

- 13.3 Promotion, relegation and lateral movement of Clubs shall be in accordance with the principles established by the Leagues Committee of The FA.
- 13.4.1** Promotion and Relegation between Premier Division and Division One
Promotion and relegation between the Premier Division and Division One may be applied to the bottom two teams in the Premier Division and the top two teams in Division One, subject to the facility standards, in accordance with Appendix 'A', being approved by the Board by 1 April each year. Should one of the top two clubs in Division One not be eligible then the third placed club in Division One will be promoted, subject to facility standards, in accordance with Appendix 'A', being approved by the Board by 1 April each year.
- 13.4.2** Promotion and Relegation between Division One and Division Two
Promotion and relegation between Division One and Division Two may be applied to the bottom two teams in Division One and the top two teams in Division Two, subject to the facility standards, in accordance with Appendix 'A', being approved by the Board by 1 April each year. Should one of the top two clubs in Division Two not be eligible then the third placed club in Division Two will be promoted, subject to facility standards, in accordance with Appendix 'A', being approved by the Board by 1 April each year.
- 13.4.3** Promotion and Relegation between Division One and those Leagues who were previously members of the Isthmian Lower Pyramid
One club shall be eligible for promotion to Division One from those Leagues who were previously members of the Isthmian Lower Pyramid, providing the club conforms to the conditions for entry and those outlined in Appendix 'A'. Clubs must make application to be considered by 31 March in any year. Providing that the Spartan South Midlands League Division One has twenty two clubs in membership at the date of the Annual General Meeting in each year, the last placed club in Division One shall be relegated to the appropriate feeder league recommended as appropriate by the Isthmian Lower Joint Liaison Committee, subject to there being a club promoted to the League from the feeder leagues.
- 13.4.4** Re-election to Division Two
Clubs finishing in the two lowest places in Division Two shall have the right to apply to the Management Committee for re-election together with other applicants. Clubs re-elected to Division Two must pay a re-election fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff.
- 13.4.5** Promotion and Relegation between the Reserve Divisions
The constitution of the Reserve Section and any promotion and relegation shall be confirmed by the Annual General Meeting each year.
- 13.5 If no Clubs are eligible or wish promotion, the number of Clubs to be relegated will be reduced.
- 13.6 In the event of a Club, not being placed in a relegation position at the end of the season, wishing to resign from the Competition at the end of the season, or having been removed from membership under the Articles the number of Clubs to be relegated shall be reduced accordingly.
- 13.7 In the event of a Club opting to be relegated or being removed from membership under the Articles such Club or Clubs will replace the Club or Clubs otherwise due for relegation.
- 13.8 If any Club ceases to operate between the annual general meeting of the Company and the commencement of the following Playing Season, no adjustments to the number of Clubs participating in the Competition will be made. The remaining Clubs will participate in the Competition for that season.
- 13.9 A Club which for any reason ceases to operate at any time during the Playing Season may have its playing record expunged, and any monies due to them from the Company shall be forfeited. From the date of the withdrawal no further payment shall become due to them. From the date of the withdrawal, that Club shall cease to be a member of the Company.
- 14. SPORTING SANCTIONS**
- 14.1 If an Insolvency Event shall occur in relation to any Club that Club shall be deducted 10 points. The deduction shall be made forthwith on the happening of the first Insolvency Event.
- 14.2 Where the Club takes or suffers an Insolvency Event-
- 14.2.1 At any time during the Playing Season, the points deduction shall apply immediately;
- 14.2.2** Outside the Playing Season, the points deduction shall apply in respect of the following Season with the effect that such Club starts that Season on minus 10 points.
- 14.3** For the avoidance of doubt, where a Club is subject to more than one Insolvency Event (for example Administration followed by a Company Voluntary Arrangement), the Club shall only be deducted one set of 10 points, such deduction to apply with effect from the first Insolvency Event.
- 14.4 The Competition shall serve the Club with written notice of the points deduction (the 'Notice').
- 14.5 A Club may only appeal against an automatic deduction of points on the ground that the insolvency proceedings arose solely as a result of a Force Majeure event (the 'Appeal'). For the purposes of this Rule 14, a 'Force Majeure' event shall be an event that, having regard to all of the circumstances, is reasonably considered to have been unforeseeable and unavoidable.
- 14.6 Any Appeal must be in writing and be received by the Competition at its registered office no later than 7 days after the Competition serves the Notice. The Appeal must contain a statement setting out the grounds of appeal and provide copies of any documentation upon which the Club intends to rely in support of the

Appeal.

- 14.7 The Club must also lodge with the Competition, at the same time as the Appeal, a deposit fee in respect of the costs of the Appeal.
- 14.8** Upon receipt of the Appeal the Competition Secretary shall refer the matter to an SSAP by delivering to the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (or such other body as the Board may from time to time determine) five copies of the appeal documents together with a request for the appointment of Arbitrators as set out in 14.9 hereof.
- 14.9 The SSAP shall consist of three Arbitrators, one of whom must be a barrister (or solicitor) of at least 5 years call who will act as Chairman of the SSAP, each to be appointed by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (or such other body as the Board may from time to time determine) as provided above.
- 14.10 The Competition shall, immediately upon receipt of the Appeal, instruct a firm of independent accountants to carry out a review of the Club's activities for the purposes of preparing an independent report into the circumstances surrounding and leading up to the entering into insolvency proceedings. The Club shall meet the costs of preparation of that report in any event. The report shall be provided to the Club, the SSAP and the Competition. The SSAP shall take into account the contents of that report when determining whether the insolvency proceedings arose solely as a result of a Force Majeure event.
- 14.11 Both the Club and the Competition shall be entitled to make representations to the SSAP. The SSAP shall use all reasonable endeavours to hear any appeal within 21 days of the lodgement of the Appeal.
- 14.12** The SSAP shall have the power to:-
- 14.12.1** Confirm the deduction often points; or
- 14.12.2** Set aside the deduction of ten points and substitute a deduction of such lower number of points as it shall deem appropriate; or
- 14.12.3** Order that there shall be no sanction at all.
- 14.13 The decision of the SSAP shall be final and binding. Any costs incurred by any party in appeal proceedings brought before the SSAP shall be met by the Club in any event and shall be considered as a sum due to the Company.
- 14.14** Any sanctions imposed pursuant to these provisions shall not be taken into account in respect of any other sanctions, penalties or fines that may be imposed by the Competition in respect of any breaches of its Rules, Regulations or Articles of Association by the Club.
- 15. MATCH OFFICIALS**
- 15.1 Match Officials for all Competitions on matches shall be appointed by the Appointing Authority (Referees Secretary).
- 15.2 No Club shall postpone a Competition match on account of the apparent state of the ground. In the event that such circumstances prevail, Clubs should comply with procedures provided for in the document published by The FA "Recommended procedure for the guidance of Clubs and Referees in determining the suitability of grounds in adverse weather conditions" Should the ground be declared unfit it is the responsibility of the home Club to immediately advise the Competition (Fixture Secretary), the Appointing Authority (Referees Secretary), the visiting Club and the Match Officials.
- 15.3** In the event of any of the Match Officials not being in attendance at the match or being unable to complete the match the two Clubs, in conjunction with the Match Referee (or the senior Assistant Referee who is to replace the Match Referee) must agree to a substitute on the ground to prevent the match being postponed or abandoned and such substitute shall be considered a Match Official for the time being. Should the appointed Referee fail to appear, the senior Assistant Referee should take charge.
If a substitute is not available the match shall be completed under the control of the remaining Match Officials. In the event of the non-appearance or incapacity (before or during the game) of the appointed referee, where there are not officially appointed Assistant Referees, Clubs must mutually agree a substitute Referee to take charge of the game. Such substitute Referee shall for that game have the full authority and status of a registered Referee.
In the event that a Club, notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph causes a match to be abandoned by failing to agree on a substitute Match official then that Club shall be charged with failing to fulfil a fixture (Rule 8.6 refers).
The Management Committee may if they consider it desirable, or upon application by the two competing Clubs, appoint registered Referees, if available, as Assistant Referees to any match. With the above exceptions, each Club must provide an Assistant Referee or be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. A player or substitute may not be used as an Assistant Referee in games in which they are taking part. Club Assistant Referees must report to the Match Referee at least fifteen minutes before the scheduled kick off time.
- 15.4 Match Officials should be present at the appointment at least 60 minutes prior to the scheduled time of kick-off. The appointed Referee may be required to visit the ground earlier if requested to do so by the home Club.
- 15.5 In cases where it is found necessary to stop play owing to the weather or other cause, the Referee must wait a reasonable length of time before deciding on abandonment.