

- The alternative proposal may not be for a continuation of any ground share arrangement if the Club has had a ground sharing arrangement for the previous 2 seasons, or any part thereof, even if those arrangements have related to more than one ground.
- Any approval of the alternative proposal will be subject to the issue of a grading certificate. The Board will use all reasonable endeavours to inspect the ground after receiving the alternative proposal and prior to the Board meeting, but if it is unable to do so then any approval of the alternative proposal will be subject to the issue of a satisfactory grading certificate. In the event of a Club not having received a grading certificate by 1st April and not having had its alternative proposal approved at the relevant Board Meeting, it shall be relegated forthwith at the end of the playing season to a level determined by The Football Association.
- Clubs in membership of the Competition on 1st April in any season will have until 31st May in that season to meet in full the criteria of membership of the Competition.
- 2.5** Any Club wishing to incorporate shall notify The FA, its Affiliated Association and the Competition Secretary before it makes any resolutions in this regard.
- 2.6** In the event that any Club which is an unincorporated association incorporates itself it shall notify the Competition Secretary in writing within 14 days of the passing of the resolution to take this action and shall with such notice provide the Competition Secretary with a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company. Any amendments to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of a Club must be notified to the Competition Secretary in writing within 14 days of the passing of the resolution with a copy of the change(s).
- 2.7** In the event that any Club which is an unincorporated association resolves to transfer its membership of the Competition to a company or in the event that a Club which is a company resolves to transfer its membership to a different company the Board will use the following minimum criteria in deciding whether to approve that transfer:
- 2.7.1** The shareholders or members of the Club have voted to agree the transfer of the Club's membership to the new entity
- 2.7.2** All Football Creditors in the Club must be satisfied in full or transferred (with the creditors' consent) to the new entity, and evidenced as such.
- 2.7.3** All other creditors in the Club must be satisfied and evidenced as such.
- 2.7.4** The proposed new entity has provided financial forecasts showing its ability to fund the Club for the next 12 months or to the end of the Playing Season following transfer (whichever is the longer) and that evidence of funding sources has been provided.
- 2.7.5** The FA has given approval for the transfer to take place.
- 2.8** The Competition shall allow for up to 66 member Clubs. There will be 3 divisions of 22 Clubs in each division where possible. The divisions will be called Premier Division; Division One; Division Two and appropriately named Reserve Division(s). The Clubs competing in each division each season will be confirmed by the Annual General Meeting of the Company each year.
- 2.9** Any Club or Club representative found guilty of serious irregularities regarding players Contract payments under The FA Rules may be expelled from the Company in accordance with these Rules and, in addition, may be fined such sum as the Board shall determine.
- 2.10** The Company will hold a register of the full name of the company/unincorporated entity constituting each Club. If the Club is an incorporated entity, it must provide the Company with its company registration number. If the Club is an unincorporated entity, it must provide the Company with the name of an individual in whose name the membership of the Company will be vested. The Company will provide a copy of its membership register to The FA annually.
- 2.11** In the event that an Insolvency Event occurs in relation to any Club, that Club must inform the Competition Secretary and The FA immediately.
- The Board shall have the power to suspend a Club on notification of it having entered an Insolvency Event. At the discretion of the Board, a suspension may take effect from the giving of the notice or it may be postponed subject to any conditions as the Board may think fit to impose.
- In the event that a Club is suspended or its suspension is postponed, the Board shall have power to make such payments as it may think fit to the Club's Football Creditors out of any monies due to that club from the Company.
- 2.12** An Officer must submit a Fit and Proper Declaration to The FA and the Competition within 14 days of becoming an Officer.
- No individual will be permitted to act as an Officer if they fail to meet any of the requirements of the Fit and Proper Declaration, as set out in the Rules of The FA. In the event that an individual/entity is found to have either: Completed false or misleading statements on their Fit and Proper Declaration; acted as an Officer when in breach of the requirements of the Fit and Proper Declaration; Acted as an Officer without having submitted a fully completed Fit and Proper Declaration; then the individual/entity or Club shall be subject to such fine or other sanction as may be determined by The FA.

- 2.13** Any Club which is incorporated must be incorporated in England and Wales.
- 2.14** If during the course of a season the Board decide that the organisation and management of a particular Club fall below the standards appropriate to membership of the Competition, the Competition Secretary shall be instructed to warn the Club at once that it may be excluded from membership of the Competition at the end of that playing season. Such a Club shall have the right to appeal to The FA within 14 days of the date of notification of the Board's decision.
- 2.15** The Competition, through the Board shall be empowered from time to time by subscription, levy or otherwise to require Clubs to contribute such sum or sums of money to the funds of the League as may be necessary for the proper conduct of the business of the League. Such contributions by Clubs may be collected by deduction from sums due to Clubs under any promotion agreement or from sponsorship money due or by whatever means the Board shall think fit. There shall be added to any sums to be contributed from Clubs, if applicable, Value Added Tax at the then prevailing rate.
- 2.16** Any Club failing to be represented at an Annual General Meeting or any other General Meeting called in accordance with the Rules without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 2.17** The Board shall establish a procedure for inspecting Clubs' grounds from time to time as well as a procedure for inspecting the grounds of clubs applying for membership of the Company.
- 3. MEMBERSHIP - ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION**
- 3.1** Any Club applying for membership of the Company shall submit to the Company a fully completed Competition application form and the application fee and non-refundable ground inspection fee set out in the Fees Tariff.
- 3.2** Clubs which have qualified for membership of the Company must confirm their acceptance of membership on the appropriate Competition form to be received by the Company at least 14 days prior to the next Annual General Meeting of the Company accompanied where appropriate by the membership fee set out in the Fees Tariff. The annual subscription set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club to the Company no later than 7 days before the Annual General Meeting of the Company in each year. Clubs failing to comply with this shall be liable to a fine as set out in the Fines Tariff and shall not participate in the Competition until the annual subscription has been paid.
- 4. POWER OF THE BOARD**
- 4.1** The Board shall have power to deal with all matters of management of the Competition covered by the Rules. The Board shall conduct the business of the Competition and shall meet as often as is necessary for this purpose. The Board may appoint such committees as it deems appropriate which shall be fully empowered to act on the Board's behalf SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION BY THE BOARD.
- 4.2** Save where specifically provided otherwise in these Rules, the Board shall have power to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules and shall have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Company or the Competition including any not provided for in these Rules.
- 4.3** All decisions of the Board shall be binding, subject to a right of appeal to The FA pursuant to Rule 17. Decisions of the Board must be notified, in writing, to all concerned within fourteen days of the making of such decision.
- The Board shall, upon becoming aware of any breaches of the Rules, advise the offending Club in writing of the breach or breaches and, where appropriate, advise them of the fine pursuant to the fines tariff and the date of the meeting at which that fine will be confirmed. Where the fines tariff does not apply the Board shall advise them of the date upon which the breach will be considered by the Board. In each case the Club shall have the right to make written representations to the Board, to be received by the Board at least 7 days prior to the Board Meeting, or shall have the right to request a personal hearing. The Board shall, in all cases, have the right to request the Club to submit a written report. If no report or request for a personal hearing is received within the time limits set out above the case will be dealt with by the Board on the due date in the absence thereof.
- 4.4** Any Club or person committing a breach of any Rule shall be liable to the penalties set out in the Fines Tariff, or if not therein set out, such as the Board may decide.
- 4.5** All fines and charges imposed by the Board shall be received by the Company within twenty-eight days of the date of notification of imposition (unless otherwise ordered). Any Club or person breaking this Rule or defaulting in paying any Football Creditor shall be liable to such penalties as the Board may impose. The Board shall have the power to place an embargo on the registrations of transfers by any Club defaulting in the payment of a transfer or compensation fee to another Club.
- 4.6** If a Club fails to comply with an order or instruction of the Board within fourteen days of notification of such order or instruction, or within fourteen days of an operative date specified in that order or instruction, it shall not be allowed to play or take part in the business of the Company until the expiry of 7 days from the day the order or instruction is complied with.