

- 15.6 Referees must report on the relevant form all cases where teams commence a match late or without eleven players on the field of play, markings of Assistant Referees and any irregularities likely to bring the League into disrepute. Referees must also report their own or any assistant referees' late arrival in any matches, and notify those concerned at the time of their intention. Assistant referees must also send an explanation of their late arrival to the Appointing Authority (Referees Secretary) in writing by first class post within 3 days of the match.
- 15.7 The home Club will be responsible for paying the Match Officials the fees and match expenses set by the Appointing Authority on the day of the match in their dressing room, within a reasonable time after the conclusion of the match (including matches abandoned for any reason). In the case of a postponed match, whether or not gate money is taken, any Match Official who has travelled to the match will be entitled to claim travelling expenses and half their match fee from the home Club. Where provided by the home Club, each Match Official must complete and submit a claim form for expenses.
- 15.8 The home Club shall be responsible for providing Match Officials with distinctive flags of a suitable size in an acceptable condition.
- 15.9 Three match balls proposed to be used in the match and, if applicable, supplied by the Company under a ball sponsorship agreement must be submitted to and approved by the Referee before the commencement of the match in his/her dressing room.
- 15.10 The home Club shall supply to the visiting Club a minimum of three practice balls for use prior to the start of the match. The balls provided must be in good condition and, if applicable, as supplied by the Competition under a ball sponsorship agreement.
- 15.11 Referees must report all breaches of Rule to the Competition Secretary in writing within three days of the match on the appropriate form by first class post.
- 16. WITHDRAWAL OF CLUBS**
A Club must notify the Company not later than 31st December each year of its intention to withdraw from the Competition at the end of that Playing Season. Failure to do so will make a Club liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
This Rule shall not operate so as to preclude promotion, relegation or lateral movement of any Club to another competition in accordance with Rule 13.
- 17. PROTESTS, APPEALS**
- 17.1 All protests, claims or complaints relating to these Rules and appeals arising from a player's contract shall be heard and determined by the Board, or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Board. The Clubs or players protesting, appealing, claiming or complaining must send two copies of such protest, appeal, claim or complaint and deposit a fee 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 Board.
- 17.2 All such protests claims complaints and appeals must be received in writing by the Competition Secretary within fourteen days of the event or decision causing any of these to be submitted.
- 17.3 The Board shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Board shall direct.
- 17.4 Any appeal against a decision of the Board must be lodged with The FA within fourteen days of the posting of the written notification of the decision causing the appeal, accompanied by a fee which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. A copy of the appeal must also be sent to the Competition Secretary.
All appeals to The FA must be lodged in accordance with the appeals procedure detailed in the Appendix to these Rules or that in force at any one time.
- 17.5 A Club, on giving fourteen days' notice to a player to terminate his player's contract, must state in the notice his right of appeal to the Board and also the address of the Competition Secretary to whom he must appeal. The notice must advise the player of the necessity of forwarding two copies of his appeal with the deposit fee specified in the Fees Tariff, to the Competition Secretary within seven days of the receipt of the notice from the Club. A copy of such notice must be received by the Competition Secretary within seven days of the sending of the notice in order to be valid.
- 17.6 A player on giving fourteen days' notice to his Club to terminate his player's contract must also notify the Company and The FA of the reasons for the termination of the agreement. A copy of such notice must be received by the Competition Secretary within seven days of the sending of the notice in order to be valid.
- 17.7 If the recipient of a notice referred to in Rules 17.5 and 17.6 above wishes to do so, he may appeal against the relevant notice within seven days of the date of sending of the notice in writing in duplicate to the Competition Secretary with an appeal fee.
- 17.8 The Club or the player as the case may be shall have further right of appeal as set out in Rule 17.1 above.
- 17.9 An appeal by a contract player against a fine or suspension imposed by his Club under Football Association Rule C1 must be made within seven days to the Competition Secretary. 17.10 If so requested the Board may arbitrate on any disputes, protests, appeals, claims or complaints between two

member Clubs in which event both Clubs shall send a non-returnable fee. Such arbitration shall be final and binding upon the parties to the arbitration.

18. MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS

Any person charged and found guilty of bringing the Competition into disrepute and any Club, Officer or Member charged and found guilty of misconduct as defined by the Board or of inducing or attempting to induce a player of another Club to join his own Club shall be liable to such penalty as the Board shall deem appropriate.

19. TROPHY

The Company shall present to the Winners and Runners Up of all divisions in the Competition 16 souvenirs. Additional souvenirs cannot be presented except by consent of the Board, and then at the expense of the requesting Club.

In addition, a Competition championship trophy and runners-up trophy will be presented as and when the Board determine.

The Clubs concerned will also receive a permanent souvenir.

The trophies are the property of the Company and may never be won outright.

The recipient Club shall be responsible for engraving their details on the trophy before returning same.

The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the trophies:

"We, A.B. the..... Football Club, C.D. and E.F. members of and representing the said Club, having been declared winners of the Trophy and the same having been delivered to us by the said Competition, do hereby on behalf of the said Club, jointly and severally agree to return the same to the Competition Secretary, on or before 1st March next in good order and condition, suitably inscribed, in accordance with the Rules of the Competition and if the said Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care, we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair."

Any Club not returning the Competition trophy by the due date, returning them in poor condition or without being engraved will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

20. ALTERATIONS TO RULES

No alteration to the Rules shall be made until they have been approved by The FA. Alterations to Rules shall only be made by special resolution passed at a general meeting of the Company.

Proposals for alterations to Rules, together with the name of their proposers and seconders, shall be received by the Competition Secretary not later than 31st March prior to the date fixed for the annual general meeting of the Company in each year or not later than eight weeks before the holding of an extraordinary general meeting called for the purpose of amending the Rules.

21. ADMISSION CHARGES

The minimum charge for admission to all matches in each division shall be determined by the home club. Clubs may, at their discretion, vary the operation of this rule in respect of the admission of juveniles and senior citizens or other concessions they deem appropriate.

Admission charges, excluding home Club concessions as appropriate, must be the same for home and visiting supporters at Competition matches.

22. LONG SERVICE

22.1 The Board shall be empowered to grant a long service award for 15 years' service with a member Club, providing such an award has not already been made by any other competition.

22.2 Clubs may enter into agreement with players after five years continuous service providing for a testimonial. Players shall be qualified for a second testimonial after a further five years continuous service. If a player is eligible for and entitled to a testimonial, his Club may grant him a monetary consideration, sanctioned by the Board, in lieu of such testimonial.

23. CENTENARY AWARDS

A Club celebrating its centenary whilst in membership of the Competition shall be presented with a commemorative award by the Board

24. PLAYING SURFACES

Competition matches shall NOT be played on any synthetic or artificial grass surfaces without the prior written approval of the Board.

Clubs must register their pitch dimensions with the Competition prior to the start of each season. It will be misconduct on the part of a Club to alter its pitch dimensions during a season unless with prior written consent of the Board. The Board may at any time require a Club, at its own cost, to submit a report from a