cup or Trophy) for another team at an equal or higher level (youth cups are considered as a lower level for the purpose of this rule) may not in the same season compete in this cup competition.

8. Except with permission from the Management Committee, to participate in a semi final or final match a player must have played a minimum of 5 league or cup fixtures for the team during the current season.
9. If a match is postponed, only the players eligible to play on the original date set for the match will be eligible for the re-scheduled tie (except those players returning from suspension).
10. Any Club proved guilty of playing an ineligible player or players shall be fined £10.00 for each ineligible player and disqualified from the competition.
11. The duration of each match shall be two equal periods of 45 minutes. If at the end of that time the scores are still level, the winner shall be determined by the taking of penalty kicks in accordance with the relevant regulation as defined in the 'Laws of the Game'.
12. The Management Committee shall decide the date and venue for the Final match and shall have direct control over the arrangements.

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13. All matches in this competition shall be played in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association and the Laws of the Game.
14. Subject to the preceding Rules, the Rules of the Gloucestershire County Women's Football League shall apply.
15. Failure to comply with these rules to the satisfaction of the Management Committee may result in the team's expulsion from the League Cup.