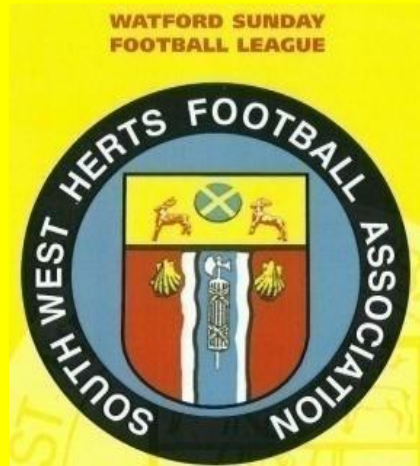


# **SOUTH WEST HERTS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**



Incorporating  
Watford Sunday Football League

## **RULE BOOK 2024-25**

July 2024 Edition

Affiliated to Hertfordshire Football Association

The Colours of The Association will be red, yellow and black

## South West Hertfordshire Football Association – Watford Sunday Football League

This document contains the Standard Code of Rules developed by The Football Association for open age football (the “Standard Code”). The Standard Code is mandatory for all Competitions at Regional NLS Feeder League level and below, and Tier 7 and below of The FA Women’s Pyramid:-

These Rules cover the following competitions: SW Herts FA Watford Sunday Football League, SW Herts FA Sunday Challenge Cup, SW Herts FA Intermediate Cup, SW Herts FA Sunday Junior Cup, Watford Sunday League Invitation Cup, Watford Sunday League Presidents Cup, Watford Sunday League Reserve Cup, and any other such Competitions as the Association may wish to organize.

*RULES IN NON-BOLD ITALICS ARE RULES INTRODUCED BY THE WATFORD SUNDAY FOOTBALL LEAGUE, OR MAY BE ALTERNATIVES PROPOSED TO THE MANDATORY RULES BY THE FA. THESE MAY BE AMENDED OR ADDED TO AT THE AGM.*

**ALL OTHER RULES IN BOLD TYPE ARE FA MANDATORY RULES AND CANNOT BE AMENDED OTHER THAN BY THE FA.**

### 1. DEFINITIONS

#### 1.A In these Rules:

“**Affiliated Association**” means an Association accorded the status of an Affiliated Association under the rules of The FA.

“**AGM**” shall mean the annual general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

“**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 *South West Hertfordshire Football Association - Watford Sunday Football League*.

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

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

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

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

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

“**Ground**” means the ground on which the Club’s Team(s) plays its Competition Matches.

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

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

“**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 Hertfordshire County Football Association Limited.

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

“**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.

“**The FA**” means The Football Association Limited.

“**Virtual Meetings**” means meetings held electronically

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

#### 1.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

<b>GOVERNANCE RULES</b>	
<b>2. COMPETITION NAME, CONSTITUTION</b>	
<b>2.A</b>	<b>The Competition will be known as “The South West Hertfordshire Football Association - Watford Sunday Football League/Cup” (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>
<b>2.B</b>	<b>This Competition shall consist of not more than 72 Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority.</b>
<b>2.C</b>	<b>The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be <i>within an 15 mile radius of Watford Town Hall, in which area Clubs shall have their ground/head quarters.</i></b>
<b>2.D</b>	<b>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.</b>
<b>2.E</b>	<b>All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a member of the Competition to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee in relation to them subject to the provisions of Rule 7.</b>
<b>2.F</b>	<b>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.</b>
<b>2.G</b>	<b>1. All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association. 2. This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Sanctioning Authority and the constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped in divisions, <i>each not exceeding 12 in number.</i></b>
<b>2.H</b>	<b>Inclusivity and Non-discrimination:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (including those contained in the Equality Act 2010).</b></li> <li><b>2. This Competition and each Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise.</b></li> <li><b>3. Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.</b></li> </ol>
<b>2.I</b>	<b>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.</b>
<b>2.J</b>	<b>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.</b>
<b>2.K</b>	<b>Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing in the Competition in any other competitions (with the exception of FA and County FA Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. A Club must immediately inform the Competition of the details of any fixture(s) in any other competition in which the Club has entered, for which written consent of the Management Committee has been obtained.</b>
<b>2.L</b>	<b>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.</b>
<b>2.M</b>	<b>Only one Team from a Club <u>shall be permitted</u> to participate in <u>a single</u> 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.</b>
<b>2.O</b>	<i>The Competition will conduct all matters relating to the League/Divisions/Cups it organizes, and will have the right to determine the eligibility of any Club for entry to any of these .</i>
<b>2.P</b>	<i>The Competition shall operate a Social Media Policy and Guidelines as decided by the Management Committee and issued to all clubs.</i>
<b>3. CLUB NAME</b>	

3.A	Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority following consultation with the Competition. 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.
3.B	Any Club intending to change its name from the previous season must submit, in writing, the Clubs new name and the reason for the change. The acceptance, or otherwise, of such change will be at the discretion of the Management Committee.
<b>4. ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT</b>	
4.A	<p>Applications by Clubs for admission to the Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same Club must be made in writing to the Secretary by 15<sup>th</sup> May 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.</p> <p>Applications, of which due notice has been given, will be received at the AGM or an SGM if confirmed by a majority of the accredited voting members present.</p> <p>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</p>
4.B	<p>The annual subscription shall be payable, in accordance with the Fees Tariff for each <del>[Club/Team]</del> payable at a date agreed at the AGM or set by the Competition.</p> <p><i>This will be payable by continuing Clubs on or before 6pm on 15<sup>th</sup> May each year. This subscription will cover membership and entitle each Club to receive two free Directories/Rule Books, (Any replacement Directories/Rule Books will be supplied at a charge of £5), 30 Player Number &amp; ID Card Forms and entry into the appropriate Cup Competitions. Failure to meet the above deadline will lead to the Club's application not being accepted.</i></p>
4.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.
4.D	A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the entry fee, annual subscription and deposit (if required) have been paid.
4.E	Clubs must ensure that all its teams participating in the Competition are recorded as affiliated on the Club Portal for the forthcoming Playing Season by the following date [15 <sup>th</sup> August]. Clubs must advise the Competition Secretary in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, its Officers and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
<b>5. MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION</b>	
5.A	The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and 2 members who shall all be elected at the AGM.
5.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 15 <sup>th</sup> May 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 15 <sup>th</sup> May in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being no nomination for any office by the date stated in the earlier part of this Rule, nominations may be received at the AGM.
5.C	<p>The Management Committee shall meet a minimum of twice a season or as and when required,</p> <p>On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Management Committee.</p>
5.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.
5.E	All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Officers and sent to the Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. (Note ; Officers consist of the 4 nominated persons signing the Competitions Undertaking Form, i.e. Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Manager.)
5.F	No member shall be eligible for election as a Vice President unless he/she has been deemed and proposed, by the Management Committee, to have provided meritorious service to the Association for a minimum continuous period of ten years from the date of their appointment to their position. Clubs may submit names of persons to the Management Committee for consideration under the above definition. All current Honorary positions will, under this Rule, be reviewed annually and members of the association meeting the requirements of Rules 5F and 5G will be proposed, and seconded for election at each Annual General Meeting. Other notable Honorary members of the Association will be proposed and seconded for election at each Annual General Meeting. Honorary

	<i>Members may attend meetings but are not eligible to vote.</i>
5.G	<i>When Association Officers retire, the President may be nominated to become an Honorary Life Past President of the Association, and in the case of a Vice President may be nominated to become an Honorary Life President of the Association. Other Officers will be subject to qualification for Vice President under Rule 5F.</i>
5.H	<i>On Association Meeting nights, each Club in membership will be required to send a representative to the meeting. Voting will be as prescribed in Rule 6D. Clubs not represented at Competition (clubs) Meetings shall be fined £25. After missing two consecutive meetings, a written explanation must be sent to the Honorary Secretary within seven days of the date of the meeting giving reasons for non-attendance. Clubs missing three consecutive meetings will be required to appear before the Management Committee who may impose an additional fine.</i>
<b>6. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT</b>	
6.A	<b>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>
6.B	<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.</b>
6.C	<b>Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee meetings and have one vote at all such meetings but no member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly relating -to that -member or to the Club so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest. (This shall also apply to the procedure of any sub-committee). A secret ballot may be taken if the majority of those present so desire.</b>
6.D	<b>In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chair shall have a second or casting vote.</b>
6.E	<p><b>The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition. Any action by the Competition must be taken within 28 days of the Competition being notified.</b></p> <p><b>With the exception of Rules 6(I), 8(H), and 9, for all alleged breaches of a Rule the Management Committee shall issue a formal written charge to the Club concerned. The Club charged shall be given 7 days from the date of notification of the charge to reply. In such reply a Club may:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Accept the charge and /or submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee; or</b></li> <li><b>2. Accept the charge and notify the Competition [ Watford Sunday Football League] that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or</b></li> <li><b>3. Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee; or</b></li> <li><b>4. Deny the charge and notify the Competition [ Watford Sunday Football League] that it wishes to have a hearing before the Management Committee.</b></li> </ol> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Having considered the reply of the Club (whether in writing or at a hearing), the Management Committee shall make its decision and, in the event that the charge is accepted or, proven , decide on the appropriate penalty (with reference to the Fines Tariff where applicable).</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>The maximum fine permitted for a breach of a Rule by a Team playing at Regional NLS Feeder League level is £500.</b></p>



	<p><b>No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.</b></p> <p>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.</p>
6.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.
6.G	A minimum of 30% of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any of its sub-committees
6.H	The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill any vacancies that may occur in their number.
6.I	A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. <i>A Club having failed to comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee within 14 days of a specified date, shall not be allowed to complete fixtures or take part in the Competitions business until the order has been complied with. Clubs failing to satisfactorily attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition shall be liable to be penalized at the discretion of the Management Committee. The penalty may include having its membership withdrawn (subject to SGM appeal)</i>
6.J	Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision. Any Club failing to do so will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid. <i>If a club has had fixtures withdrawn for non-payment of fines, this means they must miss their next match, plus the fines must be cleared at least Five (5) days before the next fixture that the Club will be allowed to compete in. Should a club be withdrawn for more than one match and these matches be consecutive, then they will be dealt with under Rule 20E, although no fine will be imposed.</i>
6.K	A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or Competition Match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.
6.L	The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the AGM or SGM called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Playing Season, subject to the provisions of the National League System Regulations or Women's Football Pyramid Regulations (which shall take precedence if applicable).
6.M	The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.
6.N	<i>The Minutes of the Management Committee of the Association shall include confirmation of any fines imposed at the meeting.</i>
6.O	<i>Any Management Committee Member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings, without a written explanation, shall be deemed to have resigned their post.</i>
6.P	<i>A Club who is deemed guilty of a breach of the Rules that is liable to bring The Association into disrepute will be dealt with as the Committee determine and may have its membership removed as per Rule 12. Written notification of a charge of disrepute against a Club must be given and the Club will have right of protest as per Rule 7B and any subsequent appeal under Rule 16. Clubs are responsible for the behavior of their supporters.</i>
<b>7. PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS</b>	
7.A	<p>1. All questions of eligibility, qualification of Players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee.</p> <p>2. Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee prior to the commencement of the Match.</p>
7.B	Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within 7 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 his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.
7.C	No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be

	forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the inquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.
7.D	<p>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.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All parties must have received a minimum of 7 days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.</li> <li>2. Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should indicate such when forwarding the written response.</li> </ol>
7.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.
7.F	<p>Any appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of the posting of the written notification of the decision causing the appeal, accompanied by a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff), which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. A copy of the appeal must also be sent to the Secretary. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority, and the Sanctioning Authority may (but is not obliged to):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. invite submissions by the parties involved;</li> <li>2. convene a hearing to hear the appeal;</li> <li>3. permit new evidence; or</li> <li>4. impose appropriate deadlines.</li> </ol> <p>Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee.</p>
7.G	No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct
7.H	<p>All protests, claims or complaints relating to these Rules and appeals arising from a Player's contract shall be heard and determined by the Management Committee, or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee. The Clubs or Players protesting, appealing, claiming or complaining must send a copy of such protest, appeal, claim or complaint and deposit a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff) which shall be forfeited in the event of the protest, appeal, claim or complaint not being upheld, and in these circumstances may, in addition, be ordered to pay the costs at the direction of the Management Committee.</p> <p>All such protests, claims, complaints and appeals must be received in writing by the Secretary within 14 days of the event or decision causing any of these to be submitted.</p>
<b>8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b>	
8.A	<p>The AGM shall be held not later than 30<sup>th</sup> June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least <i>two thirds</i> ( 2/3) members are present and entitled to vote:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Confirm-the minutes of the last AGM.</li> <li>2. Adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts from the previous season or accounting period.</li> <li>3. Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.</li> <li>4. Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Season.</li> <li>5. Election of Competition Officers and Management Committee members.</li> <li>6. Appointment of auditors/verifiers..</li> <li>7. Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14).</li> <li>8. Agree the date for the beginning of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.</li> <li>9. Agree the date for the end of the Playing Season (save for Regional NLS Feeder League which shall be determined by The FA).</li> <li>10. Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted by the Chair as being relevant to an AGM.</li> </ol>
8.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.
8.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.
8.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.
8.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. <i>This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 12</i>
8.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.
8.G	No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Club.
8.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.
8.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).
8.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.
<b>9. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS</b>	
9.A	On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call an SGM.
9B	The Management Committee may call an SGM at any time
9C	At least 7 days' notice shall be given of a meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.
9D	Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.
9E	Any Club failing to be represented at an SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
9F	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).
<b>10. AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED</b>	
10.	Each Club shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the Competition together with the application for membership for the coming Season, "We, (A) (name) [ ] of (address) [ ] (Chair)/(Director) and (B) (name) [ ] of (address) [ ] (Secretary)/(Director) of [ ] Football Club (Limited) have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the <i>Watford Sunday Football League Competition</i> and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, if elected or accepted into membership, to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7." The agreement shall be signed: 1. where a Club is an unincorporated association, by the Club Chair -and Secretary; or 2. where a Club is an incorporated entity, by two directors of the Club. Any change of Chair Secretary or Directors of the Club as named on the above agreement must be notified to the [ ] 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.
<b>11. CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB</b>	
11.A	Any 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 <i>31<sup>st</sup> March</i> 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.
11.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.
11.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.
<b>12. EXCLUSION OF CLUBS, TEAMS. MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b>	
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: (i) remove a member of the Management Committee from office; (ii) exclude any Club or Team from membership. both of which, must be supported by more than two thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A member of the Management Committee or Club which is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.



12.B	At the AGM, or at an SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, provided this is supported by more than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting
12.C	Any Officer or member of a Club found 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 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 12.A and/or 12.B of this Rule. Any action taken under this Rule will be reported to the Sanctioning Authority.
<b>13. TROPHY</b>	
13.A	The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the cup or trophy:  "We (A) (name) and (B) (name), the Chair and Secretary of [ ] FC (Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of cup or trophy, and the cup or trophy having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the cup or trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before <i>the date of the March Competitions (Clubs) meeting</i> . 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.
13.B	<b>At the close of each Competition awards may/shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.</b>
13.C	A Competition Cup or Trophy shall be vested in the Association Sanctioning the Competition as Trustees. If a Competition be discontinued for any reason, the Cup or Trophy shall be returned to the donor, if the conditions attached to so provide, or otherwise dealt with as the Competition may decide.
13.D	Any Club failing to return trophies by the date of the March Club Meeting of the following season, as required by this Rule shall be fined not less than £25.
13.E	The winning team and runners-up in each Division of the Competition, and various cups, shall receive 16 mementoes to be provided by the Competition.
13.F	The winning teams and runners-up of all competitions may make application to the Management Committee for permission to purchase extra mementoes for which they must pay. This application must state the full names of the players for whom the extra mementoes are required, and the number of games each player has played in the competition for his Club, in the same season.
13.G	All teams receiving a Cup or trophy from the Competition at the end of the season shall ensure that before it is returned to the Competition, that it is engraved with the winning clubs name and season of winning, plus is cleaned to the standard it was when received by them. Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
<b>14. ALTERATION TO RULES</b>	
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, except in exceptional circumstances where approved by Sanctioning Authority and The FA.
14.B	Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by 1 <sup>st</sup> April in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 14 <sup>th</sup> April and any amendments to these proposals shall be submitted to the Secretary by 21 <sup>st</sup> April. 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.
14.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.
<b>15. FINANCE</b>	
15.A	The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.
15.B	All expenditure in excess of £500 shall be approved by the Management Committee.
15.C	The financial year of the Competition will end on 15 <sup>th</sup> May each year.
15.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.
15.E	Each Club must ensure that all monies owed to the Club by its members is collected from them by the last day of the season, the date of which was agreed at the previous Annual General Meeting. Any monies owed after this date is the Club's own responsibility and cannot be referred to the League. If, however any of such debt relates to a Herts FA fine, Clubs may refer the matter to the Herts FA for any appropriate action. But any such referral to

Herts FA must be within 28 days of payment being requested or within 112 days of the debt being incurred.

#### 16. INSURANCE

**16.A** All Clubs must have valid Public Liability Insurance cover for a minimum of ten million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.

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

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

#### 17. 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.

**17.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.

**17.C** The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:

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

#### MATCH RELATED RULES

#### 18. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

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

1. Registered through the Player Registration System and received approval from the Competition.

Or

2. signed a fully and correctly completed Competition Emergency 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, and submitted to the Competition within four days (Sundays excluded) 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 the approval from the Competition. This applies to League (not Cup) matches only and up to two per match and a maximum of 20 per season. Emergency Registrations can only be done up until the 20<sup>th</sup> February each season. Also clubs are advised that they should check that players are not registered to another club in the competition or suspended before Emergency Registering them

*Note: The countersigning does not validate the registration of the player concerned: the validation will be completed by the procedures at below. The completed form must be dealt with as follows, the Form must be sent as per the instructions on it and the Emergency Registration Fee of £10 (which includes the Registrations Fee paid into the Leagues bank account). The completed form must be submitted within four days of the match. The Club making such Emergency Registrations will be held liable for any breaches of the Rules, which may be uncovered after the event, e.g. registering a suspended or otherwise ineligible player etc. An Emergency Registration Form will be accepted, subject to the provisions of this Rule, without a photograph. However, a formal Registration must then be submitted within 5 days as required by Rule 18(A)1. Any breach of this Rule will be subject to a £10 fine together with any other required action for any other breach of Rules uncovered under 18A above.*

3. *Players Registered through the Player Registration System (18A1) must be done 3 days prior to the Player playing. When clubs register players they must also download the players photo onto the Player Registration System otherwise the registration will not be accepted. Also clubs are advised that they should check that players are not registered to another club in the competition or suspended before Emergency registering them.*

*A player is NOT registered until the Club Secretary receives Player Registration System approval from the Competition (with the exception of Emergency Registrations) and will be subject to Rule 18M.*

	<p>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.</p> <p>For Clubs registering Players under 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.</p> <p>Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p>
18.B	<p>1. Contract players are not permitted in this Competition with the exception of those Players who are registered under Contract with the same Club who have a team operating at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System, or Tiers 1 – 4 of the Women Pyramid System.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>3. Each team must have at least 11 Players registered 14 days before the start of each Playing Season. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff, and team will not be qualified to play on the first day of the season.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>5. Any Club registering a player, after the 14-day deadline in Rule 18B 3 and between the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in September, must submit to the Registrations Secretariat a written explanation why the registration is required, together with the sum of £10, which includes Registration Fee, for each registration required. (see also see Rule 18P)</p>
18.C	<p>A Player that owes a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) shall be permitted to register for a Club but will be suspended from football activities if the Player does not comply with the terms of the Football Debt Recovery Regulations in respect of that Football Debt.</p>
18.D	<p>A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered.</p>
18.E	<p>The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes.</p> <p>In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club the valid registration submitted first shall take precedence. The Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.</p>
18.F	<p>It shall be a breach of Rule for a Player to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.</li> <li>2. Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season except for the purpose of a transfer, or where the Competition adopts Rule 18P.</li> <li>3. Submit a signed registration form as per Rule 18 A.2 or submit a registration through the Player Registration System –that the Player had willfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.</li> </ol> <p>Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p>
18.G	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Management Committee shall to accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rules 18.G.2 and 18.G.3 below.</li> <li>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).</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>

	<p>Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition.</p> <p>4. A Player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18(G)(iii) but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the Player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition may consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.</p> <p>(Note: Action under Rule 18.G.3 shall not be taken against a Player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and then only in cases of the Player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any event be subject to an appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. All decisions must include the period of restriction. For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the Competition into disrepute can only be considered where the Player has received in excess of 112 days' suspension, or 10 matches in match based discipline, in any competition (and is not restricted to the Competition) in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.)</p>
18.H	<p>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 Player Registration System. A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff <i>will</i> be required.</p> <p>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 5 days after receipt of such transfer.</p> <p><i>The transfer of registration will not be completed until the new clubs secretary has completed a Competition Transfer Form, submitted this to the Competition and received approval from the Competition. No transfer will be granted unless a player has been registered with their current Club for a minimum period of 28 days.</i></p> <p>In the event of an objection to a transfer the matter shall be referred to the Management Committee for a decision.</p>
18.I	<p>A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 8pm on the 20<sup>th</sup> February each year except by special permission of the Management Committee</p>
18.J	<p>Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.</p>
18.K	<p>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 3 Competition Matches for that Team in the current Playing Season.</p>
18.L.	<p>Not used in this Competition .</p>
18.M	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Subject to Rule 18M2 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). (NB – A suspended player is ineligible. Any Club, or Club Official breaking this Rule or Rule K on more than two occasions may be excluded from further participation in the Competition)</li> <li>2. The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18M1 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.</li> <li>3. Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 18.M1 above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion, order one or more of the following (if appropriate): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed;</li> <li>ii. Levy penalty points against the Club in default;</li> <li>iii. Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
18.N	<p>The following clause applies to Competitions involving Players in full-time secondary education:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>2. The availability of children and young people must be cleared with the Head Teachers or Principals (except for Sunday leagues competitions).</li> <li>3. To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16.</li> </ol>
18.O	<p>A Player who has played for a Team in a higher division 6 times , including cup games, or more shall not in that Playing Season be eligible to play in a lower division, including cups, except by permission of the Management Committee. Application must be received 5 days prior to the match date .</p>

18.P	<p>If a Club wishes to cancel a Player's registration within the Competition, it must make a request via The FA's electronic player registration system giving the reasons for the request. The Competition may either approve or decline the request.</p> <p>If a Player's registration is cancelled they will not be eligible to re-register in the Competition for a period of 7 days from the date of cancellation.</p>
18.Q	<p>1. It will be the responsibility of the Club Secretary to ensure that player photos (either printed sheets or electronically) are available at all League and Cup matches for production when required at any time up to 15 minutes after the end of the match by their opponents. A member of the Management Committee, in an official capacity, is not time limited on the match day for requesting sight of or the checking Photographs.</p> <p>2. It is compulsory for the Club Secretary or in their absence, an assigned club representative to inspect the opposition's Photographs prior to the match and to report any infringements to the Management Committee. This procedure need not be carried out if a member of the Management Committee has already carried out a Full Player Photographs inspection.</p> <p>3. If the Photographs are not presented when required as in (i) and (ii) above, the defaulting Club is required to submit an explanation to the General Secretary at the latest within two days of the match. Any allegations of ineligible players made by a Club will not be accepted if the Photographs were not inspected during the valid period for such checking.</p> <p>4. In the event of any dispute or discrepancy arising from such inspection(s) the matter may be reported to the referee, as an independent party, for noting purposes and the referee may, if considered beneficial, have sight of Photographs in this matter or for any other issue considered appropriate. For the avoidance of any doubt, the referee is not acting in a judgment capacity for disputes under this rule.</p> <p>5. Any Club found to be in breach of this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff and may at the discretion of the Management Committee have points deducted from their total number of points gained. In addition, any other breaches of Rules uncovered by the checking of Photographs will be dealt with accordingly.</p>
18.R	<p>If a player transfers to a new Club within the League, they must complete the required Transfer Form required by Rule 18H. Players must still be re-registered each year in accordance with Rule 18A.</p>
18.S	<p>A player may have their registration cancelled by a Club providing the Registrations Secretariat is given written notification.</p>
18.T	<p>Clubs shall keep a list of 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. Failure to comply will result in a fine not exceeding £20. At the request of a duly appointed Officer, (or agent), of the Competition, (and in the presence of that officer or agent), all players competing in a match will be required to list their names and provide a signature validating their details. Any discrepancies in the list so compiled will be subject to investigation by the Management Committee who may issue such fine/punishment, as they feel appropriate.</p>
18.U	<p>Clubs shall be solely responsible for the discipline administration of their players and Club as advised and directed by Hertfordshire FA. The Competition will not be responsible for this administration or dealing with their discipline matters, these and any related questions should be dealt with via the Whole System or Hertfordshire FA.</p>
18.V	<p>Any team not registering a minimum of eleven (11) players 14 days before the start of each playing season (Rule 18B 3); may be deemed to have resigned their membership by the Management Committee.</p>
18.W	<p>A fee of £2 will be charged for the checking of Player Registrations or for the checking or supply of any other League forms/documents unless relating to a League Charge. A request for any such checking or documents and fee must be sent to the appropriate League Officer at least 48 hours in advance of requirement.</p>
<b>19. CLUB COLOURS</b>	
19.A	<p>Every team must register the colour(s) and design of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 15<sup>th</sup> May and the Competition Secretary shall decide as to their suitability.</p>
19.B	<p>Any team wishing to change the colours and/or design(s) of its shirt(s) and short(s) during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the Competition Secretary in advance of making that change.</p>
19.C	<p>Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all other Players and the Match Officials.</p>
19.D	<p>No Player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.</p>
19.E	<p>Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents of the colours in which they will play (including the colours of the goalkeepers jersey) at least 5 days before the Competition Match.</p>
19.F	<p>If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the home 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.</p>
19.G	<p>Shirts must all be numbered and no two shirts shall have the same number, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff</p>
19.H	<p>All outfield players kit must be of a matching, colour and design (reasonable makers logo's allowed on shorts and socks, but not full length stripes on sides of shorts or socks). Socks must be distinguishable from the oppositions, any sock tape or supports should match the main colour of the socks. Clubs that reach Cup Finals should ensure that all outfield kit is 100% matching. Failure to do so will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p>



19.I	Any club reported for 19H above or any other kit issues not listed in 19A above shall be fined in accordance with Fines Tariff.
<b>20. PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY, TIMES OF KICK-OFF. POSTPONEMENTS. SUBSTITUTES</b>	
20.A	<p>All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board.</p> <p>Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their Grounds in a playable condition. All Competition Matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee. If through any fault of the home Team a match has to be replayed, the Management Committee shall have power to order the venue to be changed.</p> <p><i>If the Home clubs pitch becomes unavailable for any reason , a minimum of 24 hours prior to a match, the Competition may order the match to be played on either a neutral pitch or the opponents pitch if this can be arranged . Earlier pitch changes maybe allowed if both teams agree and this is feasible</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Artificial Football Turf Pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition provided they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA's Register of Football Turf Pitches - <a href="https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register">https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register</a>. 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.</p> <p>The home Club is also responsible for advising Participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements in accordance with Rule 20.C.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>No overhead netting is allowed for 9v9 and 11v11 affiliated matches</b></p> <p><b>Regional NLS Feeder Leagues: Overhead wires used to support pitch divider netting are removed for all affiliated matches at Regional NLS Feeder League level</b></p> <p><b>For those leagues which are not Regional NLS Feeder Leagues: Overhead wires used to support pitch divider netting are ideally removed for affiliated matches but if they cannot be removed then discretion is given to the match official to restart the match in accordance of the laws of the game</b></p>
20.B	<p>Except by permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches must be played on the dates originally agreed but priority shall be given to The FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a Competition match with the consent of the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p> <p>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).</p> <p><i>With reference to Rule 20B the wording "dates originally agreed this "shall taken as the dates set by the Competitions Fixtures Secretary and advised to clubs. The Competition may decide not to schedule matches on certain dates (E.G. Christmas, New Year, Easter Sunday and Mothers Day etc) but this may result in clubs having Double Headers / Evening matches in order to complete the seasons Fixtures. Failure to abide by this may result in matches being treated as unfulfilled fixtures and dealt with accordingly.</i></p>
20.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

	<p>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 5 days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. If either is not 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.</p>
20.D	<p>In accordance with the Laws of the Game, the minimum number of Players which will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is 7. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>In the event of a Club playing in any match and starting with less than 11 players, they may be fined for each missing player in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</i></li> </ol>
20.E	<p>Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall decide whether it should either :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. award the points from the Competition Match in question to the Club's opponent (without the awarding of goals)</li> </ol> <p>OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ol> <p>In addition, the Management Committee may at its discretion order one or more of the following (if appropriate):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff),</li> <li>b. deduct points from the defaulting Club,</li> </ol> <p>order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(c) <i>Any Club wishing to postpone a fixture between the first date of the season, as determines at the AGM, and the 31st March, must give 14 days' notice for consideration by the Management Committee. Any postponement under this Rule will be considered to be the one and only agreed postponement for the season. From the 1<sup>st</sup> April no requests for postponements will be agreed under any circumstances.</i></li> <li>(d) <i>Any club subsequently failing to keep its engagement will be dealt with as a non-fulfillment under Rule 20E.1 above, including re-arrangement of the fixture if appropriate and feasible .</i></li> <li>(e) <i>Any Club that incurs three fines for late cancellation will have their membership reviewed by the Management Committee at the conclusion of the season.</i></li> </ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Any Club with more than one Team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence:- First Team, Reserve Team, A Team.–</li> <li>2. Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a Competition Match has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the Competition Fixtures Secretary the secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</li> <li>3. In the event of a Competition Match not being played or being 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 5 days the Competition shall have the power to order the Match to be played on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition- the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</li> <li>4. 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 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.</li> </ol> <p>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 18(N) above. Where both Teams were under suspension the game must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.</p>

20.F	<p>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.</p> <p><i>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 Association Football.</i></p> <p>Where a Competition does allow return substitutes, a Team may use up to 5 from 5 substitutes Players in a Competition Match.</p> <p>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 10 minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a Player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match. <i>Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</i></p> <p><i>(Note: To supply the referee with the above information, clubs should use the standard Team Sheet supplied to list the players taking part in the match and give the top copy to the referee and second copy to opponents as required above.)</i></p> <p>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.</p>
20.G	<p>The half time interval shall be of 5 to 15 minutes' duration, but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.</p>
20.H	<p>The Teams taking part in a Competition Match shall identify a Team captain who shall wear an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of their teammates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p>
20.I	<p>Where a suspension imposed in relation to a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) upon a Club by The FA or Affiliated Association is not lifted, and/or the Club does not provide confirmation from The FA or Affiliated Association that such suspension is lifted to the Competition Secretary by 9pm, 2 days before a fixture, that fixture will be treated as an unfulfilled fixture and dealt with in accordance with Rule 20(E).</p>
20.J	<p>Clubs shall be responsible for providing changing accommodation and erecting goal nets (unless done by pitch provider). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p>
20.K	<p>Any Club failing to commence at the appointed kick off time (with exception of 20A) shall be fined or be otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine. If any team is responsible for more than three late kick offs in the current season they may be instructed to appear before the Management Committee who may levy an increased fine for each offence after the third. Failure to comply with these Rules will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p>
20.L	<p>Every Club must have a First Aid Kit at every fixture and its presence will be monitored either by the referee or a representative of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p>
20.M	<p>Club's must be available to play on Sunday, or evenings as required by the Association. and may be called upon even if no fixtures are published, provided that the Secretary of the Club received notification not later than the fifth day prior to the date of the fixture. In the case of a revised fixture date, the Clubs must be given by the Competition five clear days' notice of the match (unless otherwise mutually agreed).</p>
20.N	<p>When required double header fixtures may have to be arranged and these will be two matches of maximum 60 minutes duration for each game, played back to back on the same day. Clubs cannot agree to play only one match for the 6 points available, they must play 2 x 60 minute matches. Notification of such matches will be as in rule 20L.</p>
20.O	<p>The Management Committee shall have the power to order that Premier Division games, (and other games they deem applicable) shall have roped off areas as directed. The roping posts and ropes should be set back from the touch lines a minimum of 5 feet. The roping off of the areas to be the responsibility of the Home Club. Failure to comply with this rule will in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p>
<p><b>21. REPORTING RESULTS</b></p>	
21.A	<p>The Competition must receive within 3 days of the date played, the result of each Competition Match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the Team Players [and also the referee markings required by Rule 23, or any other information required by the Competition]. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p>
21.B	<p>Both Clubs shall use telephone/SMS/email/ FA Full Time / FA Matchday as directed by the Competition to notify the result of each Competition Match to the Results phone number by 3pm on the day of the match or 9pm for midweek matches . Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. <i>Note: For this Competition Results must be sent via phone/SMS/email only.</i></p>
21.C	<p>The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by an Officer of the Team, or as prescribed by</p>

	<b>the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</b>
21.D	<i>A Match Report as per Rule 21(A) must also include all the information requested on the Full Time match report pages. A fine of £5 per missing item can be imposed for failure to supply properly any of the required information..This information must be entered on Full Time as advised by the Competition within the time limits.</i>
21.E	<i>Late Match Report will be determined by the checking Registration Officer at the required entry cut off point and dealt with under Rule 21A.</i>
21.F	<i>Clubs will be further in breach of Rule 21A for each week, or part week, that a Match Report is late after the initial deadlines specified above until a properly Completed Result is received by the Registrations Secretariat. In the event that the required Match Report has not been received after 14 days from the due date, as prescribed by this Rule, the Club concerned will be withdrawn from its next scheduled match. Should a club be withdrawn for more than one match and these matches be consecutive, then they will be dealt with under Rule 20 E , although no fine will be imposed.</i>
21.H	<i>All Clubs playing in any County Cup Match must forward their results as if it were a home fixture as per Rule 21B. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</i>
21.I	<i>Clubs should still submit a Match Report, (within the deadlines, and to the persons prescribed above), where a match is not completed. Where a match is not completed the Report must be sent with all details given in the same way as a completed fixture. Clubs must fulfill this Rule in addition to other provisions of the Association Rules as applicable to matches, which are not played, or completed.</i>
21.J	<i>Clubs in the Premier and Division 1, must provide a brief written press match report by 1 pm on Monday or within one day of an evening game for inclusion in the League report to the Watford Observer as prescribed by the Competition ,failure provide a match report or a late report will result in a fine. This report can be sent via e-mail or Twitter. For Clubs outside these two Divisions the sending of reports for Divisional matches will be optional. However ALL CLUBS are required to send match report if they win a County Cup ties, also if they reach the quarter/semi finals regardless of result, or if they reach a Competition Cup semi final. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</i>
21.K	<p><i>Fines issued to Clubs by an officer of the Competition for breach of any Competition Rule will carry penalty points in accordance with the under mentioned scale.</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>a) 3 Points</i></p> <p><i>No/Incorrect/Late Match Report. Continued non-submission of Match Report (per week). No Match Report to referee or opposition. Failure to attend to correspondence or meetings. Late kick off. No Linesman. Late Registrations. Failure to notify Match result. Failure to confirm with referee. Failure to provide a Match Bal I, Failure to provide Press Match Report, Referee not marked. No referee's name. Marking referee 60 or below with no explanation. Reminder Report on referee marking still not received. Failure to confirm with opponents. Failure to produce ID cards when requested by opposition or League official. Failure to have and produce first aid kit at a fixture. No corner flags, Continual breaches of the Rules.</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>b) 4 Points</i></p> <p><i>Failure to complete a fixture. Starting with less than 11 players. Any other breach of Rule.</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>c) 5 Points</i></p> <p><i>Playing ineligible player.</i></p> <p><i>On reaching a total of 40 points Clubs will receive a warning letter. If a Club reaches a total of 20 points over its penalty point allowance, they shall be required to appear before the Management Committee to review, discuss and agree to improvements and be fined not less than £20. Following the above actions the Clubs concerned will receive a final warning letter which they must sign and return, undertaking to improve their administration, the length of this undertaking to be of a period as deemed appropriate by the Management Committee. This final letter will advise that the Club's renewal for the following season could be at risk if no improvement shown in the Club's administration. Should the Club then incur further penalty points above the 60 mark, a fine of £2 per 5 excess penalty points will be issued, and actions taken to exclude them from the Competition as per Rule 12B. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in the fines above and in accordance to this Rule up to the amount stated in the Fines Tariff.</i></p>
<b>22. DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP</b>	
22.A	<p><b>Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn Competition Match. The Teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the end of the Playing Season shall be adjudged the winners. Competition Matches must not be played for double points.</b></p> <p><b>In the event of two or more Teams being equal on points at the end of the Playing Season, rankings shall be determined by the following criteria, in the order of priority in which they appear:</b></p> <p>1. <i>[Goal difference (where the goals scored against each Team shall be deducted from the goals scored by</i></p>

	<p><i>that Team and the Team with the most favourable goal difference shall be placed highest).</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. <i>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.</i></li> <li>3. <i>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.</i></li> <li>4. <i>In the event of two or more Teams being equal, the Team which has the better playing record against the other Team in their head to head Competition Matches during the Playing Season will be placed highest.</i></li> <li>5. <i>One-off fixture or play-off games as determined by the League management committee.</i></li> </ol>
22.B	<p><b>Automatic promotion shall be applied for the first 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.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>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.</b></li> <li>2. <b>Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the Playing Season may be filled in any of the following ways:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>retention of otherwise relegated Team(s); or</b></li> <li>b. <b>additional promotion of the next ranked Team(s) from the division below; or</b></li> <li>c. <b>election.</b></li> </ol> </li> <li>3. <b>The last 2 Teams in the lowest division shall retire, but be eligible for re-election except as below, and be subject to the conditions of Rule 22.B.1 above.</b></li> <li>4. <b>When a senior Team is relegated to a lower division of which its reserve Team is a member, or entitled to be a member, such reserve Team must accept relegation to, or retain its position in, the next lower division; and should the senior Team be relegated to the lowest division its reserve Team automatically retires from the Competition.</b></li> <li>5. <b>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.</b></li> </ol>
22.C	<b>Rule Not Used</b>
22.D	<p><b>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.</b></p>
22.E	<b>Rule Not Used</b>
<b>23. MATCH OFFICIALS</b>	
23.A	<p><b>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></p>
23.B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <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.</b></li> <li>2. <b>In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that Competition Match, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any Competition Match.</b></li> </ol>
23.C	<p><b>Where assistant referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club assistant referee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</b></p>
23.D	<p><b>The appointed referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground in all Competition Matches and that decision shall be final, subject to the determination of the Local Authority or the owners of a Ground, which must be accepted.</b></p>
23.E	<p><b>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 <i>inclusive of travel expenses.</i></b></p> <p><b>Match Officials will be paid their fees by the home Club before the Competition Match (* see note below). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</b></p> <p><i>*(Note: The Home and Away Club shall each pay the Officials 50% of their fees before the match, where assistant referees are appointed each team will pay one Assistant Referees fee.</i></p>



	<p>When a Double Header match is played, the Match Referees fee will be £70 to cover both 60 minute matches. This fee should be split between both clubs equally , £35 each (£30 each for Assistant Referees).</p> <p>The fees for referees and assistant Referees shall be reviewed and fixed for the forthcoming season at the AGM preceding the start of that season)</p>														
23.F	<b>In the event of a Competition Match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to <i>half fee only</i>]. 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 accordance with the Fines Tariff.</b>														
23.G	<b>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 he or she is registered.</b>														
23.H	<b>Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The FA, award marks to the referee for each Competition Match and the name of the referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.</b>														
23.I	<b>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.</b>														
23.J	<b>The referee shall submit a report form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the Competition Match, the number of Players in each Team and the time of kick-off to the (Registration) Secretary within two days of the Competition Match.</b>														
23.K	<b>Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.</b>														
23.L	<b>Match Officials shall comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA and/or Sanctioning Authority adopted by the Competition.</b>														
23.M	<p>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 in accordance with the schedule below. Any Club giving a referee a mark of 60 or under shall submit a written explanation to accompany the Match Report Form (and which must be received within the time limits imposed by Rule 21A.Clubs failing to comply with this Rule result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff..</p> <p>Referees must acknowledge match details with the Home Club where required by the Referee's Secretary, (or the management Committee). Any referee failing to acknowledge appropriately in such circumstances shall be reported to, and dealt with by, the Management Committee.</p> <p><b>GUIDE TO MARKING A REFEREE</b></p> <p>The mark awarded by a Club must be based on the referee's overall performance. It is most important that the mark is awarded fairly and not based on isolated incidents and previous games. The referee's performance should be determined by the table below which should act as a guide for the overall mark which should be within the mark range for each standard of performance.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>Mark Range</b></th> <th><b>Comment</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>91-100</td> <td>The referee was extremely accurate in decision making and very successfully controlled the game using management and communication skills to create an environment of fair play adding real value to the game.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>81-90</td> <td>The referee was very accurate in decision making and successfully controlled the game using management and communication skills to create an environment of fair play.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>71-80</td> <td>The referee was accurate in decision making and controlled the game and communicating with the players making a positive contribution towards fair play.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>61-70</td> <td>The referee was reasonably accurate in decision making and controlled the game quite well and communicated with the players establishing a measurable degree of fair play.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>51-60</td> <td>The referee had some shortcomings in the level of accuracy of decision making and control with only limited success in communicating with the players resulting in variable fair play.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>50 and below</td> <td>The referee had significant shortcomings in the level of accuracy and decision making and control and poor communication with the players</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Notes: Using a scale of up to 100 allows greater flexibility for Clubs to distinguish between different refereeing performance more accurately A mark within each mark range can be given to reflect a referee's performance. E.g. a mark of 79 indicates a better performance than a mark of 71. A mark between 71 and 80 represents the standard of refereeing expected.</p> <p>When a mark of 60 or less is awarded an explanation must be provided to the League or Competition in writing as stated in Rule 23L. It must include comments which could help improve the referee's future performances. Even when a referee</p>	<b>Mark Range</b>	<b>Comment</b>	91-100	The referee was extremely accurate in decision making and very successfully controlled the game using management and communication skills to create an environment of fair play adding real value to the game.	81-90	The referee was very accurate in decision making and successfully controlled the game using management and communication skills to create an environment of fair play.	71-80	The referee was accurate in decision making and controlled the game and communicating with the players making a positive contribution towards fair play.	61-70	The referee was reasonably accurate in decision making and controlled the game quite well and communicated with the players establishing a measurable degree of fair play.	51-60	The referee had some shortcomings in the level of accuracy of decision making and control with only limited success in communicating with the players resulting in variable fair play.	50 and below	The referee had significant shortcomings in the level of accuracy and decision making and control and poor communication with the players
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	<i>has significant shortcomings there will be some possible aspects which should be given credit, extremely low marks should be very rare.</i>
<b>24. REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES</b>	
24.A	<i>In the event of a Club having a Competition fixture on the same day as a Herts County Cup Fixture, or Competition Representative fixture, in which two or more players, or their goal keeper, included in the Representative squad. That Club may apply to the Competitions Secretary, at least 5 days prior to the fixture, for postponement of their match.</i>
24.B	<i>Players can only qualify for selection for the Representative squad after they have played more than 3 games for their parent Club.</i>
<b>25. CUP COMPETITIONS</b>	
25.A	<i>The Competitions shall be called the Watford Sunday League Challenge Cup, The Intermediate Cup, The Junior Cup, The Chairman's Cup, The Invitation Cup, The Presidents Cup and the Reserve Cup, or by any other name, or names, as the Management Committee shall agree and may include a sponsor's name. The Competitions will be conducted in accordance with the Rules, regulations and Bye Laws of the FA and the Hertfordshire FA Ltd, by the Management Committee of The Association. The Senior Competition is open to all teams. The Presidents, Intermediate and Junior Cups will be decided by the Management Committee in conjunction with that season's Constitution, as will any other Cup Competitions to be played.</i>
25.B	<i>In all Competitions entries shall be decided by the Management Committee.</i>
25.C	<i>All Clubs will participate in the Challenge Cup and will enter as the Management Committee so decree.</i>
25.E	<i>Except in the first round, all players must be registered members of their Club in The Association at least 7 days prior to the match. For the purposes of this Rule, entry of a Club to a Competition for the first time at later stages of that Competition will be considered to be their first round in that competition.</i>
25.F	<i>In all Cup Competitions no player may play for more than one Club in any competition.</i>
25.G	<i>Players under written contract, as described in Rule 18B(i) are not eligible for any Cup Competitions. With the exception of those players registered under contract with the same team operating at Step 1 to 6 of the National League System.</i>
25.H	<i>In the event of a Club being found guilty of playing an ineligible player, it shall be dealt with under Rule 18N and the match will be awarded to their opponents. If the match is a group stage League match, the defaulting Club may be excluded from the competition. Their record shall be expunged from the competition for the current season</i>
25.I	<i>Clubs drawn first will play on their home ground. In all matches, the Club drawn first will be responsible for all pitch expenses, officials fees will be equally between both clubs unless the Management Committee decides otherwise. After the first round, subsequent rounds will be pre-drawn, i.e. entrants automatically advance from one round to the next and that this decides who the Home team in matches and final is.</i>
25.J	<i>All cup ties shall be played on dates arranged by the Honorary Competitions Secretary. Any team cancelling a knockout fixture without providing good cause, will be struck out of the Competition. Any team cancelling a Group Stage fixture without providing good cause will have the match awarded to their opponents as a 0-0 win as per rule 20 E .</i>
25.K	<i>When Cup quarter and semifinals are scheduled to be played they must be refereed by the appointed referee. If the appointed referee, or appointed substitute, fails to attend for any reason the fixture will be re-scheduled. In all other Cup Matches Rule 23B will apply if referee fails to attend for any reason.</i>
25.L	<i>No Extra time shall be played in any round, quarter, semi or final. If scores are level after 90 minutes have been played, the tie shall be decided by the taking of a kick from the penalty mark, according to the procedures laid down in the International Board Decision contained within the Laws of Association Football.</i>
25.M	<i>In the event of penalties not being completed and neither Club being at fault, the match shall be replayed At a ground as decided by the Honorary Competitions Secretary</i>
25.N	<i>Neutral Assistant Referees, if available, will be appointed to semi-final and final ties.</i>
25.O	<i>A match ball will be provided by both teams in semi-finals, and given to the Referee prior to the kick –off.</i>
25.P	<i>If both teams have the same colours in the semi-finals the first drawn Club will change. In a final the Honorary Competitions Secretary will decide on colours if necessary.</i>
25.Q	<i>Clubs competing in a final tie must notify the Honorary Secretary and their opponents of the squad (a maximum of 20 players may be named) from which the team and substitutes will be selected, at least 14 days before the date of the final. No protest or objection to the qualifications of any players mentioned in such list will be investigated unless notice of objection is given seven days prior to the match. At this time Clubs involved should also notify their opponents, and the Competitions Secretary, of their intended colours. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in affine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</i>
25.R	<i>On the day of the match a team of 11 &amp; 5 substitutes are to be selected from the 20 players named.</i>
25.S	<i>Should any match be abandoned owing to misconduct of players or spectators, the Management Committee shall have the power to order the result to stand irrespective of the time played. The Management Committee shall, at its discretion, expel the Club(s) at fault from the Cup Competition, or arrange for the match to be replayed with the offending team paying all match expenses. The offending Club(s) may also be charged under Rule 6P.</i>

25.T	<i>In all other matters the Rules of the South West Herts FA will apply, and any situation not covered by The Association Rules for Cup Competitions, shall be decided by the Management Committee.</i>
25.U	<i>The Competitions competed for under this nomenclature shall be, the Invitation Cup, the Presidents Cup and the Reserve Cup (or such other name as may be required and agreed by the Management Committee). They shall be conducted in accordance with the Laws of Association Football, the Herts FA Ltd and The Associations Own Rules, by the Management Committee of The Association.</i>
25.V	<i>The competitions are open to invited member Clubs of The Association. The Competitions may be played on a knockout basis or League basis, which will be determined by the Management Committee each season. If on a knockout basis extra time will be played with penalties. An entry fee of£3 may be charged if the Management Committee so decides. When this Competition is run on a League basis the first match in which each Club competes will be considered a first Round Cup Tie for the purposes of Association Rule 25E.</i>
25.W	<i>All other Rules will be applied as in the Competitions Cup Rules, and any matter not so covered will be decided upon by the Management Committee.</i>
25.X	<i>Any player sent off in a Cup Final shall not have their award presented at the end of the game, unless special dispensation is given at the discretion of the Management Committee.</i>
25.Y	<i>Both teams appearing in the Final shall be expected to wear smart dress for the Final and both teams will enter the field of play in Cup Final style as pre- advised before the final . Clubs in a Cup Final shall ensure that all their players are named with correct shirts numbers on the team sheet including substitutes and that it is completed correctly. All players including substitutes are to attend the presentation ceremony to collect their awards and also the after match clubhouse function, subject to rule 25(X). Failure to meet any of these requirements or any other improper behavior will be considered as undesirable conduct and the club or clubs concerned being charged . Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Also the club of the offending player or players may face further action under Rule 12.</i>

**SCHEDULE A**

FEES TARIFF			
RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
4 A	CLUB ENTRY FEE	£25.00	£25.00
4 B	CLUB/TEAM ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£50.00	£75.00
4 C	DEPOSIT	£25.00	£25.00
7 C, 7 E, 7G	PROTEST/APPEAL FEES	£10.00	£10.00
7 F	APPEAL TO SANCTIONING AUTHORITY (HERTS FA)	£35.00	
18 (D)	PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE	£3.00	£10.00
18 (H)	TRANSFER FEE	£10.00	£10.00
23 E	DOUBLE HEADER REFEREES FEE (COVERS BOTH MATCHES)	£70.00	£70.00
23 E	DOUBLE HEADER ASSISTANT REFEREES FEE (COVERS BOTH MATCHES)	£20.00	£40.00
23 E	REFEREE FEES	£50.00	£50.00
23 E	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES	£30.00	£30.00
18 X	CHECKING OF PLAYER REGISTRATIONS OR OTHER REQUESTS	£2.00	£2.00
25 V	ADDITIONAL CUP ENTRY FEE	£3.00	£3.00

FINES TARIFF			
RULE	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
2 G	FAILURE TO AFFILIATE WITH HERTS FA	£25.00	£25.00
2 I	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£25.00	£25.00
2 K	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO OTHER COMPETITIONS WITH PERMISSION	£25.00	£25.00
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	£25.00	£25.00
4 C	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£25.00	£25.00
4 E	FAILURE TO ENSURE TEAMS ARE RECORDED AS AFFILIATED IN THE CLUB PORTAL	£10.00	£10.00
5 E	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£10.00	£10.00
5 H	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT COMPETITION (CLUBS) MEETING	£25.00	£25.00
6 I	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£10.00	£10.00
6 J	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	£10.00	£10.00
8 H	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£25.00	£25.00
9 E	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM	£25.00	£25.00
10	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES	£10.00	£10.00
11 A	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE	£25.00	£25.00
11 B	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£100.00	£100.00
13 A	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£25.00	£25.00
13 D	FAILURE TO RETURN TROPHIES BY DUE DATE	£25.00	£25.00
13 G	FAILURE TO RETURN CUPS/TROPHIES ENGRAVED & CLEANED	£10.00	£50.00
16 A	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED LIABILITY INSURANCE	£10.00	£10.00
16 B	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE	£10.00	£10.00
18 A	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£10.00	£10.00
18 B 3	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE SEASON COMMENCING	£20.00	£20.00
18 F	REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS.	£5.00	£5.00
18 G 2	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES,OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION	£25.00	£25.00
18 M	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£25.00	£25.00
18 N	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£10.00	£10.00
18 Q	FAILURE TO PRODUCE PHOTO ID CARDS WHEN REQUESTED	£50.00	£50.00
18 T	FAILURE OF CLUB TO KEEP LIST OF PLAYERS & MATCH RECORDS & ANY DISCREPANCIES	£20.00	£20.00
19 F	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS	£10.00	£10.00

19 G	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS/HAVE DIFFERENT NUMBERED SHIRTS	£10.00	£10.00
19 H	FAILURE TO HAVE UNIFORM STANDARD KIT OR CLASH OF SOCKS WITH OPPONENTS	£5.00	£20.00
19 I	MISCELLANOUES KIT ISSUES UNDER RULE 19	£5.00	£20.00
20 A	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT (NETS/CORNER FLAGS, MATCH BALLS ETC) (PER ITEM)	£5.00	£5.00
20 B	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	£50.00	£50.00
20 C	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£20.00	£20.00
20 D 1.	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS- £5 PER MISSING PLAYER	£5.00	£20.00
20 E 1,3 &4	FAILURE TO FULFILL FIXTURE	£10.00	£100.00
20 F New	FAILURE TO SUPPLY REFEREE WITH NAMES OF PLAYERS TAKING PART IN A MATCH , 10 MINUTES BEFORE KICK OFF.	£5.00	£5.00
20 H	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£5.00	£5.00
20 J	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CHANGING ACCOMODATION AND OR ERRECTING GOALNETS	£10.00	£10.00
20 K	LATE KICK OFF ( WITH EXCEPTION OF 20A)	£5.00	£100.00
20 L	FAILURE TO HAVE FIRST AID KIT AT FIXTURE	£5.00	£5.00
20 O	FAILURE TO ROPE OFF PITCH WHEN REQUIRED	£5.00	£5.00
21 A	LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION FORM	£25.00	£25.00
21 B	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT	£10.00	£10.00
21 C	RESULT NOTIFICATION NOT SIGNED BY APPROPRIATE SIGNATORIES	£5.00	£5.00
21 D	MISSING REQUIRED INFORMATION ON MATCH REPORT FORM	£5.00 Per Item	£50.00
21G	FAILURE TO SUBMIT MATCH REPORTS TO OPPOSITION	£5.00	£250.00
21 H	FAILURE TO PROVIDE COUNTY CUP RESULT	£10.00	£10.00
21 J	FAILURE TO SUPPLY PRESS MATCH REPORT	£10.00	£10.00
21 K	PENALTY POINTS FOR POOR ADMINISTRATION ( FIRST STAGE)	£20.00	£20.00
21 K	EACH ADDITIONAL 5 PENALTY POINTS FOR POOR ADMINISTRATION	£2.00	£250.00
23 C	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£5.00	£5.00
23 E	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES	£25.00	£50.00
23 F	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£15.00/ £30.00	£25.00 / £50.00
23 H	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£5.00	£5.00
23 M	FAILURE TO PROVIDE EXPLANATION OF REFEREES MARK 60 OR UNDER	£5.00	£5.00
25(Q)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CUP FINAL SQUAD 14 DAYS PRIOR TO FINAL	£5.00	£5.00
25(Y)	CUP FINAL REQUIREMENTS AND BEHAVIOUR	£50.00	£50.00



Rule 1 Definitions

### **GOVERNANCE RULES**

Rule 2 Name and Constitution

Rule 3 Club Name

Rule 4 Entry Fee, Subscription, Deposit

Rule 5 Management, Nomination, Election

Rule 6 Powers of Management

Rule 7 Protests, Claims, Complains, Appeals

Rule 8 Annual General Meeting

Rule 9 Special General Meeting

Rule 10 Agreement to be Signed

Rule 11 Continuation of Membership, Withdrawal of a Club

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

Rule 13 Trophy

Rule 14 Alteration to Rules

Rule 15 Finance

Rule 16 Insurance

Rule 17 Dissolution

### **MATCH RELATED RULES**

Rule 18 Qualification of Players

Rule 19 Club Colours

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

Rule 21 Reporting Results

Rule 22 Determining Championship

Rule 23 Match Officials

Rule 24 Representative Matches

Rule 25 Cup Competitions

### **SCHEDULE A**

Fees Tariff

Fines Tariff