

North West Women's Regional Football League



RULES

Season 2014-2015

NORTH WEST WOMEN'S REGIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Rules

Season 2014-2015

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NB Except for Appendix A, the above Appendices are FA policies, procedures and regulations most of which are annually updated and / or re-written. They will be circulated separately once available.

1 Nomenclature and Constitution

- 1(A) This Competition shall be designated the North West Women' Regional Football League, hereafter referred to as the Regional League, and shall consist of not more than 36 Clubs approved by the sanctioning authority.
- 1(B) All such Member Clubs must be affiliated to an affiliated County Football Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on the Form "D" to the Football Association. The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be the North West Region.

This Regional League shall apply annually for sanction to the Football Association and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding twelve in number.

- 1(C) This Regional League shall only permit one team from a Club to participate in the same division unless there is no viable alternative because of logistical issues and/or reasons linked to participation and geographical boundaries. The Regional League will obtain the prior approval of the sanctioning Association in the event of a division comprising of more than one team from the same Club. The Regional League will ensure that, where permission is given, teams from a Club operating in the same division are run as separate entities with no interchange of players other than via transfers of registration in accordance with Competition Rules.

- 1(D) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination:

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

(ii) The Regional League and each Member Club does not and must not [by its rules or regulations or] in any manner whatsoever unlawfully discriminate against any person within the meaning and scope of the Equality Act 2010 or any law, enactment, order or regulation relating to discrimination (whether by age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise).

(iii) The Regional League and each Member 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).

(iv) Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate sanctioning Association for investigation.

- 1(E) As an FA Charter Standard League the Regional League requires all of its Clubs to have achieved FA Charter Standard League status by 2014. The League management committee may expel any club that has failed to achieve Charter Standard status by this date. New Member Clubs have one year to achieve the Charter Standard club award. The League has the right to refuse membership to a Club if it fails to demonstrate commitment to achieving the award.

- 1(F) This Regional League and its Clubs shall support the FA's Respect programme. As such it recognises that everyone in football has a collective responsibility to create a fair, safe and enjoyable environment in which the game can take place. A Respect League values the contribution of match officials, players and spectators and ensures that they are treated with courtesy and fairness by opposing players, club officials and spectators. The League and its Clubs will seek to play fixtures in a fair, competitive but not antagonistic environment.

Member Clubs shall not enter any of their teams playing in the Regional League in any other Competitions (with the exception of F.A. and County F.A. Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee of the Regional League.

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

2 Entry Fee, Subscription, Deposit

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

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

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

- 2(B) The Annual Subscription shall be **£100.00** per Team payable on or before 1st July in each year.
- 2(C) Each Club shall within 28 days of election pay a Deposit of £50 which shall be returnable to Clubs on leaving the Regional League provided they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all orders of the Management Committee.
- 2(D) A Club shall not participate in this Regional League until the Entry Fee, Annual Subscription and Deposit have been paid.
- 2(E) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 1st July of their County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming Season, failing which they shall be fined £10.00. Clubs must advise the Secretary of its Headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Regional League (see Appendix A)

3 Officers

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

4 Management, Nomination, Election

- 4(A) The Regional League shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association by a Management Committee comprised of the Officers and no more than 4 Committee Members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The Association from time to time.
- 4(B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination. All other candidates for election as Officers or Members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two Member Clubs, not later than 31st May in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting.
- 4(C) The Management Committee shall meet at least quarterly.
- On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the Members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Committee.
- 4(D) Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the League Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Regional League and keep a record of its proceedings.
- 4(E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their nominated Officers. **Communication should be by telephone, text, email or post, including recorded delivery where appropriate according to the Rules, and there should be no calls at the homes of Committee Members except by agreement.**

5 Powers of Management

- 5(A) The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and may delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all such Sub-Committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of the Football Association or affiliated Association.
- The Management Committee shall hold two Council Meetings (General Meetings) for all Clubs during the course of the year in addition to the Annual General Meeting. Any Member Club failing to be represented at a Council Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £50.00.
- 5(B) Subject to the permission of The Football Association having been obtained the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the League and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any Club which may have withdrawn during the season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the season. [See Rule 6(E).]
- 5(C) Each Member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee Meetings and have one vote thereat, but no Member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such Member or to the Club so

represented or where there may be a conflict of interest. (This shall apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).

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

- 5(D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Regional League and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Regional League, including any not provided for in the Rules.

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

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

All breaches of the Laws of the Game, Rules and Regulations of The Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance with F.A. Rules by the appropriate Association.

With the exception of Clubs playing at Step 7 of the Football Pyramid and the FA Women's Premier League, the maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Regional League rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Regional League must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

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

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

- 5(F) Four members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee and two Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by any sub-committee of the Management Committee.

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

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

- 5(I) All fines and charges shall be paid within 14 days of the date of posting of the written notification.

Any Club failing to do so will be fined a maximum of £50. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional sum within 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding payments are settled.

- 5(J) The Management Committee shall pay out of the funds of the League all legitimate expenses incurred in respect of the business of the League.

- 5(K) The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Regional League between the Annual General or Special General

Meeting called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Regional League season.

- 5(L) The business of the Regional League as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

6 Annual General Meeting

- 6(A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 30th June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least ten Members are present and entitled to vote:-
- (i) To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting
 - (ii) To consider any business arising there-from
 - (iii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts
 - (iv) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies (as recommended by the Management Committee).
 - (v) To confirm the constitution of the League for the ensuing season.
 - (vi) Election of Officers and Management Committee.
 - (vii) Appointment of independent financial verifier
 - (viii) Alterations to rules, if any (of which notice has been given).
 - (ix) Fix the date for the commencement of the season and kick off times applicable to the Regional League
 - (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.
- 6(B) A copy of the balance sheet, statement of accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club and The Football Association at least 14 days prior to the meeting.
- 6(C) A signed copy of the verified Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to The Football Association within 14 days of its adoption by the Annual General Meeting.
- 6(D) Each Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Fourteen days' notice shall be given of any Meeting.
- 6(E) Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Regional League during the season being concluded or who are not continuing membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the season being concluded. This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 17.
- 6(F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a paper ballot be demanded by at least one-third of the delegates qualified to vote present or if the Chairperson so decides.
- 6(G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Member Club.
- 6(H) Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £50.00.
- 6(I) Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting. In the event of the voting being equal on any matter the Chairperson shall have a second and casting vote

7 Agreement to be signed

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

"We, A, _____ of _____ (Chairman) and
B _____ of _____ (Secretary)
of the _____ Football Club have been provided with a copy of
the Rules and Regulations of the North West Women's Regional Football League and do hereby
agree for and on behalf of the said Club to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept,
abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject
to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16."

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

(Note: The spaces above are intended for the inclusion of the signatures and addresses of officers and members.)

The League may, in certain circumstances, require the completion of a revised form. Failure to comply with this Rule will incur a penalty of £10.

8 Qualification of Players

8(A) (i) Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules, are not permitted in this Regional League 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.

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

(ii) While serving in any branch of Her Majesty's Regular Forces, a player must first obtain the consent of his Association Secretary before signing a registration form to play for a Club.

8(B) A registered playing member of a Club is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has signed a fully and correctly completed player registration form in ink countersigned by an Officer of the Club. Once completed the registration form must be sent by recorded delivery ~~or delivered by hand~~ and be received by the Registration Secretary or other Officer as specified by the League prior to the player playing in the Regional League. It must be accompanied by: the registration fee; a clearance form where appropriate; a stamped addressed envelope; two (2) passport sized facial photographs without headwear, one of which must be endorsed on the reverse by a Club officer declaring that it is a true likeness.

8(C) A team shall not include more than two players who have taken part in any five (5) or more league fixtures in the current season of a team in a League above the Regional League unless a period of 35 days has elapsed since they played, except at the discretion of the Management Committee.

- 8(D) A player having taken part in matches for any Club affiliated to any County Football Association shall not be allowed to join, be transferred to or sign for a Club in the Regional League without first proving to the officials of her intended Club, by provision of a clearance form, that she has discharged all reasonable financial liabilities to her previous Club or Clubs, and a Club official may not accept such player's signature without first ascertaining whether such claims have been discharged to the satisfaction of the Club or Clubs for which the player last played.
- 8(E) A fee of **£4.00** shall be paid for each player registered. Registration forms shall be obtained from the Secretary or from the website.
- 8(F) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes.

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

- 8(G) It shall be a breach of Rule for a player to:-
- (i) Play for more than one Club in the Regional League in the same season without first being transferred.
 - (ii) Having signed for one Club in the Regional League, sign for another Club in the Regional League in that season except for the purpose of transfer.
 - (iii) Submit a signed registration form for registration that the player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.
- 8(H) (i) The Management Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any player subject to the provisions of clauses (ii) and (iii) below.
- (ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player or may fine any player at their discretion who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities. (Subject to Rule 16)
- (iii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse or cancel the registration of any player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 16) subject to the right of appeal to the FA or the relevant County Football Association. Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a participant from being involved in this Regional League. Application should be made to the parent County of the club the player is registered with or intending to be registered with.
- (iv) For a player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with clause [iii] but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Regional League, (excluding standard dismissals), the Regional League would be empowered to consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

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

- 8(I) Subject to FA Rule C2(a) dealing with players without a written contract, a player may transfer from one Club, within the Regional League, to another. This application shall be referred by the Registrations Secretary to the Club with which that player is currently

registered for that Club's consent. Should that Club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the League Secretary and the player concerned within 7 days. Upon receipt of the Club's consent or its failure to give written objection within 7 days the League Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for her new Club. In the event of an objection to a transfer the matter shall be referred to the Management Committee for a decision.

A Club or person making an approach shall not give notice of intention to approach more than one (1) player of a Club at the same time and shall not give notice of intention to approach another player of the same Club within twenty-eight (28) days of a prior notice. This rule shall not apply where:

- (a) the Club approached has resigned from the League or;
- (b) the Club approached has ceased to exist.

- 8(J) A player may not be transferred to another Club in the Regional League after the last Friday in February except by special permission of the Management Committee. A player may not be registered for a Club within the Regional League after the last day of March except by special permission of the Management Committee.
- 8(K) A Club shall keep a list of the players it registers and a record of the games in which they have played and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee.
- 8(L) A register containing the names of all players registered for each Club together with the date of registration shall be kept by the Registrations Secretary. This register shall be open for inspection by any member Club delegate at a time mutually arranged with the League Secretary. Registrations are valid for one season only.

In the event of a player without a written contract changing her status to that of a contract player with the same Club, another Club in the Regional League or with a Club in another Competition her registration as a player without a written contract will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 8 (A)(i)

- 8(M) A player shall not be eligible to play for a team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding match [as specified in Rule 12(A)(iii)] unless the player has played six (6) games for that team in this Regional League in the current season.
- 8(N) A maximum of two (2) players are allowed to take part in any one (1) match (including nomination as a substitute) for a lower team of a Club in this Regional League if they have taken part, in the current season, in 5 of the total league fixtures in this Regional League for a higher team of that Club **unless a period of 35 days has elapsed since they played**, except at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- 8(O)
 - (i) Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players may have the points gained in the match deducted from its total and may be fined up to £50 and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.
 - (ii) In addition the team may have up to three (3) points deducted from its total at the discretion of the Management Committee and may be dealt with in any further manner which is thought to be fit.
 - (iii) The Management Committee in exceptional circumstances may, at its discretion, award any points deducted from a Club under this Rule to the opponents in the match in question, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.

A player whose Player Registration form has been found to be false shall be treated as an unregistered player for all matches in which she has participated. In the event of a Club or player falsifying details on a Player Registration form that Club shall be fined £50.00 and may be otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

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

- 8(P)
- (i) Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities.
 - (ii) The availability of children must be cleared with the Head Teachers (except for Sunday Leagues).
 - (iii) To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16.

9 Club Colours, Club Name

9(A) Every Club must register its colours with the Secretary, who shall decide as to their suitability, on the prescribed Club Registration Form by 1st July giving details of their first and second choice colours (shirts, shorts and socks) and such details shall be published in the Directory of Clubs printed in the Regional League Handbook. Clubs are required to wear their first choice colours both at home and away where possible.

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

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

Any team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the League shall notify the colours in which they will play to its opponents and the Regional League at least 5 days before the match. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £10.00.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the away team shall make the change. Any team not having a change of colours or delaying the kick-off by not having a change shall be fined £20.00.

The Secretary of the Regional League may request shirts to be submitted if complaints are received as to lack of distinguishing colours and the Management Committee may refuse to permit any shirts or shorts as they think fit. Shirts must be numbered and correspond to the numbers appearing on any match result sheet. Clubs failing to comply may be fined £5.00 for each match in which this rule is infringed.

The captain shall wear a distinguishing arm-band to indicate her status.

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

10 Playing season. Conditions of play, Times of kick-off, Postponements, Substitutes

10(A) The Management Committee shall recommend to the Annual General Meeting the dates for the start and finish of the following season which, save for exceptional circumstances, shall start on the first Sunday in September and will finish on the last Sunday of April and shall be in accordance with Football Association Rules. No Club shall be compelled to play after the concluding date. Original fixtures arranged by the Fixtures Secretary must not be arranged for a date later than seven days preceding the concluding date determined at the Annual General Meeting.

The dates of all matches shall be arranged by the League Fixtures Secretary on a home and away basis in conjunction with the Management Committee, notified to the Clubs and six (6) clear days notice of such fixtures must be given to the Clubs whether these be arranged before or during the season. Receipt of all fixtures must be acknowledged in writing to the Fixture Secretary within seven (7) days of notification. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £10.00.

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

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

The Management Committee shall have power to decide whether a pitch and/or facilities are suitable for matches in the Regional League and to order the Club concerned to play its fixtures on another ground. All grounds shall satisfy the following minimum requirements:-

- Grounds must comply with the criteria of the Women's Pyramid of Football Ground Grading Document (see Appendix D);
- Adequate separate changing, washing and toilet facilities should be provided for each team and shall be provided for the match officials;
- There must be in attendance for every team a holder of a Football Association approved Emergency Aid Certificate or equivalent recognised first aid certificate. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £10.00;
- Each team must have a first aid kit available;
- All grounds must have access to a telephone;
- Adequate car parking facilities.

Football Turf pitches (3G) are allowed in the Regional League providing they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA's Register of Football Turf pitches. For clubs playing at Step 7 and below a pitch must be tested (by a FIFA accredited test institute) every three years and the results passed to the FA. The FA will give a decision on the suitability for use and add the pitch to the Register.

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

Clubs must advise the Fixture Secretary in advance of any intended use of an alternative venue for any match. Failure to comply will incur a fine of £10.00.

All Regional League matches shall have a duration of 90 minutes unless a shorter time (not less than 60 minutes) is mutually arranged by the two captains in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves. Any Regional League match which from any cause whatever falls short of 90 minutes duration may be ordered to count as a completed fixture or to be replayed in full as the Management Committee may in its absolute discretion determine.

The home Club shall fix the time of kick-off between 11.00am and 3.00pm for Sunday matches if both Clubs are in agreement. If agreement cannot be reached the kick-off time will be 2.00 pm. Where it is considered necessary the League Fixtures Secretary may require Clubs to play on days other than Sunday.

Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Regional League. Any team not ready to commence at the appointed time may be fined a sum not exceeding £5.00 or be otherwise dealt with by the Management Committee.

The home team must provide at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Regional League if the footballs are unsuitable. Clubs thus reported may be fined a maximum of £5.00. Goal nets and corner flags must be used.

10(C) Except by permission of the Management Committee all matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The Football Association and the County

Association Cup Competition of its parent county and the Welsh Cup where relevant. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of the Fixtures Secretary. Clubs shall support The Football Association in relation to International Matches in accordance with the provisions of The Football Association rules. A Club having 2 players selected for international duty or a County representative match shall be allowed to request a postponement in writing of its Regional League fixture. If one player is selected and that player is a goalkeeper a Club may similarly make a request for the postponement of its Regional League fixture.

In the case of a revised fixture date, the Clubs must be given by the Regional League 6 clear days notice of the match (unless otherwise mutually agreed).

10(D) The Secretary of the home Club must give notice in writing of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground, kit colours and time of kick-off to the Match Officials and the Secretary of the opposing Club at least 5 clear days prior to the playing of the match. **The away Club shall seek and acknowledge receipt of such particulars.** Any Club failing to comply with this Rule will be fined £10.00.

10(E) In the event of a Club playing in any match with less than nine (9) players they may be fined £5.00 for each missing player. A minimum of seven players will constitute a team for a Regional League match.

10(F) (i) Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have power to inflict a fine of not more than £50.00, deduct up to three (3) points from the defaulting Club, award the points to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals. Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponents' ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

(ii) Any Club with more than one team in the Regional League shall always fulfil its fixture, within the Regional League, in the following order of precedence:- First Team, Reserve Team. Clubs in breach of this requirement shall be fined a sum not exceeding £50.00 or otherwise dealt with by the Management Committee.

(iii) Any club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a fixture has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give verbal notice to the Secretary of the opposing Club, the match officials and the Fixtures Secretary. This notification shall be given by the postponing Club or, in the case of a referee/grounds-person/Local Authority, etc., by the home Club. Both Clubs involved in an unfulfilled fixture must notify the Fixtures Secretary (or other Officer as specified by the League) in writing of the reasons for such failure to be received within 3 days of the fixture date. In addition, where applicable, a letter of explanation from the referee/grounds-person/Local Authority, etc is required from the Home Club within 14 days. Failure to comply will result in a fine not exceeding £10.00. In the event of a team being unable to fulfil a fixture because of excessive illness or injury to players the Club shall supply official medical certification evidence to the League Secretary within 48 hours of the scheduled fixture to substantiate any application for postponement. In the event of car or minibus breakdown or accident a letter from the AA/RAC or other such organisation giving the time and place of breakdown or accident will be required. When the condition of the ground is doubtful every effort should be made to have a Referee's inspection before the away team travels.

(iv) In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall be played in its entirety on a date fixed by the Fixtures Secretary. In the case of a match being abandoned, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of abandonment to be recorded as the match result if 60 minutes or more have been played.

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

(vi) The Management Committee shall review any match that has taken place where either or both teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by the Association or Affiliated Association. In each case the team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible players in accordance with Rule 8(O) above. Where both teams were under suspension the game must be declared null and void.

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

Both teams must provide a list of players including substitutes with their correct shirt number to the referee at least 30 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time and in the presence of a representative from the opposing Club. Failure to do so may incur a fine of £5.00. Player Identity Cards for all players listed on the team sheet must be offered to both the referee and a representative from the opposing team prior to the start of each game. If a Player Identity Card is not produced for a player whose name appears on the team sheet then she must sign the team sheet against her name and she will be allowed to play. In addition to the fact that Rule 8(O) may apply, Clubs failing to produce Player Identity Cards before the start of the game may be liable to a fine not exceeding £10.00 per missing card.

A player who has been selected, appointed or named as a substitute before the start of the match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a player in the game within the meaning of Rule 8 of the Regional League. Substitutes who actually play must be indicated as having done so on the team sheet.

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

10(I) The participating clubs taking part in the fixture shall identify a team captain designated with a captain's armband who has a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of her team mates.

11	Reporting Results
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11(A) The League's Registration Secretary must receive within two (2) days of the date played (the postmark to be proof of posting) the result of each Regional League match on the form supplied. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the team players (in block letters) and also the referee markings required by Rule 13, or any other information required by the Regional League. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £10.00.

- 11(B) The Home Club must telephone the result to the specified League Officer by 5.30pm for a Sunday match (or within 2 hours of the conclusion of an evening match). Clubs failing to comply will be fined £10.00. **This will not apply when results are reported directly to the Full-time website.**

The Secretary of all Clubs (Home or Away) competing in the Women's FA Cup or County Cup of its parent association must telephone the result to the specified League Officer.

- 11(C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of each Club. The Management Committee shall have power to take such action as they deem suitable against a Club which submits an incomplete form or incorrect information. A Club falsifying any detail on the form shall be fined £50.00 for each false entry and be otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

NB. If the fixed penalty exceeds £20 the Club must be charged as detailed in Rule 5(D).

12 **Determining Championship**

- 12(A) Team rankings within the Regional League will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn match. The teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective Divisions at the conclusion shall be adjudged the winners. Matches must not be played for double points.

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

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

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

- 12(B) Automatic promotion and relegation shall be applied for the first team and the last two teams in the Premier Division and for the first team and the last **two teams** in each of the Division Ones except as provided for hereunder, subject to the provisions of **Rule 1(G)**.
- (i) Should any Club in the Regional League cease to operate during the season the number of relegation places from that Division shall be reduced accordingly. If any Club ceases to operate after the completion of the season's fixture programme but before the AGM one or more fewer teams will be relegated. If any Club ceases to operate between the AGM and the commencement of the following season no adjustment to the Regional League will be made
- (ii) Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the season may be filled in any of the following ways:
- (a) retention of otherwise relegated team(s)
 - (b) additional promotion of the next ranked team(s) from the Division below **or from the County Leagues' Promotion Pool**
 - (c) election

- (iii) 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 is automatically relegated, or retires, from the Regional League. Reserve Teams are not permitted to play above Division One of the Regional League.
- (iv) Should the leading team in any of the Divisions have its senior team in the next higher Division, promotion shall fall to the next highest team in the Division concerned.
- (v) Depending on the geographical location of Clubs being relegated from the Northern Combination, and after consultation in the Joint Liaison Committee, it may be necessary for the Regional League to receive an additional relegated Club. This could result in the additional relegation of teams in the Divisions of the Regional League.

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

12(D) The Champion Club of the Premier Division of the Regional League, providing they meet the appropriate grading criteria, will be eligible to make application to the Northern Combination at their Annual General Meeting. Should the Champion Club not wish for promotion or, alternatively, not have the necessary grading criteria, then the second or third place Club will be eligible under the same conditions.

At the end of each season and depending on the geographical location of Clubs gaining promotion to or being relegated from the Northern Combination, it may be necessary for the Regional League either (a) to accept a Club from the North East Regional League, or (b) have a Club transferred to the North East Regional League.

An appropriate number of Clubs at the bottom of each of the First Divisions North and South of the Regional League will be relegated (subject to Rule 12 [B]) in order to accommodate the promotion of **Clubs from the feeder County Leagues** which are approved as members of the Women's Football Pyramid. Each relegated Club will be allocated to a County League which is geographically most appropriate. **Four Clubs will ordinarily be promoted from the feeder County Leagues** which are approved members of the Women's Football Pyramid, **as selected from the County Leagues' Promotion Pool and providing that each Club** has the necessary grading criteria.

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

In the event of a Regional League Club opting to be relegated such Club will replace the Club otherwise due for relegation.

13	Referees
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13(A) Registered Referees (and Assistant Referees where deemed necessary by the Management Committee and where approved by the FA or County FA) for all matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the sanctioning Association(s).

- 13(B) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed Referee the Clubs shall mutually agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a Referee or Assistant Referee in any open age competition.
- 13(C) The Management Committee may, if they consider it desirable, require the appointment of Assistant Referees to any match. Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £10.00 being imposed on the defaulting Team. Substitutes are not permitted to act as assistant referees. Each Club shall have a set of Assistant Referees' flags available. Failure to do so may result in the Clubs being fined £5.00.
- 13(D) The appointed Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and the decision shall be final subject to either in the case of a ground of a Local Authority or the owners of a ground, the Representative of that body is the sole arbiter and whose decision must be accepted unless the ground is declared fit for play. In the event of the ground being unplayable the home Club may request an inspection by a local registered Referee in order to prevent unnecessary travelling by the visiting team.
- 13(E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the sanctioning Association Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid travel expenses of 20p per mile up to a maximum of £5.00 Match fees are as determined by County Associations.
- The Home Club shall pay the Officials their fees and/or expenses immediately after the match.
- Match Officials must report to the ground at least ½ hour before the scheduled kick-off time. An official of the home Club shall be at the ground to receive the Match Officials. Failure by the home Club to comply with this rule shall be reported by the referee. Clubs failing to comply will be fined £5.00.
- 13(F) In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to half their fee plus expenses. Where a match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Officials, if they attend the ground, their full fee and expenses.
- 13(G) A Referee not keeping his or her engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Association with which he or she is registered.
- 13(H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The Football Association, award marks to the Referee for each match and the name of the Referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Registration Secretary on the prescribed Form provided (team sheet). A referee marking of 50 or less must be accompanied by a letter of explanation within 2 days of the date of the match. Clubs failing to comply will be fined £5.00.
- 13(I) The Regional League shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided by the prescribed date each season, shall submit a summary to the Football Association / County Association.
- 13(J) The Referee shall complete the referee's section of the Team Sheet after the match and return it to the home Club. If, for any reason, a game is not played the Referee's section shall be completed as far as is possible and showing the reason for the postponement.

If a Club does not confirm an appointment with a Match Official at least 5 days before the date of the match that Match Official must contact the League Secretary.

14 Continuation of membership or withdrawal of a Club

14(A) After 31st December in the current Season a Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a team from the Regional League on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Regional League must notify the League Secretary in writing by 31st March in the current season. Clubs in breach of this rule shall be fined £50.00. Any Club withdrawing from the Regional League during the playing season shall be fined £50.00.

All Clubs wishing to remain in membership for the following Season must confirm their intention to do so, in writing, to the Secretary by 1st May.

14(B) A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its teams from the Regional League after the Annual General Meeting/arrangement of fixtures for the following Season. Any Club infringing this Rule shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £50.00 per team and shall also be liable for its share of any call which may be made under Rule 5(D).

14(C) The Membership for the coming season having been decided at the Annual General Meeting, the Regional League shall have the right, irrespective of other provisions in this Rule, to refuse to permit a Club to withdraw its team(s) in order to join another Competition and may hold the Club to its engagements.

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

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

If the debt remains unpaid after eighty-four (84) days the Regional League may apply to the Club's parent County Association for the debt to be recovered in accordance with the FA Football Debt Recovery System. Once the matter has been passed to the Club's parent County Association the debt can only be cleared by payment to that County Association

15 Protests and complaints

15(A) (i) All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretation of the Regional League Rules shall be referred to the League Secretary.
(ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goalposts, crossbars or other facilities of the venue shall not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the match. A Club lodging such a protest with the referee and not proceeding with it shall be deemed guilty of a breach of this Rule and shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.

15(B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged in duplicate with the League Secretary within 7 days of the match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of their Club) when such protest or complaint is being considered.

- 15(C) Any dispute occurring between Clubs in the Regional League shall be referred for determination by the Management Committee whose decision shall be binding on all parties subject to Rule 16.
- 15(D) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the League Secretary a sum of £10.00. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Management Committee shall have the power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous complaint or protest to pay the expense of an enquiry or to order that the costs be shared by the parties.
- 15(E) All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days prior to the protest or complaint being heard:
- (i) All parties must have received 14 days' notice of the Hearing should they be instructed to attend.
 - (ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then they should forward a deposit of £10 and indicate such when forwarding the written response

16	Board of Appeal
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Within 14 days of the posting of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee or the Regional League, a Club, Official or Player against whom action is taken may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars in duplicate with the Secretary of The Football Association, including a fee of £50.00, for adjudication of a Board of Appeal. The grounds of appeal shall be in accordance with FA Rules. The Board of Appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited and shall decide by whom the costs of the appeal shall be borne. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned.

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

An appeal to the Appeals Board of The Football Association shall be made and conducted only in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association that relate to appeals to an Appeals Board as are in force at the time (see Appendix B).

17	Exclusion of Clubs or teams, misconduct by Clubs, officials, players
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- 17(A) At the Annual General Meeting, or Special General Meeting called for the purpose, Notice of Motion having been duly circulated on the Agenda, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude any Club or Team from further membership which must be supported by two-thirds of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot.
- 17(B) At the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Regional League any Club whose conduct has in their opinion been undesirable, which must be supported by two-thirds 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.

It shall be deemed misconduct if an individual has committed any act or made any statement either verbally or in writing, or been responsible for conduct, continuing misconduct or any matter which, in the opinion of the League, is considered to be unsporting, insulting or improper behaviour or likely to bring the name of the League into disrepute. Any act, statement, conduct or matter which is discriminatory by reason of sex, sexual orientation, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or disability shall

constitute behaviour in contravention of this clause. A breach of any of the above will be reported to the Management Committee for them to deal with as they see fit.

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

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

18	Trophies:- Legal Owners, conditions of taking over, agreement to be signed, awards
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18(A) The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the Cup or Trophy:-

"We, A _____ and B _____, the Chairman and Secretary of _____ FC, members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of _____ Cup or Trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Regional League, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the Cup or Trophy to any League Officer on or before 1st March. If the Cup or Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Regional League the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair."

Any Club failing to honour this agreement shall be fined an amount of not less than £50.00.

18(B) At the completion of each competition within the Regional League a trophy which shall remain the property of the Regional League and which cannot be won outright shall be presented to the Club adjudged winner of that competition. The Management Committee may award further trophies which will also remain the property of the Regional League as it considers appropriate.

If funds permit, the League shall present to the Championship Club 15 (fifteen) souvenirs (provided that each player shall have played 25% of league games or more in the relevant season). The cost of additional souvenirs will be borne by Clubs.

19	Special General Meetings
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The League Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting upon receipt of a request signed by two-thirds of the Member Clubs or on the instruction of the Management Committee.

The Management Committee may call a Special General Meeting at any time that is considered necessary.

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

Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £50.00.

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

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

20 Alteration to Rules

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

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the League Secretary in writing 35 days prior to the date of such meeting. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to Clubs by the League Secretary at least 28 days prior to the AGM and any amendments thereto shall be submitted in writing by Clubs to the League Secretary at least 21 days prior to the date of the AGM. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs by the League Secretary at least 14 days prior to 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.

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

21 Finance

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

21(B) All expenditure in excess of £500 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.

21(C) The financial year of the Regional League will end on 31st May.

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

22 Insurance

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

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

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

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

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

(i) Any surplus assets, save for a Trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Regional League 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 Regional League as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the sanctioning Association.

(ii) If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a Trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the Donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the sanctioning Association may decide.

- (A) The Competition shall be called **The Argyle Sports Kit** North West Regional Cup (with **The Argyle Sports Kit** Plate).
- (B) The Cup/Plate is the property of the Regional League. When the winning Club shall have been ascertained the League shall deliver the trophy to such Club which shall be responsible for its return to the League on or before the first day in March in the ensuing year in good order and condition. Should the trophy be lost, destroyed or damaged by fire or any other cause whilst under the care or custody of the Club the latter shall refund the League the amount of its current insured value or the cost of thorough repair in addition to any other penalty which the Management Committee may impose.
- (C) In addition to the Cup/Plate, the League shall present medals to the players and substitutes in the Final Tie. When a player taking part is ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct the medal to which she may be entitled may be withheld at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- (D) The Cup will be competed for by all Clubs competing in the Regional League. Reserve Teams and Teams not progressing beyond the First Round of the North West Regional Cup will compete for the North West Regional Plate.
- (E) Only players registered for a Club shall be eligible to play for that Club in any one season. A player shall not play for more than one Team in the Cup competition during any one season except in exceptional circumstances as determined by the Management Committee. A player having played for one Team in one season shall be eligible to play only for that Team in either the Cup or Plate.
If a match is postponed only the players eligible for the tie on the originally scheduled date will be eligible to play in the re-scheduled tie (except those players returning from suspension). Any club found guilty of fielding an ineligible player in a cup tie shall be removed from the competition immediately and may be fined and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- (F) The competition may be played on a “knock-out” basis. The ties shall be drawn at a Management Committee meeting. In each tie, the game shall be played on the ground of the Club first drawn unless otherwise mutually arranged and the consent of the Management Committee is obtained. The Management Committee shall have the power to order any match to be played on an alternate ground or date if it is considered appropriate and necessary. In all rounds including the final 90 minutes must be played in all matches. If the teams are level after 90 minutes an extra 15 minutes each way is to be played. If the scores are level after extra time has been played the tie shall be determined by the taking of penalty kicks in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- (G) All matches in this competition shall be played in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association and the Laws of the Game.
- (H) Subject to the preceding Rules, the Rules of the Regional League shall apply.
- (I) Any postponed domestic cup tie will automatically be re-scheduled for the following week thereby postponing any conflicting fixtured league game or games with the exception only of the provisions contained in League Rule 10(C). Should the cup game be postponed for a second consecutive week the tie will automatically switch to the venue of the team originally drawn away.
- (J) A team failing to fulfil a cup fixture shall forfeit the tie, may be excluded from the cup competition in the following season and be liable to a fine of not more than £50.00.

The procedures below must be followed, and information and subscriptions provided by the dates set, for Clubs to be registered to play from the start of the forthcoming season.

Clubs failing to comply with these requirements shall be charged under Rule 5(H) and be subject to the penalties shown. Should failure to comply result in the postponement of scheduled fixtures, charges may follow under Rule 10(F).

1. No later than 1st May, all Clubs intending to play in the Regional League in the forthcoming season shall submit the League Application Form. Clubs failing to comply with the deadline shall be fined £20.00 and existing members may also risk losing their League membership. This application must be accompanied by a completed copy of the Regional League's Facility Checklist and a fee of **£50.00** per team which shall be the initial payment of the Annual Subscription required under Rule 2(B).
2. No later than 1st July, all Clubs must submit the Club Registration Form along with the remaining £50.00 of the Annual Subscription required under Rule 2(B). Clubs failing to fully comply with the deadline will be fined £20.00.
3. Clubs must advise the League Secretary in writing of any changes to their details contained in the League Directory. Failure to comply will incur a fine of £10.00.
4. A Club shall not participate in a league match until the Annual Subscription has been paid and the following have been received by the League Secretary:-
 - A copy of a current approved Emergency First Aid Certificate or equivalent as per Rule 10(B);
 - Child Protection Certificate;
 - A copy of a valid insurance certificate;
 - The minutes of the Annual General Meeting for the preceding season;
 - An audited balance sheet for the preceding season.

NB This information must be with the League Secretary by 1st August. Failure to comply will result in a £50.00 fine.

5. Every Club (including Reserve teams) must have a minimum of fifteen (15) players registered at least seven (7) days prior to the commencement of the season which shall be the first Sunday in September.
6. Every Club must keep proper books of account in which all receipts and payments are recorded and which would be available for random inspection. All Clubs shall take and retain minutes of meetings which would be available for random inspection by the Management Committee. Failure to maintain proper records may result in a Club being liable to a fine of £25.00 or dealt with in such a manner as decided by the Management Committee.
7. Insurance - All Clubs shall insure their players against personal accident and provide the League Secretary with proof of insurance and insure the Club and its members against public liability and supply the League Secretary with proof.