STANDARD CODE OF RULES

This document contains the Standard Code of Rules developed by The Football Association for open age football (the "Standard Code").

The Standard Code is mandatory for all Competitions at Step 7 of the National League System and Tier 7 and below, of The FA Women's Pyramid.

Competitions seeking sanction must draft their Rules in conformity with the Standard Code, using the same numbering and standard headings.

The mandatory rules are printed in normal text and the optional rules in italics.

** League and cup/plate supplementary rules for 2025 / 2026 are printed in grey italics.*

It should be noted that in many cases rules are so printed because they are alternatives and the procedure to apply should be retained and the others omitted.

In all cases where a [ ] is shown the necessary name, address, number or wording to complete that rule must be inserted.

Competitions may add to the core of the Standard Code, which is mandatory, providing the additions are approved by the Sanctioning Authority and do not conflict with the mandatory rules or any relevant principles and policies established by The FA.

1. DEFINITIONS

(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.

"Competition" means the [Swindon and District 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 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 FA] [the Wiltshire County Football Association Limited].

"Scholarship" means a Scholarship 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.

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

(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.

2. GOVERNANCE RULES COMPETITION NAME, CONSTITUTION

(A) The Competition will be known as ["The Swindon & District Community Football League"] (or such other name as the Competition may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A Club which ceases to exist or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall thereupon automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.

(B) This Competition shall consist of not more than 120 Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

(C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be a 30-mile radius from the Town Hall, Swindon.

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

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

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

(G) i) All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association.

ii) This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Sanctioning Authority and the constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped in divisions, *each not exceeding* 16 *in numbe*r.

This competition and its clubs shall support the FA's Respect program. 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 League that falls within the FA's Respect program values the contribution of match and club officials, players and spectators alike, and ensures that they are treated with courtesy and fairness by opposing player, club and match officials and spectators. The League and its clubs will seek to play fixtures in a fair, competitive but not antagonistic environment.

(H) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

(i) 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).

(ii) 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.

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

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

All new clubs elected into the League are requested to apply for Football England Accreditation through their Club Portal no later than their second season in the League, to help the League achieve its own goal of 90 % of Clubs being Accredited.

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

(K) Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing in the Competition in any other competitions (with the exception of FA and 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.

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

(M) Only one Team from a Club shall be permitted to participate in a single division Team 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.

3. CLUB NAME

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

4. ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

(A) Applications by Clubs for admission to the Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same Club must be made in writing to the Secretary by 31st 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.

i) Entry to ALL SWINDON & DISTRICT COMMUNITY LEAGUE CUP/PLATE competitions is mandatory for all clubs entering the league and clubs will be charged the respective entry fee, in addition to their league entry fee.

Applications of which due notice has been given, will be received at the AGM or SGM if confirmed by a majority of the accredited voting members present.

If a new team application is received after the AGM in June and there are vacancies then the decision will be taken by the management committee. If there are no vacancies at this time then the team will go on a reserve list.

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.

(B) *The annual subscription shall be **payable** in accordance with the fees tariff, for each team, payable at a date agreed at the AGM, or set by the competition, (and no later than 14 days after that date).*

(C) In the event of any issue concerning the membership of any Club with the Competition the Management Committee may require a Deposit to be paid by or on behalf of the Club on such terms and for such period as it may in its entire discretion think fit. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. *Each new club shall within 14 days of election pay a deposit in accordance with the fees tariff per Team that shall be returnable to clubs on leaving the Competition provided they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all orders of the Management Committee and have no fines outstanding.*

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

(E) Clubs must ensure that all its teams participating in the Competition are recorded as affiliated on the Club Portal for the forthcoming Playing Season by the 1st July. 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 fine tariff.

5. MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

(A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and a minimum of one member, (but no more than 5 members) who shall all be elected at the AGM.

(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 31st 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 30th April in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being no nomination for any office by the date stated in the earlier part of this rule, nominations may be received at the AGM.

Officers who fail to attend at least 50% of Management Committee meetings or who fail to submit a written report in lieu of their non-attendance, during the current season, shall have to seek re-election for the following season, by nomination of two Member Clubs.

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

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.

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

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

6. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

(A) The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all sub-committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters

within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of The FA or Affiliated Association.

The President, Chairman, Life-Vice president, General Secretary and Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of all sub-committees.

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

(C) Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management 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.

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

(E) 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.

With the exception of Rules 6(J), 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:

(i) Accept the charge and/or submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee or

(ii) Accept the charge and notify the Competition that it wishes
to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or

(iii) Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee or

(iv) Deny the charge and notify the Competition that it wishes to have a hearing before the Management Committee.

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

As appropriate, 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).

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

With the exception of Teams playing at Step 7 of the National League System, the maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Management Committee must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

The maximum fine permitted for a breach of a Rule by a Team playing at Step 7 of the National League System is £500.

No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

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

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

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

(G) A minimum of 60% of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any sub-committee.

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

(I) A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee and must attend to the business and/or 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.

(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.

(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.

(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.

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

7. PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

(A) (i) All questions of eligibility, qualification of Players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Governance Officer of the Management Committee via email or other auditable means of communication only (verbal phone call is insufficient for these purposes).

(ii) 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. Any Club lodging such protest and not proceeding with it shall be deemed guilty of a breach of this rule and shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.

(B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Governance Officer within 3 days (excluding Sundays) of the Competition Match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by the person lodging such protest or complaint and with the approval of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved or potentially likely to be involved (e.g. cup competitions) shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

Any dispute occurring between Clubs in the Competition shall be referred for determination by the Management Committee whose decision shall be binding upon all parties. ***(Although the club does have the right to appeal the decision)***

(C) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Governance Officer a sum in accordance with the fine tariff. Confirmation of receipt will be sent by auditable means of communication to the Governance Officer and the complainant. 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.

(D) All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days before the protest or complaint being heard. *This should be sent to the Governance Officer who will collate and present to the Committee at the next applicable meeting.*

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

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

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

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

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

.

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

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

All such protests, claims, complaints and appeals must be received in writing by the Governance Officer, within fourteen days of the event or decision causing any of these to be submitted.

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(A) The AGM shall be held not later than 30th June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least two thirds of members are present and entitled to vote:

(a) Confirm the minutes of the last AGM.

(b) Adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of account from the previous season or accounting period.

(c) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies

(d) Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Season.

(e) Election of Competition Officers and Management Committee members.

(f) Appointment of auditors/verifiers.

(g) Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14)

(h) Agree the date for the beginning of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.

(i) Agree the date for the end of the Playing Season (save for Step 7 which shall be determined by the FA).

(j) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted by the Chair as being relevant to an AGM.

(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.

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

(D) Each Club shall be required to send up to two delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. 14 days' notice shall be given of any AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff.

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

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

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

(H) i) 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.

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

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

(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.

9. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

(A) On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call an SGM.

(B) The Management Committee may call an SGM at any time.

(C) At least 7 days' notice shall be given of a meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.

(D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.

(E) Any Club failing to be represented at a SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(F) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs, but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a club, (see Rule 9D).

No committee member shall be allowed to vote on any matters appertaining to such member, or to the club so represented or where there may be a conflict of interests.

10. AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

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 [ ] Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, if elected or accepted into membership, to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by

and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7."

Each Club shall complete and sign the competitions RESPECT agreement and ensure same is cascaded to all members, playing & otherwise in advance of the season commencing, this includes but is not limited to, England Football Accredited and RESPECT programmes.

The agreement shall be signed:

(i) Where a Club is an unincorporated association, the by Club Chair and secretary; or

(ii) 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 appropriate County Football Association to which the Club is sanctioned and to the Secretary of the Competition.

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

11. CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

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

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

(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.

12. EXCLUSION OF CLUBS, TEAMS. MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

(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.

(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 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.

(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 (B) of this Rule.

(D) Any Club or Team failing to complete its fixtures in any season shall (unless agreed by the Management Committee), be debarred from membership the following season.

13. TROPHIES AND AWARDS

(A) At the close of each Competition awards shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit, and other awards as deemed appropriate by the management committee.

(B) The divisional winners and runners-up trophies shall be presented to the winning clubs. The Management Committee will be responsible for having the winning clubs name and year engraved on the trophy.

(C) As applicable/appropriate ALL trophies awarded and either not retained by the Competition or awarded for perpetuity, must be returned to a Management Committee officer by May 31st of the following year. For the avoidance of doubt, the trophies retained by the Swindon & District ***Community*** *Football league are the SDFL Challenge Cup, The George Thomas Cup, The Premier & Division 1 winner's cups. The winners of the respective competitions will be given a keep cup for their retention.*

14. ALTERATION TO RULES

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 and approved by Sanctioning Authority or the FA.

B. Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by 31st March in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 4 weeks prior to the AGM and any amendments to these proposals shall be submitted to the League Secretary by 2 weeks before the AGM. The proposals and proposed amendments to these proposals shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present, and entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

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

15. FINANCE

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

(B) All expenditure in excess of £250 shall be approved by the Management Committee

(C) The financial year of the Competition will end on 30th April.

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

16. INSURANCE

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

(B) All Clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Players' personal accident 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.

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

17. DISSOLUTION

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

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

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

(i) Any surplus assets, save for a trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or Affiliated Association or The Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the Sanctioning Authority.

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

18. MATCH RELATED RULES

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

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

(i) Registered through the FA Player Registration System and received approval from the Competition except in the case of a Player who has been registered on the day of the match (also see 18B (IV)). For any players registered on the day of a match, a Club Officer must email the Competition with details of the registration and have completed the entry on the FA Player Registration System1 hour prior to the scheduled kick off time in order for their player to be eligible to play in that match. The player shall not play again in any 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. A maximum of 2 players may be registered in this

manner*, (it is the club's responsibility to check whether or not the player is serving a suspension before playing him).*

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

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

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.

(3) Each team must have at least 11 Players registered 5 days before the start of the Playing Season. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff and the points for that match, plus any subsequent matches being awarded to their opponents.

(4) In the event of a contract player changing his status to that as a contract player with the same club in another Competition, their registration as a non - Contract player will be automatically cancelled and declared void unless the Clubs conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 18.B (i)

(5) *Only a goalkeeper can be registered up to, or on, the day before the match if cleared by the League Registration Secretary, (see A (i) above), but can only be used as the position of a goalkeeper for the duration of the Competition. Sanctioning for use in Cup matches is only at the discretion of the League and Cup Committee.*

(C) A Player that owes a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) shall be permitted to register and play 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.

Non- football related debt (for example, player subscriptions, signing on fees), is a private matter between club and player, and cannot hold up a transfer request.

(D) A fee in accordance with the fees tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered.

(i) *The Player Registration fees will be invoiced on 1st September and throughout the season to capture any additional registrations. Invoices will must be paid within 14 days. Unpaid invoices will incur a charge in line with the fine tariff, and any fees not paid within this period, will incur a fine in accordance with the tariff.*

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

In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club in the Competition, the valid registration submitted first shall take precedence. The Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

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

(i) Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.

(ii) 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.

(G) (1) The Management Committee shall to accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rules 18(G) (ii) and (iii) below.

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

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

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

(4) A Player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18G (3) but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered under probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under the 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 dispute.

(Note: Action under Rule 18G 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 dispute 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 dispute can only be considered where the player has received in excess of 112 day's suspension, or 10 matches in matched 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)

(H) Subject to compliance with C when a Club wishes to register a player who is already registered with another club it shall submit a transfer notification (in a format as determined by the Competition) to the Competition via the Player Registration System. A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff will be required. Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to the club for which the player is registered. Should this club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the player concerned within 3 days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within 3 days, the Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or 2 days after receipt of such transfer.

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

Except by agreement with the Management Committee, a club cannot sign or transfer more than one player from another Club at any one time, unless a period of 14 days has elapsed between each signing.

(I) Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after the last day of February except by special permission of the Management Committee, *or when a player turns 16 of age after this date (registrations only).*

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

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

A player who has played for a team in the Swindon and District Premier Division five times or more shall not in that season be eligible to play in a lower division except by permission of the Management Committee.

(L) A Team shall not include more than 2 Players who has/have played in 4 or more senior Competition Matches during the current Playing Season.

For the purpose of this Rule a senior competition(s) is defined as one in which each of the competing clubs play in a Feeder League or above in the FA NLS or registered as such with its County FA, or a team (other than youth team), attached to a club employing players under written contract.

To clarify further, the Wiltshire Premier League is a Feeder league, Hellenic Premier League is Step 5 and Hellenic League Division 1 is Step 6, however Hellenic League Division 2 is the same status as our own.

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

(M) (1) Subject to Rule 18(M)(ii), 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 any goals scored or conceded expunged, plus have levied upon it a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

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

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

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

(b) Levy penalty points against the Club in default; or

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

(N) The following clause applies to Competitions involving Players in full-time secondary education.

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

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

(ii) To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16.

(O) Unless the Management Committee gives approval, any player who plays 5 or more games in a current season for a team in the Swindon & District League is ineligible to play for another team from the same Club in any lower Division match of the Swindon & District League during the same season.

(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.*

If a Player's registration is cancelled, he will not be eligible to re-register in the Competition for a period of 14 days from the date of cancellation.

19. CLUB COLOURS

A. Every team must register the colour and design of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 30th June and the Competition Secretary shall decide as to their suitability.

B. Any team wishing to change the colour(s) 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.

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

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

E. Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents of the colours in which they will play (including the colours of the goalkeeper's jersey) at least 7days before the Competition Match.

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

G. Shirts must be numbered, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

(A) All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board, and upheld by the appointed referee or their designate.

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.

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.

Clubs shall not be allowed to compete in the League unless they are able to provide suitable changing and showering / washing facilities*. Adherence to Welfare and Respect considerations must*

also form part of the provision of changing and showering / washing facilities, for example. U18's must be allocated or allowed separate changing and showering / washing facilities, as should match officials if requested/required by gender.

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

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

Within Regional NLS Feeder League matches, shall have a duration of 90 minutes. All other Competition Matches shall have duration of 90 minutes unless a shorter time (not less than sixty (60) minutes) is mutually arranged by the two Clubs in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves. Two matches involving the same two Teams can be played on the same day providing the total playing time is not more than 120 minutes.

The times of kick-off shall be agreed at the AGM *but can/will change at the start and end of British Summer Time (BST usually March and October),* and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs and the Competition. *Cup competitions will commence 30 minutes earlier to allow for Extra-Time, and a penalty shoot-out, if applicable.*

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

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

No overhead netting is allowed for 11v11 affiliated matches, *however the competition may, at its discretion, allow overhead wires on artificial pitches as applicable, so far as they do not interfere with the playing of the game.*

<u>For those leagues which are not Regional NLS Feeder Leagues</u>: 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) 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.

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).

(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 3 days prior to the playing of the Competition Match,(23.59 on Wed). The opposing Club must confirm receipt and give notice of its kit colours (including goalkeeper) at least 2 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 via the governance officer. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Note: Contact should be made by SMS, email or similar means that provide an audit trail. Should there be no confirmation from the Referee, the home club representative should ring the Referee the next evening (i.e. Thursday for a Saturday fixture). The Referee will confirm their full fee (including expenses) at this time to enable the home club to have such amount ready in full.

Any Club responsible for failing to notify a referee of a change of location or time shall be liable to reimburse the Referee their full match fee and expenses should the referee attend at the location/time shown on Full-Time. The Referee must submit any such claim to the Referee Appointments Secretary within three days of the match.

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

Referee should report (in line with these rules):

• Where a club records an objection to the pitch or facilities before the match

• Where kick off is delayed due to a club not having a change of colours or for any other reason

• Where two suitable (as per LOTG) footballs are not provided

(D) 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.

(E) (i) 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:

1. award the points from the Competition Match in question to the Club's opponent (without the awarding of goals)

OR

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

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

1. impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff),

2. deduct points from the defaulting Club, order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents.

c order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents.

(ii) Any Club with more than one Team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence: First Team, Reserve/Development Team, A Team.

(iii) 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, [*Fixture Secretary*, and *Referees Appointments* 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.

(iv) 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 14 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.

When a competition match has been abandoned for any reason both Clubs must within 24 hours, give notice to the Competition.

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

(v) 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 Competition Match to the opponent. In cases where a Competition Match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both, teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule that neither team will be awarded any points for that Match and it shall not be replayed. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned Match.

(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 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.

(vii) Any Club without just cause failing to fulfil an engagement to play a Competition match on the appointed date shall for each offence be liable to expulsion from the Competition and/or such other disciplinary action the Management Committee may determine, including the deduction of up to a maximum of three points from the offending Club's record, any expenses incurred by their opponents, and a fine in accordance with the fines tariff.

(viii) In the event of a Club being in breach of the previous paragraph of this Rule then the Management Committee may award points to the Club not at fault as if the match had been played and the League table shall reflect the position as if the match had been played with the result awarded by the Management Committee.

(ix) Clubs are requested to have a mobile telephone or an email address operational at all times. These will be listed in the Competition Handbook unless a Club requests otherwise.

(x) Teams must pay all officials (Referees and any appointed assistants) their full fee, BEFORE KICK OFF. Both the home and away clubs must exchange team sheets 15 minutes BEFORE KICK OFF. Any club in breach of either exchanging team sheets or paying officials fees (Home team) BEFORE KICK OFF, may be fined in accordance with the fines tariff for each offence (potentially two fines for a home team). Issues around ensuring eligibility of players are the responsibility of teams to both check with their players and will be dealt with under the rules pertaining to that section. Referees will play no part in issues around eligibility

(xi) Any Club, responsible for postponing a game more than seven days prior to the date of the match, shall be fined in accordance with the fines tariff, and must notify their opponents of the postponement. A second offence by a club under this clause will attract a fine in accordance with the fines tariff, and each subsequent offence thereafter will attract an increase in accordance with the fine tariff.

(xii) Clubs can only postpone a maximum of 2 games per season under this rule and then will have to forfeit the game and points to opponents.

(*xiii) Any Club, responsible for postponing a game seven days or less prior to the date of the match, shall be fined in accordance with the fines tariff, may forfeit three points to their opponents or be requested to play the game at a date to be arranged by the competition, and may be liable to a claim for compensation from their opponents. A second offence by a club under this clause will attract a fine in accordance with the fine tariff and each subsequent offence thereafter will attract an increase in accordance of the fine tariff.*

(xiv) Any Club responsible for failing to fulfil a fixture on the day of the match shall be fined in accordance with the fine tariff, shall forfeit three points to their opponents and may be liable to a claim for compensation from their opponents and the Referee. A second offence by a club under this clause will attract a fine in accordance with the fine tariff and each subsequent offence thereafter will attract an increase in accordance with the fine tariff.

(xv) Opponents must lodge a written claim for compensation with the League within three days of the date of the match, accompanied by proof of expenditure within 14 days. This also applies to the Referee if ~~he/she~~ they attended the ground.

(xvi) The League shall have the power to set aside legitimate claims for compensation from opponents or Match Officials.

(xvii) *Notice of postponement of any match must be given without delay by the postponing Club (or notice of a Club being unable to fulfil any match must be given 48 hours prior to the match by the Club) to the Fixtures Secretary, the Results Secretary, the Competition Referees Appointments*

Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the match officials. Any Club failing to comply shall be dealt with by the Management Committee who may inflict any penalty it may deem suitable.

(xviii) Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent's ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

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

Where a Competition does allow return substitutes*, a* Team *may name and use up to 5 from 5 substitutes in a Competition Match.* 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 the Game.

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 15 minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a Player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match.
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.

(G) The half time interval shall be *a maximum* of 10 minutes' duration. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

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

(I). Where a suspension imposed in relation to 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 *2* days before a fixture, that fixture will be treated as an unfulfilled fixture and dealt with in accordance with Rule 20(E).

21. REPORTING RESULTS

(A) The Competition must receive within 3 days of the date played (excluding Sundays), the result of each Competition Match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the Team Players (in block letters) and also *the referee markings required by Rule 23, or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the fine tariff*

(B) *Both Clubs shall use telephone/SMS/email/Whatsapp, notify the result of each Competition Match to the Competitions Result Secretary by 18:30 for Saturday matches and 21:00 for midweek matches, together with the scorer of each goal. In any FA or Affiliated Association Competition, the home Club if two clubs are playing the tie, or the club if the match involves a team outside of the Competition, must also follow this procedure. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff*

(C) A match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by an Officer of the team, or as prescribed by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

D) Both competing clubs must also complete FA Full Time with player & playing statistics within 3 days of the date played (excluding Sundays).

22. DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

(A) Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn 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.

In the event of two or more Teams being equal on points at the end of the Playing Season, rankings shall be determined by 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.

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:

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

1. *[Goal difference (where the goals scored against each Team shall be deducted from the goals scored by that Team and the Team with the most favourable goal difference shall be placed highest).*

2. *In the event of two or more Teams being equal, the Team which has scored the most goals during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.]*

3. In the event of two or more Teams being equal, the Team that has won the most matches during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.

4. In the event of two or more Teams being equal, the Team which has the better playing record against the other Team in their head to head Competition Matches during the Playing Season will be placed highest.

5. One-off fixture or play-off games as determined by the League management committee.

(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 hereunder, subject to the provisions of Rule 2(L).*

(i) 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.

(ii) Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the Playing Season may be filled in any of the following ways:

(a) retention of otherwise relegated Team(s); or

(b) additional promotion of the next ranked Team(s) from the division below; or

(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 automatically retires from the Competition.

(iv) 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.

(v) Save for where Rule 2(M) applies, when a Senior team is relegated to a lower division of which it is the reserve (or other less senior), team must accept relegation to, or retain its position in, the next lower division, and should the Seniot team be relegated to the lowest division, it is the reserve (or other less senior) team of the same club automatically retires from the Competition.

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

(E) **PYRAMID - Promotion to the Wiltshire County League Premier Division from the four feeder leagues.**

1. *Hellenic League Division 2.*
2. *Swindon & District Community League Premier Division.*
3. *Trowbridge & District League Division 1.*
4. *Wiltshire Senior League Division 1.*

1. *The WSL undertake to accept only one club from each of the four Feeder Leagues.*

2. *Any club promoted from one of the four Feeder Leagues will go into the WSL Premier Division.*

3. *Any club relegated from the WSL Premier Division will have the choice of which Feeder League they go into.*

4. *A club second team (Reserve or Development), will not be considered as promotion candidates for the Wiltshire Premier Division if the Clubs firsts are still residing in the Wiltshire Senior League Division One.*

In order to be considered for promotion to the Wiltshire County League, a Club must finish in 1st position of the Premier Division of the Swindon & District League. If the Club finishing in 1st position does not wish to be promoted or fails to meet the ground grading / entry criteria, then the club finishing in 2nd position will be eligible for promotion. If the Club in 2nd position does not seek promotion or fails to meet the ground grading / entry criteria then Clubs down to 3rd position may be considered for promotion provided that they meet the appropriate ground grading / entry criteria.

Promotion to the Wiltshire Senior League is not mandatory for any Club finishing in a promotion position.

Clubs finishing below 3rd position will not be considered for promotion. Only one Club is allowed to be promoted to the Wiltshire County League in any one season. However, all clubs are at liberty to apply to Wiltshire County League, Division 1, given its equal standing to the Swindon & District League.

Please complete an Expression of Interest form and send it to the Hon General Secretary of the Wiltshire Senior League with a copy to the Hon General Secretary of the Swindon and District League by 15th April to be considered for promotion. On receipt of a completed Form, the Hon General Secretaries of the Wiltshire Senior League and your current District League will contact you to arrange an inspection of your ground and advise on any necessary improvements to facilities required in order to gain promotion.

23. MATCH OFFICIALS

(A) Registered referees (and assistant referees 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.

i) When the League appoints a referee, then that is the official for the match. The league will look at disciplining defaulting clubs if considered appropriate in accordance with the fine tariff?

(B) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed referee the appointed senior assistant referee shall take charge and a substitute assistant referee appointed by the competing Teams. In cases where there are no officially appointed 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.

Should the Clubs fail to agree upon a Referee, having arrived at the ground, thus preventing the game being played, the appropriate Fixture Secretary must be informed, in writing, by both Clubs within three days of the date of the match and the reasons clearly stated therein. Failure to comply will result in the Club(s) being dealt with under the relevant section. The Fixture Secretary shall refer all cases to the Management Committee who will determine which Club(s) is/are in default. Club(s) thus determined to be in default of not mutually agreeing upon a Referee shall pay the ground expenses, the Referee's fee and travelling expenses for the rearranged fixture, the date of which shall be determined by the appropriate Fixture Secretary.

(C) 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.

(D) *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. Should the ground be declared unfit it is the responsibility of the home club to immediately advise the competition, the Referee Appointments Secretary, Result Secretary and the Fixture Secretary*

(E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Authority, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee and travel expenses in accordance with the Fees Tariff. Match Officials will be paid their fees and expenses by the *home/away/shared* Club (s) before the Competition Match. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(i) The League, leave it to clubs to request and pay for 3 officials, but if circumstances dictate, the league will impose 3 officials on the match with the costs shared. However, the league will pay the costs for the assistants, for legitimate reasons as part of our give back to and support for clubs and referees. The appointment of registered Assistant Referee's is predicated on 3 main criteria, as follows;

1. *The availability of officials, once a referee has been appointed to ALL competition matches.*

2. *The competition receives a request from clubs for the appointment of 2 assistant referees.*

3. *The competition deems a game to require the appointment of Assistant Referee's for discipline, competition or other reasons felt appropriate by the Management Committee*

(F) 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 half the normal fee plus expense. When 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.

(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 Affiliated Association with which he or she is registered. Clubs should report such occurrences to the Referee Appointments Secretary

(H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by the FA, award marks to the referee for each Competition Match and the name of the referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed form provided. *Where a club scores a Referee less than 40% of the maximum score, they must submit a report to the Referees Appointment Secretary with their reasons for the low score.* Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

(I) The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and shall submit a summary to the FA/County FA on request

J) 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 Referee A Referee should report (in line with these rules):

• Where a club records an objection to the pitch or facilities before the match

• Where kick off is delayed due to a club not having a change of colours or for any other reason

• Where two suitable (as per LOTG) footballs are not provided

(K) *Match Officials shall be supplied with access to a copy of the League and Cup Competition Rules free of charge on the League website.*

1. *Noting that appointed referees or Assistant Referees have no jurisdiction over the makeup or application of league rules, even if said official(s) are member of the Management Committee. Any opinions given, are of a personal nature and not binding on the competition. Any claim against the league under these circumstances will be rejected, without right of appeal by the Management Committee, the appointed officials are present to uphold the laws of the game as provided by the Football Association*

(L) *Match officials shall comply with the provisions of any initiatives of the FA and/or sanctioning Authority adapted by the Competition*

(N) Match Officials shall have undertaken all mandatory training required by the FA/County FA or the Competition.

(P) Match Officials may wear coloured shirts provided that:

(i) the alternative shirts must be plain and the colour must not clash with the colours of either clubs or goalkeepers

(ii) when neutral assistant referees are appointed by the Competition, the colour of the alternative shirts worn by the referee and assistant referees must be the same at a given match.

2. *Subject to match officials complying with the above, clubs should not ask referees to wear bibs or change the colour of their kit.*

FINES AND TARIFFS

SCHEDULE A

FEES TARIFF 2025-2026 SEASON

RULE NO.	DESCRIPTION	MAX FEE
4 (A)	APPLICATION FEE (NEW TEAMS)	£25.00
4 (B)	ANNUAL LEAGUE FEE (ALL TEAMS)	£25.00
4 (C)	DEPOSIT	£50.00
7 (C), 7 (E), 7(G)	PROTEST/APPEAL FEES	£15.00
18 (D)	PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE INVOICED ON 1st SEPT & AT POINTS THROUGHOUT THE SEASON (CIRCA 2-3 MONTHS) WITH 14 DAYS TO PAY	£3.00
18 (H)	TRANSFER FEE	£5.00
23 (E)	*REFEREE FEES ALL DIVISIONS	£35 + 45p/mile
23 (E)i	ASSISTANT REF FEES ASSISTANT REFEREREES APPOINTED AT THE AGREEMENT OF THE CLUBS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND PAID BY THE LEAGUE, AS PART OF THEIR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT.	£30.00 +45p/mile £25
24 B	CUP ENTRY FEE ALL TEAMS (MANDATORY PER TEAM)	£25.00

***Any team charged more than £50 by a League appointed referee may claim the amount over this from the League. A club needs to write to the Referee Appointment Officer (RAO), within 14 days of the match.**

FINES TARIFF 2025-2026 SEASON		
RULE NO.	DESCRIPTION	MAX FINE
2 (I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£25.00

2 (K)	**UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS IN COMPETITIONS**	**£25.00**
3	**FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME**	**£25.00**
4 (C)	**FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT - NO FINE, NOT ACCEPTED IN LEAGUE**	**£25.00**
4(E)	**ENSURE TEAM IS RECORDED AS AFFILIATED IN CLUB PORTAL- NO FINE, NOT ACCEPTED IN LEAGUE**	**£25.00**
5(E)	**COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS**	**£10.00**
6 (I)	**FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE SDCFL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**	**£50.00**
6 (J)	**FAILURE TO PAY A FINE OR INVOICE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME** **FIRST OFFENCE** **SECOND OFFENCE** **THIRD OFFENCE**	 **£20** **£25.00** **£50.00**
8 (H)	**FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM**	**£25.00**
9	**FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM**	**£25.00**
10	**FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES**	**£25.00**
11(A)	**FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE**	**£50 AND LOSS OF DEPOSIT (£50) total £100**
11 (B)	**FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES**	**£100 (max) AND LOSS OF DEPOSIT**
16(B)	**FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED PERSONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE**	**£25.00**

18 (A)	**FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER** **PLAYER UNABLE TO PLAY**	**£25.00**
18 (B) (iii)	**FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE SEASON COMMENCING**	**£25.00**
18D (I)	**UNPAID PLAYER REGISTRATION INVOICES**	**FIXTURES SUSPENDED**
18 (F)	**REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS, OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM- PLAYER CANNOT PLAY**	**£25**
18 (G)(ii)	**REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES PLAYER CANNOT PLAY**	**£25**
18 (L)	***FIELDING MORE THAN THE PERMITTED NUMBER OF PLAYERS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SENIOR COMPETITION AFTER 1st SEPTEMBER*** ***ADMIN ERROR / TENDED WITH A VIEW TO DECEPTION***	***£10 / £25***
18 (M)	**PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER –** ***ADMIN ERROR / TENDED WITH A VIEW TO DECEPTION***	***£10 / £25***
18 (N)	**PRIORITY GIVEN TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**	**£10.00**
19 (F)	**DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS**	**£10.00**
19 (G)	**FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS**	**£10.00**
20(A)	**DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT**	**£5 per 5 mins**
20 (C)	**FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE**	**£25.00**
20E (iv)	**FAILURE TO NOTIFY OF AN ABANDONED MATCH**	**£25.00**
20E (x)	**FAILURE TO PROVIDE COMPLETED TEAMSHEET TO THE OPPONENTS AND MATCH OFFICIAL AT LEAST 15 MINUTES BEFORE THE GAME COMMENCES**	**£25.00**

20E (xi)	**FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE (MORE THAN 7 DAYS NOTICE GIVEN PLUS ANY EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE OPPOSITION** **EACH SUBSEQUENT OFFENCE THEREAFTER WILL ATTRACT**	**£30.00** **£10.00**
20 (E) (xiii)	**FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE (LESS THAN 7 DAYS NOTICE GIVEN PLUS ANY EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE OPPOSITION** **EACH SUBSEQUENT OFFENCE THEREAFTER ADD A FURTHER**	**£40.00** **£10.00**
20 (E) (xiv)	**FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE (ON DAY OF MATCH) PLUS ANY EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE OPPOSITION.** **EACH SUBSEQUENT OFFENCE THEREAFTER ADD A FURTHER**	**£50.00** **£10.00**
20A	**FAILURE TO WEAR CAPTAIN ARM BAND**	**£10.00**
20C	**FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE**	**£25.00**
21 (A)	**FAILURE TO PROVIDE COMPLETED TEAM/RESULT SHEET TO THE RESULTS SECRETARYBY MIDNIGHT ON THE WEDNESDAY FOLLOWING THE SATURDAY GAME (FOR MIDWEEK GAMES THE SUBMISSION IS DUE NO LATER THAN 4 DAYS AFTER THE GAME)** **FIRST OFFENCE** **SECOND OFFENCE** **THIRD OFFENCE** **FOURTH OFFENCE**	**£10.00** **£15.00** **£25.00** **£50.00**
21 (B)	**FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT (VIA FULL TIME SMS)** **FIRST OFFENCE** **SECOND OFFENCE** **THIRD OFFENCE** **FOURTH OFFENCE**	**£10.00** **£15.00** **£25.00** **£50.00**
21(C)	**RESULT NOTIFICATION NOT SIGNED BY APPROPRIATE SIGNATORIES**	**£10.00**

23 (A)	**REFUSING LEAGUE APPOINTED OFFICIAL ON MATCH-DAY**	**£25.00**
23C	**FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREES**	**£10.00**
23 (E)	**FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS FEES & EXPENSES BEFORE GAME (UNLESS AGREED WITH THE OFFICIALS BEFOREHAND) (FOR POSTPONED GAMES 50% OF THE AGREED MATCH FEE IS DUE IF THE REFEREE ATTENDS THE GROUND)**	**£25.00**
23 (F)	**FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHEN A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED, (ABANDONED, CANCELLED, WHERE PLAY IS STOPPED, AND NOT RESUMED AFTER KICK OFF)**	**£25.00**
23 (H)	**FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK (OR A LOW REFEREE MARK REPORT)**	**£25.00**

SCHEDULE B – INDEX

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
SCHEDULE A
Fees Tariff
Fines Tariff