

THE DURHAM ALLIANCE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

1. NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

(A) This Competitions shall be designated the Durham Alliance Football League and shall consist of not more than 20 clubs who shall be Full Member Clubs.

All such Member Clubs must be affiliated to an affiliated County Football Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on the Form "D" to the Durham County Football Association Limited.

All member clubs must hold the Football Association Charter Standard for Senior Clubs. Any club having the Football Charter Standard removed by the Durham County Football Association will be immediately excluded from the Durham Alliance Football League and fined £200.00.

All member clubs must have a named and qualified First Aider.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Durham Football Association Limited and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding 16 in number.

No team in the League or Division of the League comprising of ten or more clubs shall be allowed to compete in more than THREE Charity Cup Competitions during the season without the consent of their parent Association and Management Committee.

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

(C) All clubs will be responsible for any comments or articles appearing on websites, in their club name, that make reference to either the Durham Alliance Football League, its competitions, other member clubs and league or match officials and which are deemed by the Management Committee to bring the League into disrepute, whether this is recorded on official league or external websites. All clubs shall list their clubs details and be responsible for their page on the Leagues Official Website.

2. ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

(A) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of an additional team(s) must be made in writing to the Secretary and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee of £40.00 per team, which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

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

When Rule 12(B) is applied and a team seeks a transfer or is compulsorily transferred to another division no Entry Fee shall be payable.

(B) The Annual Subscription shall be £100.00 per Team payable on or before the 30th September in each year. All clubs shall pay a Guarantee fee of £27.45 at the Annual General Meeting. All clubs shall receive six League handbooks at a cost of £30.00. All clubs shall receive 50 result sheets at a cost of £10.00.

(C) Each New Club shall within 28 days of the day of election pay a Deposit of £200.00, which shall be returnable to clubs on leaving the competition provided they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all order of the Management Committee.

(D) A Club shall be suspended and fined £50.00 if all League Fees have not been paid by 30th September in each year.

(E) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by the date of the Annual General Meeting of or on the prescribed form details of its Headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition.

(F) All clubs shall participate in a Monthly Draw to be drawn at each League meeting. 50% of the total income to be retained by the League. Each club shall contribute £25.00 towards each draw. The management of the draw shall be vested in the Management Committee of the League.

3. OFFICERS

The Officers of the Competition shall be the President, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Registration Secretary & Press Officer to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

4. MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

(A) The Competition shall be governed in accordance with the Rules

and Regulations of The Football Association by a Management Committee comprised of the Officers and eight members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

(B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination. All other candidates for election as Officers or Members of the Management Committee shall be Officers or Members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two Member Clubs, not later than May 14th in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting.

(C) The Management Committee shall meet monthly/as often as is necessary to deal with business as it arises.

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

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

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

5. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

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

(B) Subject to the permission of the Durham County Football Association having been obtained the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any Club which may have withdrawn during the season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the season. (See Rule 6(e)).

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

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

(D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition, including any not provided for in the Rules. Except where these Rules provide for the imposition of a set penalty any Club, Club Official (limited to Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer) or Player alleged to be in breach of a Competition Rule must be formally charged in writing and given the opportunity to present their case before the Management Committee. Financial penalties can only be imposed if included within the set penalties for breaches of Competition Rules. All breaches of the Laws of the Game, Rules and Regulations of The Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance with F.A. Rules by the appropriate Association.

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

Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 14 days.

(F) Five Members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee and 3 Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by any sub-committee of the competition.

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

(H) A Club having failed to comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee, or failing to satisfactorily attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition shall be fined £20.00 or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(I) All fines and charges shall be paid within 28 days of the date of posting of the written notification.

Clubs, Officials or individuals committing a breach of this rule will incur such penalties as the Management Committee may impose.

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

(K) The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the Annual General or Special General Meeting called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Competition season.

(L) A member of the League having attained 20 years service shall be eligible for nomination as a Life Member of the League at the discretion of the League Management Committee. Any nomination for Life Membership of the League must be made to the League Secretary.

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than the 23rd June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least two thirds of the Members are present and entitled to vote:-

- (i) To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
- (ii) To consider any business arising there from.
- (iii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
- (iv) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies (as recommended by the Management Committee).
- (v) Constitution of the Competition for ensuing season.
- (vi) Election of Officers and Management Committee.
- (vii) Appointments of Auditors.
- (viii) Alteration of Rules, if any (of which notice has been given).
- (ix) Fix the date for the commencement and conclusion of the playing season.

(x) Other business of which due notice shall be given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.

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

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

(D) Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send three delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Not less than seven days' notice shall be given of any Meeting.

(E) Clubs who have withdrawn their Membership of the Competition during the season being concluded or who are not continuing membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the season being concluded. This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 17.

(F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of hands/voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least two thirds of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.

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

(H) Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £40.00.

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

7. AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

The Chairman and Secretary of each Club shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the Competition together with the Application for Membership for the coming season, or upon indicating that the Club intends to compete.

“We, A,of(Chairman) and

Bof(Secretary)

..... Football Club have

been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the

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

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

(Note: The spaces above are intended for the inclusion of the signatures and addresses of Officers and Members)

8. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

(A) It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any Player signing a registration form for that Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any Player aged 12 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules, are not permitted in this Competition.

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

(1) Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the (Registrations) Secretary prior to playing and whose completed registration counterfoil has been received by the Club prior to playing. Stamped addressed envelope to be sent with all registration forms for return of completed counterfoil otherwise the club shall be fined £2.00.

(2) Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition Registration form in ink, on a match day, prior to playing, countersigned by an Officer of the Club and witnessed by an Officer of the opposing Club, and submitted to the (Registrations) Secretary within two days (Sundays excluded) subsequent to the match. The player shall not again play until the Club is in possession of the completed counterfoil. Stamped addressed envelope to be sent with all registration forms for return of completed counterfoil otherwise the club shall be fined £2.00.

(3) Only 5 players are allowed to be registered on the day of the match.

(C) A Player is not eligible to play in this Competition who receives any form or payment for playing, other than expenses as per clauses 1,2 and 3 of article 2 of the FIFA Regulations Governing the Status and Transfer of Players. Clubs upon election must sign a declaration that they will conform to the said clauses and players of such Clubs are required to sign a declaration upon Registration that they are eligible under, and will abide by, the FIFA clauses, which are as follows:

“(1) Players who have never received any remuneration other than for the actual expenses incurred during the course of their participation in or for any activity connected with association football shall be regarded as amateur.

(2) Travel and hotel expenses incurred through involvement in a match and the cost of a players equipment, insurance and training may be reimbursed jeopardising a players amateur status.

(3) Any player who has ever received remuneration in excess of the amount stated under clause 2 in respect of participation in or an activity connected with association football shall be regarded as non-amateur unless he has reacquired amateur status under the terms of Art.25”

(D) A player having taken part in matches for any Club affiliated to any County Football Association shall not be allowed to join, be transferred to, or sign for a Club in the Competition without first proving to the officials of the intended Club that the player has discharged all reasonable financial liabilities to the previous Club or Clubs, and a Club official may not accept such player's signature without first ascertaining whether such claims have been discharged to the satisfaction of the Club, or Clubs, for which the player last played.

(E) Registration forms shall be obtained from the (Registrations) Secretary on prepayment of £2.00 per form. Stamped addressed envelope to be sent with application otherwise the club shall be fined £2.00.

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

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

register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

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

- (i) Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same season without first being transferred.
- (ii) Having signed for one Club in the Competition, sign for another Club in the Competition in that season except for the purpose of a transfer.
- (iii) Submit a signed registration form for registration that the player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

(H)(i) The Management Committee shall have power to accept the registration of any player.

(ii) The Management Committee shall have the power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player or may fine any player, except those under 18 years of age, at their discretion who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities. (Subject to Rule 16).

(iii) The Management Committee shall have power to **make application to** refuse or cancel the registration of any player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 16) **subject to the right of appeal to the FA or the relevant County Football Association.**

Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated conduct, which may deter a participant from being involved in this Competition. **Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the player is registered with.**

(Note: Action under Clause (iii) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute **and will in any case be subject to an Appeal to the Football Association. For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the competition into disrepute can only be considered where the player has received in excess of 112 days' suspension, or 10 matches in match based discipline, in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.**)

(I) A register containing the names of all players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of any duly appointed Member Club representative at all Management Committee meetings or

at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one Season only.

In the event of a player without a written contract changing his status to that of a contract player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition or with a Club in another Competition his registration as a player without a written contract will automatically be cancelled and declared void. In order to play in the League again either for his original Club or for another Club it will be necessary for him to be re-registered as required by this Rule.

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

(K) A Club shall keep a list of the players it registers and a record of the games in which they have played, and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee. All changes of address for players registered with the club must be notified to the league immediately.

(L) A register containing the names of all players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Registrations Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of any duly appointed Member Club Representative at all Management Committee Meetings or at other times mutually arranged.

(M) A player shall not be eligible to play for a team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding match (as specified in Rule 12 (A)) unless the player has played 5 games for that team in this Competition in the current season.

(N) A Player who has played for a team in the First Division 5 times or more shall not in that season be eligible to play in a lower division except by permission of the Management Committee.

(O)(i) Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players may have the points gained in the match deducted from its total and shall be fined £25.00 and dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(ii) In addition the team shall have 3 points deducted from its total at the discretion of the Management Committee and may be dealt with in any further manner which it is thought to be fit.

- (iii) The Management Committee in exceptional circumstances may, at its discretion, award any points deducted from a Club under this Rule to the opponents in the match in question, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.

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

- (P)(i) Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities.
- (ii) The availability of children must be cleared with the Head Teachers (except for Sunday Leagues).
- (iv) Children under 14 shall not play in a team involving players who are more than 2 years older.

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

(Q) All clubs must have a minimum of 16 players registered with the League 14 days before the start of the season. Failure to do so a fine of £10.00 shall be imposed.

9. CLUB COLOURS. CLUB NAME

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

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

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

Any team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify the colours in which they will play to its opponents at least 4 days before the match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the away team shall make the change. Any team not having a change of colours or delaying kick-off by not having a change shall be fined £5.00.

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

(B) Any Club wishing to change its name and/or colours must seek permission from its affiliated County Association and from the Management Committee.

PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY

10. TIMES OF KICK-OFF. POSTPONEMENTS. SUBSTITUTES

(A) The Annual General Meeting shall determine the commencing and concluding dates for the ensuing season, which shall be in accordance with Football Association Rules.

Fixtures are deemed to be accepted unless; objections are received by the Fixtures Secretary, within 5 days of their issue.

Any Club failing to be represented at a Fixture or League Meeting or otherwise infringing this rule shall be liable for a fine of £40.00 and the Management Committee or the Fixtures Secretary shall arrange the Clubs fixtures.

All clubs are required to provide an active e-mail account to the League in order to facilitate the distribution of fixtures and appointment of match officials and communicate any changes to published fixtures with a designated club official.

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

Where grounds have a perimeter barrier the following shall apply: Only the club manager, trainer/physio, first aider and five substitutes shall be allowed in the technical area and dugout. All other spectators and non playing members must remain behind the barrier. Where no barriers are provided the club will be held responsible for the conduct of its substitutes, officials and spectators. Any club reported in accordance with this rule will be dealt with by the League Management Committee and fined a minimum sum of £50.00.

Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their grounds in a playable condition. All matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee. Including third generation (3G) pitches. 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 reserve the right and at the discretion of the Fixtures Secretary to request all clubs to play midweek matches and for those clubs with floodlights to provide additional

dates to accommodate mid-week fixtures throughout the playing season.

All matches shall have duration of 90 minutes unless a shorter time (not less than 70 minutes) is mutually arranged by the two captains in consultation with the Referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves.

The times of kick-off shall be fixed by the A.G.M. or the Management Committee. Any club failing to commence at the appointed time shall be fined a sum not exceeding £5.00, or be otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine.

Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition.

The home team must provide at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. Goal nets & corner flags must be used.

The home club secretary and match officials must be in attendance at the ground 30 minutes before kick off to give the match officials access to inspect the pitch. The Management Committee recommend that clubs/match officials should wait 30 minutes after the scheduled kick off time for any late arrival of opponents or match officials.

The Management Committee reserve the right, and the discretion of the Fixtures Secretary, to request midweek matches to be played on grounds with floodlights.

(C) Except by permission of the Management Committee all matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The Football Association and all relevant County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of the Fixtures Secretary.

(D) The Secretary of the home Club must communicate, giving notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the match officials and the Secretary of the opposing Club at least 4 clear days prior to the playing of the match. The away Club shall seek and acknowledge receipt of such particulars.

Any club failing to comply with this Rule shall be fined £10.00.

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

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

In the event of a Club playing in any match with less than 9 players they shall be fined £10.00 for each missing player. A minimum of SEVEN players will constitute a team for a Competition Match.

(F) Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the club shall be fined £50.00, have three points deducted and pay the full match fees and expenses to the match officials. Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent's ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

Notice of postponement of any match must be given without delay by the postponing Club. Such notice must be given 5 days by the Club to the League Secretary, Any Club failing to comply shall be dealt with by The Management Committee who may inflict any penalty it may deem suitable.

In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two clubs and approved by The Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Fixtures Secretary within 5 days the Management Committee shall have power to order the match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date.

The Management Committee shall review all matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to

stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one team or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to *award the points for the match to the opponent*. In cases where a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule all points for the match as void. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match.

Where a fixture is unable to be played due to adverse weather conditions consideration must be given to reversing the fixture to the away teams ground if the reverse fixture has not already been played and the away teams ground is available and fit to host the fixture. Should this be the case then the Fixture Secretary and match officials should be informed at the earliest opportunity.

(G) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use 3 substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from 5 players.

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

(H) The half time interval shall be of 10 minutes duration, but it shall not exceed fifteen minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the Referee. The home club must provide half time refreshments for all match officials. Any club in breach of this rule shall be fined £20.00.

(S) Each club must play at least six midweek matches before the end of September. Any club violating this rule shall be fined £10.00 for each occurrence.

(T) No alcohol shall be allowed to be brought into any grounds within the League during all matches including cup ties organised by the Management Committee. Any club violating this rule shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.

(U) In all Cup Finals the following shall apply:

Both clubs shall supply two match balls.

Where dugouts are provided a maximum of eight (5 substitutes and 3 management) are allowed with only two allowed to stand in the technical area.

The presentation of the trophy and medals will take place on the field of play after the match to the Match Officials, runners up and winners. All players must be present at the presentation. Under no circumstances will a player who has been dismissed receive a medal at the presentation.

11. REPORTING RESULTS

(A) The Registration Secretary must receive within 2 days (Sundays not included) of the date played, the result of each Competition match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the team players (BLOCK LETTERS) and also the referee markings required by Rule 13 or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £10.00. And the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide.

(B) The Home Club shall telephone the result of each match (including all Charity Cup and County Cup matches home & away) to the Press Secretary by 5 p.m. (Saturdays) & 9 p.m. (Midweek). Failure to do so the home club shall be fined £20.00.

(C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of each Club. The Management Committee shall have power to take such action, as they deem suitable against a Club, which submits an incomplete form or incorrect information.

(D) The Match Result sheet, including the list of all players taking part in the match, must be handed to the appointed Match Referee before the commencement of every match. The Match Referee is requested to confirm all yellow & red cards on the Match Result Sheet and sign the sheet before returning the Match Result sheet to the clubs at the end of the match.

(E) All clubs shall complete an online Match Return on the League website for every league and cup competition within 24 hours of every match, midweek included. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £20 and the club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide. Any false information entered by a club on the Match Return, the club will be dealt with by the Management Committee.

12. DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

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

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

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

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

- (i) Should one or more teams withdraw from any one Division after the fixtures have commenced an equal number of teams to those withdrawing in that Division shall not be automatically relegated.
- (iv) When a senior team is relegated to a lower division of which its reserve team is a member, or entitled to be a member, such reserve team must accept relegation to, or regain its position in, the lower division; and should the Senior Team be relegated to the lowest division its reserve team automatically retires from the Competition.
- (v) Should either or both of the leading teams in any of the divisions have its senior team in the next higher division, promotion shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next highest team or teams in the division concerned.

(C) In the event of a team not completing its fixtures for the season, the record of the matches played by such club shall be expunged from the Competition table, if more than TWO MATCHES remain to be played. If a club only has ONE or TWO MATCHES unplayed, points shall be awarded as follows:

- (i) If the club which was not in default lost or drew the first match, one point shall be awarded to that club.
- (ii) If the club, which was not in default won the first match, the points normally awarded for a win shall be awarded to that club.
- (iii) In the case where two matches against one club have not been played, the club not in default shall be awarded the points normally awarded for a win.

13. REFEREES

(A) Registered Referees and Assistant Referees for all matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the sanctioning Association(s).

All match officials must travel together wherever possible, if not a full explanation will be required from the defaulting official and the Management Committee will deal with the matter.

(B) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed Referee the appointed senior Assistant Referee shall take charge and a substitute Assistant Referee appointed by the competing Teams. In cases where there are no officially appointed Assistant Referees, the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee. A Referee thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee.

Referees, if available, to any match. Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £10.00 being imposed on the defaulting Team.

(D) The appointed Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and the decision shall be final subject to either in the case of a ground of a Local Authority or the owners of the ground, the Representative of that body is the sole arbiter and whose decision must be accepted unless the ground is declared fit for play.

(E) Match referees fees shall be £25.00 inclusive of travelling expenses/mileage and registered referees appointed by the Management Committee as Assistant referees £15.00 inclusive of travelling expenses/mileage.

The Referees and Assistant Referees full match fees and expenses shall be shared equally between both clubs in all competition matches.

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

(G) A Referee not keeping his engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to his non-appearance, may be reported to The Association with which he is registered.

(H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The Football Association, award marks to the Referee for each match and the name of the Referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed Form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined or dealt with, as the Management Committee shall determine.

The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the Form provided by the prescribed date each season, shall submit a summary to The Football Association/County Association.

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

(C) The Management Committee may, if they consider it desirable, or upon application by the two competing Clubs, appoint Assistant

- (ii) Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the season may be filled on any of the following ways:
 - (a) retention of otherwise relegated teams(s)
 - (b) additional promotion of the next ranked team(s) from the Divisions below
 - (c) election.
- (iii) The last two teams in the lowest Division shall retire, but be eligible for re-election except as below, and be subject to the conditions of paragraph (B)(1) above.

The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes prior to the start of the match.

14. CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

(A) After 31st December in the current Season a Club intending, or having provisional intention, to withdraw a team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the Secretary in writing by 31st March each Season or be liable to a fine not exceeding £200.00.

All clubs wishing to remain in membership of the Competition for the following Season must confirm their intention to do so, in writing to the Secretary by 31st March.

Any club who has resigned from the competition by 31st March and wishes to rescind the resignation must do so in writing to the

League Secretary at least 28 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting, otherwise the club must apply to join the league as a new club.

(B) A club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its teams from the Competition after the Annual General Meeting for the following Season. Any Club infringing this Rule shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £200.00 per team and shall also be liable for its share of any call which may be made under Rule 5(B).

(C) The Membership for the coming season having been decided at a Special General Meeting held for that purpose at the Annual General Meeting held not later than 14th June The Competition shall have the right, irrespective of other provisions in this Rule, to refuse to permit a Club to withdraw its team(s) in order to join another Competition and may hold the Club to its engagements.

(D) In the event of a Member Club, which is an un-incorporated association, withdrawing and/or disbanding it shall be immediately liable to discharge all its financial and other obligations to the Competition.

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

15. PROTESTS AND APPEALS

(A) (i) All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee.

(ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match. Any Club lodging such protest and not proceeding with it shall be deemed guilty of a breach of this Rule and shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.

(B) Except in the case 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

two clear days (Sundays not included) of the match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A Member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

(C) Any dispute occurring between Clubs in the Competition shall be referred for determination by the Management Committee whose decision shall be binding upon all parties subject to Rule 16.

(D) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum of £20.00. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the enquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

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

All parties must have received 7 days' notice of the Hearing should they be instructed to attend.

Should a Club elect to state its case in person then they should forward a deposit of £20 and indicate such when forwarding the written response.

16. BOARD OF APPEAL

Within 14 days of the posting of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee, or the Competition, a Club, Official or Player, against whom action is taken, may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars in TRIPLICATE with the Secretary of the Durham County Football Association, including a fee of £20.00 for adjudication of a Board of Appeal. The grounds of appeal shall be in accordance with FA Rules. The Board of Appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited and shall decide by whom the costs of the appeal shall be borne. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned.

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

17. EXCLUSION OF CLUBS OR TEAMS

MISCONDUCT, CLUBS OFFICIALS, PLAYERS

(A) At the Annual General Meeting, or Special General Meeting called for the purpose, Notice of Motion having been duly circulated on the Agenda, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude any Club or Team from further membership. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot.

(B) At the Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable which must be supported by (more than) two thirds (2/3rds) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

(C) Any official or member of a Club proved guilty of either a breach of Rule, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a player or players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to expulsion or such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Clauses (A) and (B) of this Rule.

(D) Any Club or Team failing to complete any of its fixtures in any season shall (unless the conditions are beyond their control, or the accredited delegates present at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting decide otherwise by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast) be debarred from Membership the following Season.

TROPHY:- LEGAL OWNERS, CONDITIONS OF TAKING OVER

18. AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED. AWARDS.
(A) A Competition Cup or Trophy shall be vested in the Association sanctioning the Competition as Trustees. If a Competition be discontinued for any cause the Cup or Trophy shall be returned to the Donor, if the conditions attached to it so provide, or otherwise dealt with as the Association may decide. At the close of each Competitions awards may/shall be made to the winners and runners up if the funds of the Competition permit.

The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the Cup or Trophy:-

“Weand the Chairman and Secretary of FC, members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of Cup or Trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the Cup or Trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before 1st April, fully engraved in like order and condition and in accordance with the conditions and rules of the competition. 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.”

19. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Upon receiving a requisition signed by two two-thirds of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting.

The Management Committee may call a Special General Meeting at any time.

At least 5 days notice shall be given of either meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.

Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send three delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.

Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £40.00.

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

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

20. ALTERATION TO RULES

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

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary by 1st May in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 7th May and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 14th May. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the sanctioning Football Association 14 days prior to the date of the meeting.

21. RULES BINDING ON CLUBS

(A) Each Member Club shall be deemed to have given its assent to the foregoing Rules and agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee subject to Rule 16. Each Member Club must abide by any issued Football Association Code of Conduct.

22. FINANCE

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

(B) All expenditure in excess of £ 200.00 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.

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

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

23. 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 Association to believe that the person accused of the offence poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children.

3. Upon receipt by The Association of:

- 3.1 notification that an individual has been charged with an Offence; or
- 3.2 notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the Police, Social Services or any other authority relating to an Offence; 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 Association shall have the power to order that the individual be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.

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

- 4.1 whether a child is or children are or may be at risk of harm;
- 4.2 whether the matters are of a serious nature;
- 4.3 whether an order is necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by The Association or any other authority or body to proceed unimpeded.

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

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

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

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

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

24. PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

- The match referee is requested to indicate a Man of the Match for both clubs on the match result sheets in all matches under the jurisdiction of the league.

25. FAIR PLAY AWARD

- All matches under the control of the League Management Committee to count.
- Yellow Cards – 1 disciplinary point
- Red Cards – 2 disciplinary points
- Proven cases of Misconduct and breach of League Rules – 3 disciplinary points.
- The club with the least number of points will have their League fees paid for the following season. In the event of a tie for the least number of points the total sum of the League fees for the following season shall be shared between the tied clubs.
- Clubs with 30-39 disciplinary points at the end of the season will be fined £40.00.
- Clubs with 40 or more disciplinary points at the end of the season will be fined £50.00.

26. REFEREE OF THE YEAR AWARD

- An award will be given to the referee with highest average mark. A referee can only be nominated who has a minimum of ten qualifying matches.