



# BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY FOOTBALL LEAGUE FOUNDED 1904



# LEAGUE HANDBOOK SEASON 2015-2016

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# **BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**FOUNDED 1904 – RENAMED 2009**

# **SEASON 2015-2016**

**FIXTURES, RESULTS, TABLES  
and NEWS**

**[www.bedfordshirefootballleague.co.uk](http://www.bedfordshirefootballleague.co.uk)  
<http://full-time.thefa.com/Index.do?league=7195521>**

**FRONT COVER PICTURE: Caldecote v Renhold United  
Bedfordshire County Football League Premier Division  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2014**

**REVISION 1** dated 11<sup>th</sup> September 2015. Initial release. Major changes for this season highlighted in red in margin.

**REVISION 2** dated 9<sup>th</sup> October 2015. Alterations are shown highlighted in purple in margin.

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# FORMATION OF DIVISIONS SEASON 2015-2016

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## PREMIER DIVISION [16]

### Supported by SPORTSFORM BEDFORD

AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College  
Amptill Town Reserves  
Cranfield United  
Elstow Abbey  
Ickwell & Old Warden  
Pavenham  
Sandy  
Shefford Town & Campton

AFC Oakley M&DH  
Caldecote  
Eastcotts AFC  
Flitwick Town  
Marston Shelton Rovers  
Renhold United  
Sharnbrook  
Wilstead

**[SEE SPORTSFORM BEDFORD ADVERT ON PAGE 2 and also on website]**

## DIVISION ONE [13]

### Supported by WESTS CITROËN BEDFORD

AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College Reserves  
FC Houghton Athletic  
Henlow  
Meltis Albion  
Queens Park Crescents  
Shefford Town & Campton Reserves  
Sundon Park Rangers

AFC Oakley M&DH Reserves  
*Great Barford [withdrawn]*  
Ickleford *[formerly Marabese Ceramics]*  
Potton Town  
Riseley Sports  
Stevington  
Westoning

**[SEE WESTS CITROËN BEDFORD ADVERT ON PAGE 3 and also on website]**

## DIVISION TWO [12]

Atletico Europa  
Clapham Sports  
Cranfield United Reserves  
Flitwick Town Reserves  
Kempston Hammers Sports  
Marston Shelton Rovers Reserves

Bedford United  
Cople & Bedford S.A.  
Elstow Abbey Reserves  
Kempston Athletic  
Lea Sports PSG  
Wootton Village

## DIVISION THREE [12]

AFC Dunton  
Clifton  
Meltis Albion Reserves  
Sandy Reserves  
Sundon Park Rovers  
Wilstead Reserves

Caldecote Reserves  
Dinamo Flitwick  
Renhold United Reserves  
Shefford Town & Campton 'A'  
White Eagles  
Wixams

## DIVISION FOUR [11]

AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College 'A'  
Caldecote 'A'  
Henlow Reserves  
Mid-Beds Tigers  
Staughton  
Westoning Reserves

Bedford Albion  
Flitwick Town 'A'  
Lidlington United Sports  
Polonia Bedford  
Stevington Reserves

# LEAGUE OFFICERS & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

## President:

65a Silver Street, Great Barford, Bedfordshire MK44 3JA  
*tm.sadler@btopenworld.com*

**Mr T.M. SADLER**

☎01234-870920

Elected Vice-Chairman 1973 – Chairman 1981 – President 1998

## Chairman of Committee & Hon. Treasurer:

17 Buttercup Close, Bedford MK42 0RE  
*btwatson@hotmail.co.uk*

**Mr B.T. WATSON**

☎01234-351890

☎07831413839

Elected 1983 – General Secretary & Treasurer 1984 – Treasurer 1993  
Vice-Chairman & Treasurer 2005 – Chairman & Treasurer 2014

## Vice-Chairman & Hon. Registration Secretary [including Press & Media]:

**Mr P FRANCIS**

6 Willow Rise, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1AY  
*peter.francis30@ntlworld.com*

☎01767-221022

☎07779680269

## USE THE FOLLOWING NUMBER TO REPORT RESULTS:

Elected 2004 – Press & Media Secretary 2005 - Registration Secretary 2013  
Vice-Chairman & Hon. Registration Secretary [including Press & Media] 2014

## Hon. Referee Secretary:

1 Stanton Road, Kempston, Bedfordshire MK42 8QY  
*footyref@hotmail.com*

**Mr B. HUMPHRIES**

☎07521790300

☎01234 840561

**Note: Referee Appointments are made centrally at Bedfordshire FA** Elected Referee Secretary 2010

## Hon. General Secretary & Hon. Fixture Secretary:

3 The Furlong, Bedford MK41 8EE  
*barry.snelson@gmail.com*

**Mr G.B. SNELSON**

☎01234-317597

☎07732650451

Elected Fixture Secretary 1977 – Fixture & Registration Secretary 1988  
General Secretary 1993 – General Secretary & Fixtures 2002

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### Mr B. HALLYBONE

*bradhallybone@hotmail.co.uk* ☎07521360055

Elected 2015

**Mr R. LEONARD** 11 Tithe Farm Close, Langford, Beds SG18 9NE

*leonard407@btinternet.com* ☎01462-700119

☎07432079405

Elected 2005

**Mr K. REDMAN** 30 Glebe Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1LS

*k.redman3@ntlworld.com* ☎01767-224369

☎07799800950

Elected 1998

**Mr P.J. ONION** 10 Sand Lane, Northill, Bedfordshire SG18 9AD

*peter.onion@virgin.net* ☎01767-627396

Elected 1984 – Vice-Chairman 1986 – Chairman  
1998 - Retired as Chairman 2014

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS [CLUB REPRESENTATIVES]

### Mrs D. AMES [Great Barford FC]

*dinahames@aol.com* ☎01234 870251

☎07904420735

Elected 2012

### Mr R. SIMMONDS [Elstow Abbey FC] LEAGUE CHARTER STANDARD COORDINATOR

*rsimmonds68@btinternet.com* ☎01234 217688

☎07501059080

Elected 2012

## REPRESENTATIVE ON BEDFORDSHIRE F.A. COUNCIL

FOR CLUBS IN BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY FL

**Mr A. SCOTT** [Kempston] *alan.scott@hotmail.co.uk*

☎07738126343

Elected 2012

## LIFE VICE-PRESIDENTS

G Armstrong 1985, RW Curtis 1986, D Cousens 1997,  
DG Martin 2004, C Woods 2005, J Warner 2013

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER [FINANCE]

**MR R. FAULKNER**



# RULES OF THE LEAGUE

## A SUMMARY OF THE LEAGUE RULES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF CLUB SECRETARIES

Club Secretaries should make themselves familiar with, and use, these guidance notes. Make sure your managers, and anyone involved with the Club on match days, is also familiar with these notes as **it could help your Club stay within the rules, ease the work of the League officers, and save your Club money by not being fined.**

However, Club Secretaries must also make sure they are familiar with the full Rules of the League found in this Handbook.

### **Nomenclature and Constitution [rule 1]**

Ensure your Club is affiliated to your County Football Association. **Your Club will not be allowed to play any fixtures until your Club has affiliated.**

Bedfordshire Clubs are reminded they MUST enter for a County Cup Competition; insure their players under the COUNTY INSURANCE SCHEME; have PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE [also available through the County F.A.], and send a copy of their Club's audited accounts to the Beds FA by 31<sup>st</sup> July each year. For these items communications should be addressed to

*The Chief Executive, Bedfordshire Football Association Limited  
Century House, Skimpot Road, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU5 4JU  
Telephone 01582-565111*

**Premier Division Clubs MUST have grounds and facilities as required by the National League System,** published from time to time by the Football Association and the Management Committee.

### **Cautions and sendings-off**

If a person connected with your Club receives a caution or is sent-off, before, during, or after the game, and you have not received correspondence on the matter from the County Football Association, check with your County F.A. Chief Executive. However, players sent off in any League, Cup, or County Cup matches will be **automatically** suspended for a number of matches, starting **14 days** after the offence **EVEN IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY PAPERWORK. DIRECTLY AFTER A MATCH, make sure the Match Referee gives you a note of the offences he or she will be reporting.** Players sent off DURING THE MATCH on a SATURDAY [or midweek if playing for the SATURDAY team] will receive a STANDARD CHARGE from the County FA. **There is effectively no appeal against this charge** [see County Handbook for details of the small number of exceptions]. The suspension imposed as a result of this charge will ONLY APPLY TO SATURDAY FOOTBALL, the player can still play for his Sunday team. He will remain under suspension from Saturday football until his Saturday team [whichever TEAM he was playing for when committing the offence] has completed the required number of matches, starting with their first match 14 days after the player committed the offence. However, if a player having been sent off commits a further offence, such as offensive language to the referee, or is 'sent off' before or after the match, including half time, then this will result in a MISCONDUCT CHARGE, IN ADDITION TO THE POSSIBLE STANDARD CHARGE. **Suspensions imposed as a result of a Misconduct Charge will APPLY TO ALL FOOTBALL [not just Saturday matches], and will significantly increase the number of matches a player will miss.** Appeals are allowed for Misconduct Charges. Players will remain under suspension [in this example] from ALL FOOTBALL until his SATURDAY team has completed the required number of matches

Make sure you understand the discipline procedures. The FA 2015-16 Season Sanction Guidelines booklet will be sent to each Club. **Please be aware that Respect Sanctions [C2 Cautions for showing dissent by word or action and S6 Sending off for using offensive, insulting or abusive language] carry very heavy automatic penalties, for example £150 fine for a PREMIER DIVISION [STEP 7] TEAM accumulating 15 of the above qualifying sanctions. Get your players to understand the seriousness of being cautioned or sent off for dissent.** If you have any questions, please initially contact the League general Secretary or Chairman.

### **Powers of Management [rule 5]**

**Pay any fines on time.** All fines and charges levied at a Management Committee meeting shall be paid by the date specified in the minutes of the meeting. Clubs failing to comply will normally receive an additional fine. Continual failure to pay will lead to fixtures being suspended, which will not be reinstated until all money owed has been paid.

### **Annual General Meeting [rule 6]**

**It is mandatory for each Club to be represented at The Annual General Meeting,** which shall be held not later than the third week in June in each year. Failure to attend will result in a fine.



# RULES OF THE LEAGUE

## **Qualification of Players [rule 8]**

**Ensure all your players are eligible to play in League and Cup matches.** Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules, are not permitted in this Competition unless registered for the same Club playing at Step 1 to 6 of the National league System. A registered playing member of a Club is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has signed a fully and correctly completed Competition Registration Form in ink, countersigned by an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the Hon Registration Secretary by 12 noon on the day of the match prior to playing.

**A team shall not include more than 3 players who have taken part in more senior competition matches during the current season** unless a period of 21 days has elapsed since they played. For the purpose of this Competition, a senior competition is one at a higher level than this Competition in the National League System. Also for the purpose of this rule, this includes players from a higher division team who will not be allowed to play in a lower division match. For the purpose of this rule, only **THREE** players from a higher division team will be allowed to play in a lower division match. A player who has played 50% of **HIS** games - **NOT THE TEAM'S GAMES** - for the higher division team shall be deemed to be a higher division player. Any additional higher division players shall be deemed ineligible and dealt with under rule 8[O]. No such restrictions shall apply to matches played before 1st November.

## **Transfers [rule 8]**

Transfer Forms MUST be received by the league in accordance with rule 8K. Before a player is eligible to play for his new Club **the transfer process must be completed by 12 NOON ON THE DAY OF THE MATCH**. A fee of £10 shall be payable for each transfer, invoiced at the end of the season.

## **Registrations [rule 8]**

**To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16. It is the Club's responsibility when signing players to ensure the player has reached his 16th birthday.**

It is also the Club's responsibility to ensure, where necessary, that they have the International Transfer Certificate. Contact the Beds FA for further advice.

A Club shall keep a list of the players it registers and a record of the games in which they have played. If a Club has not received confirmation of a player's registration, **it is the responsibility of the Club Secretary to check with the league that the player is properly registered before playing**. A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 15<sup>th</sup> March in each year.

A team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players shall have the points gained in the match deducted from its total and may also be fined. In addition the team may have points deducted from its total, and/or the points available in the match in question be awarded to the opponents.

**If you have any doubts about the eligibility of a player, please contact the league well before match day.**

## **Club Colours. Club Name [rule 9]**

Any team not being able to play in its normal colours shall notify the colours in which they will play to its opponents at least 3 days before the match. If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the **home team** shall make the change.

## **Duration and Times of Kick-Off [rule 10]**

**Make sure your team is not responsible for a late kick off. The standard times, as agreed at the Annual General Meeting, are:**

Start of the season to the end of October:	LEAGUE and CUP 2.30 p.m.
November, December, and January:	LEAGUE 2.00 p.m. CUP 1.30 p.m.
1st February to end of season:	LEAGUE and CUP 2.30 p.m.

**Teams responsible for a late kick-off shall be fined.**

The **home team must provide at least two footballs fit for play** and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. Premier Division matches **MUST** use the standard match ball designated by the League.

Home Clubs must confirm arrangements for the match with their opponents and the referee at least **THREE** days before the match takes place. The Home Club shall also inform their opponents of any change to the appointed Referee, kick-off time, or any other arrangements connected with the match, giving as much notice as possible. Clubs failing to comply shall be fined.

## **Number of Players [rule 10]**

In the event of a Club playing in any match with less than nine players they may be fined. A minimum of seven players will constitute a team for a Competition match.

# RULES OF THE LEAGUE

**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 Team, A Team.** Clubs in breach of this requirement shall be fined.

## **Postponements [rule 10]**

In the event of a postponement or cancellation of a game **FOR ANY REASON WHATEVER**, it is the duty of the **HOME CLUB** Secretary to notify THE OPPONENTS, REFEREE, REFEREE SECRETARY and PRESS & MEDIA SECRETARY at the EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT. This will facilitate any rearrangement of fixtures and the re-appointment of officials.

Up to two **requests for postponements** of fixtures are allowed per team but requests MUST be received by the General Secretary in writing giving at least one calendar month's notice. Requests giving short notice are unlikely to be successful.

## **Substitutes [rule 10]**

A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use **THREE** substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from **FIVE** players. The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than fifteen minutes before the start of the match.

## **Reporting Results [rule 11]**

Before the start of all matches, each team shall exchange a Team Sheet with their opponents, duly completed with the names of their team and the name of the Referee. **Instructions for completing the Team Sheet are printed on the sheet itself.** Failure to exchange will incur a fine.

The Home Club shall report the result of each match to the Press & Media Secretary **within one hour** of the end of the match. **In the event of a County Cup tie where the home Club is not a member of the Bedfordshire County Football League, then the AWAY BCFL Club shall report the result.** Failure to do so will incur a fine.

Clubs should complete the Match Result Sheet electronically through the Full Time website within 3 days of the date played. If completing the form by hand and posting to the league, a completed Match Result Sheet must be **received by the Registration Secretary within 3 days of the date played.** This **must** include the forename[s] and surname of the team players [in block letters] and also a mark for the Referee. For Premier Division Clubs it must also show the name of the Club Assistant Referee.

A Club which submits an incomplete sheet, or incorrect information not related to the names of the players, shall be fined. **A Club which deliberately submits a form containing false information** with regard to the names of the players of their team shall be fined much more heavily.

## **No Appointed Referee [rule 13]**

In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed Referee, or where there is no officially appointed Referee, the Clubs **SHALL** attend the ground and **SHALL** agree upon a Referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee. Clubs failing to comply shall be fined.

## **Fitness of a Ground [rule 13]**

The appointed Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and the decision shall be final. In the case of a ground of a Local Authority or the owners of a ground, the Representative of that body is the sole arbiter and whose decision must be accepted unless the ground is declared fit for play.

## **Referee Fees [rule 13]**

Match Officials shall be entitled to a fee, which includes all expenses, of £35 Premier Division and £30 all other Divisions. **The Home Club shall pay the Officials their fees at the conclusion of the match.** Clubs failing to comply shall be fined.

## **Withdrawal of a Club [rule 14]**

After **31<sup>st</sup> December** in the current Season a 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 Secretary in writing by **31<sup>st</sup> March** each Season. Provisional notice must be confirmed by **1<sup>st</sup> May**. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be fined.

## **First Aid Kit**

All teams are advised to have a first aid kit available at the ground for each match. **First Aid Kits are purchased by the League for all teams.** For replenishing the kit, the contents should be in accordance with that printed in the Bedfordshire F.A. Handbook. Clubs should make every effort to ensure a person trained in first aid is in attendance at all matches.

# RULES OF THE LEAGUE

## CHECK LIST FOR CLUBS

If Clubs follow the above rules, advice and the following weekly check list, there is every chance that the Club will

- ease the work of the League Officers
- reduce the work of the Club Secretary, and certainly reduce the amount of 'grief' which would otherwise come his or her way from either the League or the County FA
- **SAVE THE CLUB MONEY**

### • GENERAL

Make sure the Club Secretary and Manager are aware of how to find the Club's league fixtures. This season the fixtures will be found on the Football Association FULL-TIME web site:

<http://full-time.thefa.com/Index.do?league=7195521> will take you directly to the league site, then follow the links, or simply login to [www.thefa.com](http://www.thefa.com) and find FULL-TIME.

**THERE WILL BE NO WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF FIXTURES OR FIXTURE CHANGES.**

If the Club Secretary or Manager does not have access to the internet, then please nominate a responsible person from within the Club to check fixtures on a regular basis.

### • THREE DAYS BEFORE THE MATCH

For a Saturday match, by Wednesday **AT THE LATEST** the **HOME CLUB** must make sure you know who your opponents are for the forthcoming fixture, and who is the appointed referee. Then contact your opponents and the referee. If you have to leave a telephone message, ask the person to return your call to verify that the call has been received and understood. If you use text, ask for a reply. If playing on a council pitch, make sure you have a pitch booked and paid for where necessary.

### • THE DAYS BEFORE THE MATCH

Keep checking the website in case there has been a change of referee, or the fixture has been called off for some reason. Normally there will be no changes of fixtures from 6pm on the Friday, a full week and a day beforehand. If changes have to be made, for example a cup match postponed on the Saturday which needs to be re-arranged for the following week, then the League will notify you by 'phone and e-mail.

### • MATCH DAY - BEFORE KICK OFF

Complete the LEFT HAND side of the Match Result [Team] Sheet, as per the instruction printed on the sheet. Exchange one copy with your opponents and give one copy to the Match Referee. Do this 30 minutes before kick off time.

At the same time, the HOME CLUB shall give the referee a Discipline Report Form, which will detail any cautions or sendings-off recorded for EITHER TEAM, and will be very useful to ensure the Clubs do not fall foul of County FA Discipline Procedures. There is a slightly different form for Premier Division Clubs.

### • MATCH DAY - AFTER FINAL WHISTLE

1. Report the match result ['phone or text] as soon as you can [HOME CLUB ONLY] to Hon. Press & Media Secretary [number on page 5 of this handbook]. If you have played a County Cup tie, then the HOME CLUB must also report the result to the County FA, and the AWAY CLUB will need to report the result if their opponents are from another league.
2. Pay the referee his fee
3. Collect from the referee the completed Discipline Report Form
4. Offer the referee some refreshments [mandatory in Premier Division]
5. Ensure your opponents and the referee are aware of any after match arrangements for food and drinks.

### • THE DAY AFTER MATCH DAY

6. COMPLETE the Match Result Form on line [ask the league for details of how to do this if you are not sure]. This must be done within three days of the match. Then KEEP and file the hand-written form for the remainder of the season in case there are any subsequent queries. DO NOT SEND TO THE LEAGUE.
7. ALTERNATIVELY, complete the Match Result Sheet, passed to you by your opponents at the game, by completing the RIGHT HAND side of the form. Make sure you only enter the names of the

# RULES OF THE LEAGUE

starting eleven. Add the names of the substitutes [maximum of three] ONLY IF THEY ACTUALLY PLAYED IN THE MATCH.

8. Post it by FIRST CLASS MAIL, or deliver by hand, in accordance with league instructions. It MUST be received by the league within THREE days of the match.

- **AT THE END OF THE WEEK FOLLOWING THE MATCH**

9. If you had a player cautioned or sent off in the match and you do not receive any paperwork from the County FA during the following week, then contact the County FA office to check on progress. IT IS NOT AN EXCUSE TO PLAY A SUSPENDED PLAYER just because the paperwork has not been received. SUSPENSIONS ARE AUTOMATIC and will come into force 14 days after the offence has been committed.

## Telephone Calls

Please keep them within reasonable hours.

## Finally

Make yourself familiar with all the rules of the League and the County Football Association. Follow this checklist which covers many of the important routine activities. If you do receive a fine from the League or the County F.A., please pay promptly - late payments will cost you more money or even a Club suspension. If you wish to question the fine, the advice is **PAY THE FINE AND ASK QUESTIONS LATER**. You can be assured the matter will be properly dealt with. Don't guess if you have any doubts on any matter. Check with one of the League Officers on League matters, or with the County F.A. Secretary on county matters, including discipline. Enjoy the season.

## HOW TO DECIDE ON THE MARK FOR THE REFEREE

The following questions focus on the key areas of a Referee's performance. They are intended as an "aide memoire", are not necessarily comprehensive and need not be answered individually. It is, however, worth considering them before committing yourself to a mark for the Referee.

### CONTROL AND DECISION MAKING

- How well did the Referee control the game?
- Were the players' actions recognized correctly?
- Were the Laws applied correctly?
- Were all incidents dealt with efficiently/effectively?
- Were all the appropriate sanctions applied correctly?
- Was the Referee always within reasonable distance of incidents?
- Was the Referee well positioned to make critical decisions, especially in and around the penalty area?
- Did the Referee understand the players' positional intentions and keep out of the way accordingly?
- Did the Referee demonstrate alertness and concentration throughout the game?
- Did the Referee apply the use of the advantage to suit the mood and temperature of the game?
- Was the Referee aware of the players' attitude to advantage?
- Did the Referee use the assistants effectively?
- Did the officials work as a team, and did the Referee lead and manage them to the benefit of the game?

### COMMUNICATION AND PLAYER MANAGEMENT

- How well did the Referee communicate with the players during the game?
- Did the Referee's level of involvement/profile suit this particular game?
- Did the Referee understand the players' problems on the day - e.g. difficult ground/weather conditions?
- Did the Referee respond to the changing pattern of play/mood of players?
- Did the Referee demonstrate empathy for the game, allowing it to develop in accordance with the tempo of the game?
- Was the Referee pro-active in controlling of the game?



# RULES OF THE LEAGUE

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- Was the Referee's authority asserted firmly without being officious?
- Was the Referee confident and quick thinking?
- Did the Referee appear unflustered and unhurried when making critical decisions?
- Did the Referee permit undue questioning of decisions?
- Did the Referee deal effectively with players crowding around after decisions/incidents?
- Was effective player management in evidence?
- Was the Referee's body language confident and open at all times?
- Did the pace of the game, the crowd or player pressure affect the Referee negatively?

## FINAL THOUGHTS

- Always try to be objective when marking. You may not obtain the most objective view by marking immediately after the game.
- Judge the performance over the whole game. Don't be too influenced by one particular incident.
- Don't mark the Referee down unfairly because your team was unlucky and lost the game or some disciplinary action was taken against your players.
- **AWARD AN OVERALL MARK OUT OF ONE HUNDRED**. Any mark of forty or less must be accompanied with a letter of explanation to the LEAGUE REFEREE SECRETARY [see Rule 13H].

# RULES OF THE LEAGUE

*The Rules have been re-written in accordance with The FA Standard Code of Rules. Main changes for season 2015-2016 are shown in bold italics.*

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## DEFINITIONS

1. [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.

**"Deposit"** means a sum of money deposited with the Competition as part of the requirements of membership of the Competition.

**"Club"** means a Club for the time being in membership of the Competition and **"Team"** means a side from a Club especially where a Club provides more than one Team in a division in accordance with the Rules.

**"Competition"** means the **Bedfordshire County Football League**.

**"Competition Match"** means any match played or to be played under the jurisdiction of the Competition.

**"General Secretary"** means such person or persons appointed or elected to carry out the administration 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.

**"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.

**"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.

**"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.

**"Player"** means any Contract Player, Non Contract Player or other Player who plays or who is

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eligible to play for a Club.

**“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 Competition][the.....County Football Association Limited].

**“Scholarship”** means a Scholarship as set out in Rule C 3 [a] [i] of the Rules of The FA.

**“Team Sheet”** means a form provided by the Competition on which the names of the Players taking part in a Competition match are listed.

**“The FA”** means The Football Association Limited.

**“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.

**[B]** 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 thereto, subject to the provisions of Rule 16.

**[C]** The Competition will be known as the Bedfordshire County Football League. 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.

**[D]** The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Competition acting [save where otherwise specifically mentioned herein] through the Management Committee in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of The FA.

## NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

**2. [A]** This Competition shall consist of not more than 80 Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

**[B]** All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on the Form “D” to the Bedfordshire County Football Association and must have a constitution approved by the Sanctioning Authority. The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be the County of Bedfordshire, together with Clubs playing on grounds outside, but close to, the County border.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Bedfordshire County Football Association and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions, namely a Premier Division and others as may be decided, each not exceeding 16 in number.

**[C]** Only one team shall be permitted from any Club to participate in the same division as another team from the same Club unless there is no viable alternative because of logistical issues and/or reasons linked to participation and geographical boundaries. The Competition will obtain the prior approval of the Sanctioning Authority in the event of a division comprising of more than one team from the same Club. 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 via transfers of registration in accordance with these Rules.

All Premier Division teams shall have approved grounds and accommodation. Reserve teams of Clubs playing in other competitions at Step 6, or higher, of the National League System will be eligible to play in the Premier Division, up to a maximum of 25% of the number of teams in the division.

**[D]** Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

[i] The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination

[ii] Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.

**[E]** Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including but not limited to, Charter Standard and RESPECT programmes.

**[F]** 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.

**[G]** At the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, a

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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 12.

## ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

**3. [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 General Secretary and must be accompanied by the Entry Fee set out in the Fees Tariff per team which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

At the discretion of a majority of the accredited voting members present applications, of which due notice has been given, may be received at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting. When Rule 12[B] is applied or a team seeks a transfer or, is compulsorily transferred to another division, no Entry Fee shall be payable.

**[B]** The Annual Subscription shall be as set out in the Fees Tariff irrespective of the number of teams, payable on or before the Annual General Meeting of the Competition, in each year. The subscription shall include:

- Entry to League Cup competitions
- Registration fees for thirty players
- Access to a virtual copy of the League Handbook plus one printed League Handbook per team
- Match Result Sheets for the season, as appropriate to the number of teams entered.

**[C]** Each Club shall pay a Deposit of £75, which shall be returnable to teams on leaving the Competition provided they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all orders of the Management Committee.

**[D]** A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the Entry Fee, Annual Subscription and Deposit [if required] have been paid.

**[E]** Each Club must be able to provide its Sanctioning Authority affiliation number for the forthcoming Season if requested. Clubs must advise the General Secretary on the prescribed form, of details of its Headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition **by the date of the Annual General Meeting**.

## MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

**4. [A]** The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition, ordinary members and Club Representatives. The Management Committee shall not exceed fifteen members, who shall all be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

**[B]** Retiring Members shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination. All other candidates for election as Officers or Members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the General Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two Member Clubs, not later than 1st May in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting.

**[C]** The Management Committee shall meet as and when required with no more than three calendar months between each meeting.

On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the members of the Management Committee the General Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Committee.

**[D]** Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the General 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 nominated Officers.

## POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

**5. [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 Football Association or Affiliated Association.

**[B]** Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained the Management

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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 upon each Club [including any Club which may have withdrawn during the season] to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the season.

**[C]** Each Member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee Meetings and have one vote thereat, but no Member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such Member or to the Club so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest. [This shall apply to the procedure of any sub-committee].

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

**[D]** 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 5[I], 6[H], 10[A], 11 and 19, for all breaches of Rule a formal written charge must be issued to the Club concerned. The Club charged shall be given seven days from the date of notification of the charge to reply to the charge and given the opportunity to:-

- [i] Accept or deny the charge
- [ii] Submit in writing a case of mitigation, or
- [iii] Put their case before the Management Committee at a personal hearing

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 Association.

Any fines levied shall be in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

The maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Competition must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

**[E]** All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16. Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned **within ten days.**

**[F]** **More than fifty percent [50%]** of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any sub-committee thereof.

**[G]** The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill in an acting capacity, any vacancies that may occur amongst their number.

**[H]** 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.

**[I]** All fines and charges are payable forthwith **and must be paid within 21 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 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.

**[J]** A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.

**[K]** The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the Annual General or Special General Meeting called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Competition season.

**[L]** The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**6. [A]** The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than the third week in June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted **provided that at least 25 Members are present and entitled to vote:-**

- [i] To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting and to consider any business arising therefrom.
- [ii] To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
- [iii] Election of Clubs to fill vacancies [as recommended by the Management Committee]
- [iv] Constitution of the Competition for ensuing season.
- [v] Election of Officers and Management Committee.
- [vi] Appointment of Auditors.



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[vii] Alteration of Rules, if any [of which notice has been given].

[viii] Fix the date for the commencement of the season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.

[ix] Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.

**[B]** A copy of the duly audited/verified Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least fourteen days prior to the meeting, **together with any proposed change of Rules.**

**[C]** A signed copy of the duly audited/verified Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to Sanctioning Authority within fourteen days of its adoption by the Annual General Meeting.

**[D]** Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Fourteen days' notice shall be given of any Meeting.

**[E]** Clubs who have withdrawn their Membership of the Competition during the season being concluded or who are not continuing Membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the season being concluded. This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 17.

**[F]** All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by **at least 50%** of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.

**[G]** No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Member Club.

**[H]** Any continuing Club must be represented at the Annual General Meeting.

**[I]** Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an Annual General Meeting.

## AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

**7.** The Chairman and the Secretary of each Club **which is an unincorporated Association and two directors of each Club which is an incorporated entity** shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the Competition together with the Application for Membership for the coming season, or upon indicating that the Club intends to compete.

"We, [A] [name] [ ] of [address] [ ] [Chairman]/[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 to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16."

Any alteration of the Chairman and /or Secretary on the above Agreement must be notified to the County Football Association[s] to which the Club is affiliated and to the General Secretary of the Competition.

## QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

**8. [A] [i]** 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.

It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any Player signing a registration form for that Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any Player **aged 10 and over** crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

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

**[iii] Each Club must have at least 11 Players per team registered 14 days before the start of each Playing Season. The actual date and time to be specified and agreed at the Annual General Meeting.**

**[B]** A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by an Officer of the Club and either

[a] submitted to the Competition Registration Secretary by 12 noon on the day of the match prior to playing and whose registration has been confirmed by the Competition prior to that Player playing in a Competition Match, or

[b] submitted to the Competition Registration Secretary by 12 noon on the day of the match prior to playing the full name[s] and date[s] of birth of any additional player by electronic mail prior to the player playing. The original document must be received, by electronic mail, post or hand delivered,

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by the Registration Secretary, signed and fully and correctly completed within three days of the match. The Player shall not again play until the Club is in possession of the **approval of the Competition**, otherwise the registration[s] will be immediately cancelled and the Club fined under rule 8[O].

**[C]** A team shall not include more than 3 players who have taken part in more senior competition matches during the current season unless a period of 21 days has elapsed since they played.

For the purpose of this Competition a senior competition is one at a higher level than this Competition in the National League System. Also for the purpose of this rule this includes players from a higher division team who will not be allowed to play in a lower division match. A player who has played 50% of HIS games for the higher division team shall be deemed to be a higher division player. Any additional higher division/senior competition players shall be deemed ineligible and dealt with under rule 8[O]. No such restrictions to HIGHER DIVISION players shall apply to matches played before 1st November **or to any player that has played six games or less by 1st January and nine games or less by 15th March.**

**[D]** A player having taken part in matches for any Club affiliated to any County Football Association shall not be allowed to join, be transferred to, or sign for a Club in the Competition without first proving to the officials of the intended Club that the player has discharged all reasonable financial liabilities to the previous Club or Clubs, and a Club official may not accept such player's signature without first ascertaining whether such claims have been discharged to the satisfaction of the Club, or Clubs, for which the player last played. **In the event that a Player could be required to pay a proportion of a debt due under The FA Football Debt Recovery System then, whether or not the debt has been referred to the relevant County FA, the Competition must not affect the player's registration in any way or refuse to register a transfer due to that debt being outstanding. The Competition cannot refuse to register a Player for an unpaid non-footballing debt.**

**[E]** A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/team for each player registered. Clubs shall not pay for individual registrations but shall be invoiced for registrations at the end of the season.

**[F]** 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, priority of registration shall decide for which Club the player shall be registered. The Registrations Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

**[G]** It shall be a breach of Rule for a player to:-

- [i] Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same season without first being transferred.
- [ii] Having signed for one Club in the Competition, sign for another Club in the Competition in that season except for the purpose of a transfer.
- [iii] Submit a signed registration form for registration that the player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

**[H]** [i] The Management Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any player subject to the provisions of clauses [ii] and [iii] below.

[ii] The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player or may fine any player, at their discretion who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities [subject to Rule 16].

[iii] The Management Committee shall have power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct [subject to Rule 16] subject to the right of appeal to the FA or the relevant County Football Association. Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a participant from being involved in this Competition. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the player is registered or intending to be registered with.

[iv] For a player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with clause [iii] but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, [excluding standard dismissals], the Competition would be empowered to consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

[Note: Action under Clause [iii] shall not be taken against a player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any case be subject to an Appeal to the Football Association. All decisions must include the period of restriction. For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the competition

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into disrepute can only be considered where the player has received in excess of 112 days' suspension, or 10 matches in match based discipline, in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence for any team playing in this Competition.]

**[I]** Subject to compliance with FA Rule C2[a] when a Club wishes to register a Player who is already registered with another Club it shall submit a transfer form to the Competition accompanied by a fee as set out in the Fees Tariff. 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 three days** of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within three days, the Competition Registrations 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. In the event of an objection to a transfer the matter shall be referred to the Management Committee for a decision.

**[J]** A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 15th March in each year, except by special permission of the Management Committee.

**[K]** A Club shall keep a list of the players it registers and a record of the games in which they have played, and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee. If a Club has not received confirmation of a player's registration, it is the responsibility of the Club Secretary to check with the Registration Secretary that the player is properly registered before playing.

**[L]** A register containing the names of all players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Registrations Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of any duly appointed Member Club representative at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one Season only. In the event of a player without a written contract changing his status to that of a contract player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition or with a Club in another Competition his registration as a player without a written contract will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 8[A][i].

**[M]** A player shall not be eligible to play for a team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding match [as specified in Rule 12[A]] unless the player has played FOUR games for that TEAM in this Competition in the current season.

**[O] Any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a match or matches shall have any points gained from that match or matches deducted from its record, up to a maximum of 12 points, and have levied upon it a fine. The Management Committee may also order that such match or matches be replayed on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee which may also levy penalty points against the Club in default.**

**The Management Committee may vary this decision in respect of the points gained 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.**

**In exceptional circumstances the Management Committee may, at its discretion, award the points available in the match in question to the opponents, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.**

**[P]** The following Clause applies to Competitions involving players in full-time secondary education):-

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

## CLUB COLOURS. CLUB NAME

**9. [A]** Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the General Secretary by 31st May, who shall decide as to their suitability. Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all other players and the match officials.

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

Any team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents the colours in which they will play **including the colour of the goalkeepers jersey** at least 3 days before the match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the HOME team shall make the change. A club must not delay the scheduled time of kick off for a match by not having a change of colours. Shirts must be numbered.

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[B] Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority and from the Management Committee. Any Club wishing to change its colours during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the Management Committee.

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

10. [A] The Annual General Meeting shall determine the date for the commencement of the season.

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

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

The Management Committee shall have power to decide whether a pitch and/or facilities are suitable for matches in the Competition and to order the Club concerned to play its fixtures on another ground. Football Turf pitches [3G] are allowed in this Competition providing they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA's Register of Football Turf pitches. For clubs playing at Step 7 and below a pitch must be tested [by a FIFA accredited test institute] every three years and the results passed to the FA. The FA will give a decision on the suitability for use and add the pitch to the Register.

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

All 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 fixed at the AGM, as shown below, **and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing clubs prior to the scheduled date of the match with written notification given to the Competition at least 7 days prior.**

- Start of the season to the end of October LEAGUE and CUP 2.30 p.m.
- November, December, and January LEAGUE 2.00 p.m. CUP 1.30 p.m.
- February to end of season LEAGUE and CUP 2.30 p.m.
- Midweek matches not under floodlights shall kick off no later than 6.15 p.m.

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 and at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable.

[C] Except by permission of the Management Committee all matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The Football Association and parent County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of the Fixtures Secretary.

Following the publication of a season's fixtures, each team shall be allowed to apply for up to TWO free dates per season but the request must be received by the General Secretary giving one calendar month's notice.

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].

[D] The Secretary of the home Club **must give notice** of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the match officials and the Secretary of the opposing Club at least THREE clear days prior to the playing of the match. **If not so provided, the away club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the competition.**

[E] A minimum of **NINE** players will constitute a team for a Competition match.

[F] [i] Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have power to inflict a fine, deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the match in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals.



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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.

[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 Team, 'A' Team.

[iii] Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a fixture has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the **Results/Press & Media Secretary**, the Competition Referees **Appointment** Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Official[s].

**In the event of a Club having to postpone a Saturday game more than five hours before kick off due to the condition of their home pitch, it will be expected that the match is switched to the opponents ground should this be available, where the reverse fixture is still to be played. Any postponement confirmed less than five hours before kick off must be supported by the decision of the match referee or a local currently qualified registered referee. The timing shall be when notice is received by the League Press & Media Secretary. The League will investigate any postponements due to the condition of the pitch and decide on any further action accordingly. Any Club failing to comply shall be dealt with by the Management Committee, who may inflict a fine.**

[iv] In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the General/Fixture Secretary within 3 days the Management Committee shall have power to order the match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date.

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

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

**[G]** A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use THREE substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from FIVE players.

The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than fifteen minutes before the start of the match **and a Player not so named may not take part in that match.**

A player who has been selected, appointed or named as a substitute before the start of the match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a player in that game within the meaning of Rule 8 of this Competition.

**[H]** The half time interval shall be of ten minutes' duration, but it shall not exceed fifteen minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

**[I] The Clubs taking part in a fixture Competition Match shall identify a team captain who has a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his team mates.**

## REPORTING RESULTS

**11. [A]** Before the start of all matches, each team shall exchange a Team Sheet with their opponents and the Referee, duly completed with the names and shirt numbers of their team and the name of the Referee at least fifteen minutes before kick off [see also Rule 10{G}]. Clubs must retain all Team Sheets for the current season for possible inspection.

Failure to do so will incur a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**[B]** The Home Club shall report the result of each match to the Results/Press & Media Secretary within one hour of the end of the match. In the event of a County Cup tie, the Home Club shall report the result if both Clubs are members of the Bedfordshire County Football League. If only the Away

# RULES OF THE LEAGUE

Club is a member of the League, then the Away Club shall report the result. Failure to do so will incur a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**[C]** The match result notification shall be correctly completed online to include the names of the players [see Rule 10G] and the name of, and a mark [Rule 13H] for, the referee, within 3 days of the date played. Failure to do so will incur a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

A Club which submits an incomplete match result notification or incorrect information not related to the names of the players shall be fined in accordance with ~~item A of the Schedule of fines~~ **the Fines Tariff**.

A Club which deliberately submits a match result notification containing false information with regard to the names of the players of their team shall be fined a sum not exceeding £75 subject to first taking action under Rule 5[D].

## DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

**12. [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 match. The teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective Divisions at the conclusion shall be adjudged the winners. Matches must not be played for double points.

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

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

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

**[B]** Automatic promotion and relegation shall be applied for the first two and last two teams in each Division except as provided for hereunder, subject to the provisions of Rules 2[B] and 2[C].

[i] Should one or more teams withdraw from any one Division after the fixtures have 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 season may be filled on any of the following ways:

[a] retention of otherwise relegated team[s]

[b] additional promotion of the next ranked team[s] from the Division below

[c] election

[iii] The last team in the lowest Division shall retire, but be eligible for re-election except as below, and be subject to the conditions of paragraph [B][i] above.

[iv] 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.

[v] 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.

**[C]** In the event of a team not completing 75% of its fixtures for the season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting team shall be expunged from the Competition table.

**[D]** Where a promotion and/or relegation link exists between Competitions, Premier Division Clubs, provided they meet the appropriate promotion criteria, will be eligible to make application to The Football Association for promotion, copied to both Leagues. Should the Champion Club not wish for promotion or, alternatively, not have the necessary grading criteria, then the next placed Club, subject to FA directives, will be eligible under the same conditions. The Football Association shall decide upon promotion, relegation or allocation matters.

# RULES OF THE LEAGUE

## REFEREES

**13. [A]** Registered Referees [and Assistant Referees where approved by the FA or County FA] for all matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Authority.

**[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 Assistant Referees, the Clubs shall attend the ground and shall agree upon a Referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee. **Failing to comply will result in action taken under rule 10[F][i].** The fact that the game was played under these conditions shall be noted on the online Match Result Notification. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a Referee or Assistant Referee in any open age competition.

**[C]** Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee, qualified as recognised by the Management Committee.

**[D]** The appointed Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and the decision shall be final subject to either in the case of a ground of a Local Authority or the owners of a ground, the Representative of that body is the sole arbiter and whose decision must be accepted unless the ground is declared fit for play.

**[E]** Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the sanctioning Association, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee, which includes all expenses, of £35 Premier and £30 in all other Divisions. Registered Referees appointed by the Management Committee as Assistant Referees £25 and £22 respectively.

The Home Club shall pay the Officials their fees immediately after the match.

**[F]** In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to half fee. Where a match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Officials, if they attend the ground, their full fee and expenses.

**[G]** A Referee not keeping his or her engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Association with which he or she is registered.

**[H]** Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The Football Association, award marks to the Referee for each match and the name of the Referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the online Match Result Notification. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine. Referee marks of 40 or less must be accompanied by a report to the Referee Secretary.

**[I]** The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the Form provided by the prescribed date each season, shall submit a summary to the County Association.

## CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

**14. [A]** A 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 General Secretary in writing by 31st March each Season. Provisional notice must be confirmed by 1st May.

**[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.

**[C] In the event of a Member Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50, the Management Committee are empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.**

## PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS

**15 [A] [i]** All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee.

**[ii]** Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match.

**[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

# RULES OF THE LEAGUE

founded] must be lodged with the General Secretary within 3 days [excluding Sundays] of the match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A Member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present [except as a witness or representative of his Club] when such protest or complaint is being determined.

**[C]** No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the General Secretary a sum in accordance with the Fees Tariff. 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 enquiry 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 prior to the protest or complaint being heard.

[i] All parties must have received 7 days' notice of the Hearing should they be instructed to attend.

[ii] Should a Club elect to state its case in person then the Club should indicate such when forwarding the written response.

## PROTESTS, APPEALS

**16. [A] 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 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.**

**[B] All such protests claims complaints and appeals must be received in writing by the General Secretary within fourteen days of the event or decision causing any of these to be submitted.**

**[C] The Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Management Committee shall direct.**

**[D] Any appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority within fourteen [14] 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 General Secretary.**

**[E] If so requested the Management Committee may arbitrate on any disputes, protests, appeals, claims or complaints between two 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.**

## EXCLUSION OF CLUBS OR TEAMS

### MISCONDUCT, CLUBS, OFFICIALS, PLAYERS

**17. [A]** At the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting called for the purpose, Notice of Motion having been duly circulated on the Agenda by direction of the Management Committee, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude any Club or Team from membership 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 Club which is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.**

**[B]** At the Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, 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 Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

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



# RULES OF THE LEAGUE

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## **TROPHY: LEGAL OWNERS, CONDITIONS OF TAKING OVER, AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED, AWARDS.**

**18. [A]** The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the Cup or Trophy:-  
“We [A] [name] and [B] [name], the Chairman and Secretary of FC [Limited], members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of Cup or Trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the Cup or Trophy to the Competition General Secretary on or before the Annual General Meeting in the same year. If the Cup or 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.”

**[B]** At the close of each Competition awards shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

## **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

**19.** Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds [2/3] of the Clubs in membership the General Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting. The Management Committee may call a Special General Meeting at any time.

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

Any continuing Member Club must be represented at a Special General Meeting.

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

## **ALTERATION TO RULES**

**20.** Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 19. Any alteration made during the Playing Season to these Rules shall not take effect until the following season.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the General Secretary by 15th March in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 31st March and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the General Secretary by 1st May. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the sanctioning Football Association by 1st April, or within 14 days of any Special General Meeting.

## **FINANCE**

**21. [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. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee. A report on the financial position of the Competition shall be made to the Management Committee at least once every two months.

**[C]** The financial year of the Competition will end on 31st December.

**[D]** The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be audited annually by some suitable person[s] who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

## **INSURANCE**

**22.** All Clubs must have public liability insurance cover of at least 10 million pounds [£10,000,000]. All Clubs shall be members of a Players' personal accident scheme. The policy cover shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time to time by the sanctioning Association. In instances where The Football Association is the sanctioning Association, the minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which a

# RULES OF THE LEAGUE

Club affiliates.

## DISSOLUTION

**23. [A]** Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a Special General Meeting by a majority of three quarters [3/4] of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant Special General Meeting.

**[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 Association.

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

## EMERGENCY DECISIONS

**24.** In the event of any matter arising not covered for in the Rules, which requires immediate settlement and time will not allow for the Management Committee to be summoned, then the General Secretary, in consultation with the Chairman, shall have the power to give a ruling which shall carry equal weight with a decision given in the ordinary way. Such a special ruling, however, shall only refer to the immediate occasion, and the circumstances shall be reported to the next meeting of the Management Committee. A Standing Committee consisting of the Chairman, General Secretary, and one other member shall be appointed to deal with any emergency.

## ► FEES TARIFF

DESCRIPTION	RULE NUMBER	MAXIMUM FEE
Entry fee	3 [A]	£20
Annual subscription	3 [B]	£100
Deposit	3 [C]	£75
Additional player registration [no. 31+]	8 [E]	£1
Transfer form	8 [I]	£10
Referee fees	13 [E] – see rule	£ as listed
Assistant referee fees	13 [E] – see rule	£ as listed
Protest/appeal fees	15 [C], 16[A], 16[G]	£10

## ► FINES TARIFF

DESCRIPTION	RULE NUMBER	MAXIMUM FINE and POINTS DEDUCTION
<b>NOTE: [1st] below = 1st occurrence</b>		
Failure to affiliate	2 [B]	By County FA – non-acceptance into League
Failure to comply with F.A. initiatives	2 [E]	Charter Standard – non-acceptance into League
Failure to provide information form, including Agreement to be Signed	3 [E], 7	£15
Failure to comply with an instruction of the Management Committee	5 [H]	£15

## RULES OF THE LEAGUE

Failure to pay fine within 21 days of notice [1st]		£15
Failure to pay fine within 21 days of notice [2nd]	5 [I]	£25
Failure to pay fine within 21 days of notice [3rd +]		£50
Failure to be represented at A.G.M.	6 [H]	£50
Failure to sign required number of registered players prior to season start	8 [A] [iii]	£40
Registration irregularities	8 [H] [ii]	£25
Playing an ineligible player [1st]		£20 –minus 1pt
Playing an ineligible player [2nd]	8 [O]	£30 –minus 2pts
Playing an ineligible player [3rd +]		£40 –minus 3pts
Delaying kick off [1st]	<b>5 [D]</b> , 9 [A],	Warning
Delaying kick off [2nd +]	10 [B]	£15
Failure to provide details of a fixture [1st]	<b>5 [D]</b> , 10 [D]	Warning
Failure to provide details of a fixture [2nd]		£15
Failure to play fixture	10 [F]	See table below
Failure to exchange team sheet [1st]	11 [A]	Warning
Failure to exchange team sheet [2nd +]		£10
Failure to provide result [1st]	11 [B]	Warning
Failure to provide result [2nd +]		£15
<b><u>Failure to complete online Match Notification by deadline [1st]</u></b>		<b><u>Warning</u></b>
<b><u>Failure to complete online Match Notification by deadline [2nd +]</u></b>	<b>11 [C]</b>	<b><u>£15</u></b>
<b><u>Incomplete online Match Notification not relating to players [1st]</u></b>		<b><u>Warning</u></b>
<b><u>Incomplete online Match Notification not relating to players [2nd +]</u></b>		<b><u>£10</u></b>
Failure to provide trained club assistant referee [Premier Division] [1st]		Warning
Failure to provide trained club assistant referee [Premier Division] [2nd +]	13 [C]	£15
Failure to provide club assistant referee [Other Divisions] [1st]		Warning
Failure to provide club assistant referee [Other Divisions] [2nd +]		£15
Failure to pay match officials' fees and expenses	13 [E]	£15
Failure to pay match officials where a match is not played	13 [F]	£15
Failure to provide referee's mark [1st]		Warning
	13 [H]	
Failure to provide referee's mark [2nd +]		£15
Withdrawal from league without due notice	14 [A]	£75
Failure to start or complete fixtures	14 [B]	£75

# RULES OF THE LEAGUE

## ▶ FINES TARIFF FOR POSTPONED MATCHES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 10[F]:

TEAM	DAY	OCCURRENCE	FINE
Premier	Saturday	First	£40 – minus 1pt
Premier	Saturday	Second	£50 – minus 2pts
Premier	Saturday	Third	£75 – minus 3pts
TEAM	DAY	OCCURRENCE	FINE
Premier	Saturday	Fourth	Management Committee to decide
Premier	Midweek	First	£25 – minus 1pt
Premier	Midweek	Second	£40 – minus 2pts
Premier	Midweek	Third	£50 – minus 3pts
Premier	Midweek	Fourth	Management Committee to decide
Other Divisions	Saturday	First	£25 – minus 1pt
Other Divisions	Saturday	Second	£40 – minus 2pts
Other Divisions	Saturday	Third	£50 – minus 3pts
Other Divisions	Saturday	Fourth	Management Committee to decide
Other Divisions	Midweek	First	£15 – minus 1pt
Other Divisions	Midweek	Second	£25 – minus 2pts
Other Divisions	Midweek	Third	£40 – minus 3pts
Other Divisions	Midweek	Fourth	Management Committee to decide

## RULES FOR KNOCK-OUT COMPETITIONS

The following rules apply to all cup competitions, BRITANNIA, CENTENARY, JUBILEE, and the WATSON SHIELD except where stated.

### Cup Rule 1

The cups shall be competed for annually in the form of knock-out competitions. The BRITANNIA CUP shall be confined to teams from the PREMIER DIVISION. Entry to other cup competitions will be in-line with County Cup eligibility and, where appropriate, divisional placement.

The knock-out competitions shall be under the control and management of the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, and its general business arrangements shall be dealt with as a section of the BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY FOOTBALL LEAGUE in accordance with the League regulations, except where herein specified to the contrary.

### Cup Rule 2 – Qualification of Players

All players registered with the League Registration Secretary shall be eligible to represent their Club, but such registration must have been recorded by 12 noon on the day on which the match takes place.

### Cup Rule 3

No player shall be allowed to compete if:

[a] he has played for another team in the same competition in the same season.

[b] CENTENARY CUP: Any player who has played in the Bedfordshire FA Senior Trophy or the Britannia Cup for another team in the current season shall be ineligible to play.

JUBILEE CUP: as Centenary Cup, plus any player who has played in the Bedfordshire FA Intermediate Cup or the Centenary Cup for another team in the current season shall be ineligible to play.

WATSON SHIELD: As Jubilee Cup, plus any player who has played in the Jubilee Cup for another team in the current season shall be ineligible to play.

[c] Each team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee, qualified as recognised by the Management Committee for Britannia Cup ties, or be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.



# RULES OF THE LEAGUE

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## **Cup Rule 4**

The names of all players in the semi-finals and finals must have played in a minimum of four games for the Club he is representing.

## **Cup Rule 5 – Matches**

Ties shall be arranged by ballot. In matches up to the final tie the Club drawn first shall have choice of ground, and shall be responsible for all arrangements in connection with the game, and shall account for gate money received.

## **Cup Rule 6**

The duration of each game shall be 90 minutes, but an extra half hour shall be played if the match is undecided at the end of full time. If still undecided after extra time the tie shall be decided by the taking of penalty kicks in accordance with FA regulations. The Semi-Final and Final Ties shall also be decided in this manner.

## **Cup Rule 7 – Referees**

The Referee in each tie shall be appointed by the Management Committee. The fee, which includes all expenses, shall correspond to those stated in Rule 13[E].

## **Cup Rule 8 - Monies**

The Referee's fee is to be the first charge after which any money remaining shall be divided equally between the two Clubs.

## **Cup Rule 9 - Semi-Finals**

Semi-finals shall normally be played on the ground chosen by the first named Club, but may be played at neutral venues at the discretion of the Management Committee. Match Officials fees shall be shared by the competing Clubs. The first named Club shall be responsible for the notification of their opponents, match officials, and for supplying of suitable match balls.

NOTE - PLAYERS MUST BE QUALIFIED AS PER CUP RULE NUMBER 4.

## **Cup Rule 10 – Finals**

Finals shall be played on neutral grounds as the Management Committee may decide. The Clubs competing in the Final Tie shall share all of the money taken at the Final, after match expenses have been deducted.

## **Cup Rule 11**

When funds allow, the Finalists shall receive sixteen mementoes.

## **Cup Rule 12 – General**

On all matters connected with the knock-out competitions, The Management Committee of the Bedfordshire County Football League shall have full executive power and shall deal with protests in accordance with rule 16.

The Management Committee shall have the power to rule any Club out of the competition where an ineligible player has taken part, subject to first taking action under Rule 5[D].

## **Cup Rule 13**

No cup can be won outright, and the winning Clubs shall give a bond as regards their safety, see Rule 18.

## DIRECTORY OF CLUBS

The following directory lists Clubs in alphabetical order. Wherever possible, please contact the Club Secretary on all matters. In cases of emergency, the names and telephone numbers of the Club Chairmen and additional contacts, have been included. **Some Clubs may play in different colours away from home, please let your opponents know if this is to be the case.**



**The Bedfordshire County Football League** is a Charter Standard League.

### **AFC DUNTON [Q-BED0503]**

Secretary: Michael McDonnell [m.j.mcdonnell@hotmail.co.uk]  
8 Moore Close, Wootton, Beds MK43 9BG ☎07837441063  
Chairman: Andrew Bright  
15 Southwark Close, Stevenage, Herts SG1 4PG ☎07824379493  
Treasurer: Jason Kinns ☎07715584797  
Ground: Horseshoe Close, Dunton SG18 8RY  
Colours: Blue and White shirts, Black shorts, White socks

### **AFC KEMPSTON TOWN & BEDFORD COLLEGE [Q-BED0574]**

Secretary: Lynda Capener [capener71@outlook.com]  
66 The Silver Birches, Kempston, Beds MK42 7TT ☎07841826958 or 01234 402997  
Chairman: Gary Ingerson [garyingerson627@virginmedia.com]  
59 Ryswick Road, Kempston, Beds MK42 8SW ☎07800864040  
Manager [1<sup>st</sup> team]: John Guiney ☎07841435491  
Ground: AFC Kempston Rovers, Hillgrounds Road, Kempston  
Second & 'A' Teams: **FOOTBALL TURF [3G]** AFC Kempston, Hillgrounds Road, Kempston  
Colours [all teams]: Red and White stripes shirts, Black shorts and socks

### **AFC OAKLEY M&DH [Q-BED0423]**

Secretary: Neil Worker [[n.worker@resilientplc.com](mailto:n.worker@resilientplc.com)]  
3 Parsonage Close, Oakley, Beds MK43 7TG ☎07515053374  
Chairman: Stuart Liggins  
140 Clapham Road, Clapham, Beds MK41 6EL ☎07559900007  
Coach [1<sup>st</sup> team]: Gary Chance ☎07966126306  
Coach [reserve team]: **Ray Patrickson** ☎**07794944395**  
Ground: Oakley Sports and Social Club, Church Lane, Oakley MK43 7RU  
Colours [all teams]: Blue shirts, shorts and socks

### **AMPTHILL TOWN RESERVES [Q-BED0633]**

Secretary: Eric Turner [erictturner789@btinternet.com]  
5 Arthur Street, Ampthill, Beds MK45 2QG ☎07887872632 or 01525 403128  
Chairman: Lee Roberts  
32 Verne Drive, Ampthill, Beds ☎07931369547 or 01525 759290  
Manager: Steve Roach ☎07957176022 or 01525 841279  
Ground: Ampthill Park, Woburn Road, Ampthill MK45 2HX  
Colours: Yellow shirts, Blue shorts and socks

### **ATLETICO EUROPA FC [Q-BED0478]**

Secretary: Gaetano Tramunto [gaetano.tramunto@btinternet.com]  
34 Polhill Avenue, Bedford MK41 9ED ☎07894108133  
Chairman: Giovanni Bosco [atleticoeuropafc@gmail.com or giovanni.bosco@ab-fruits.com]  
12 Bracken Place Bedford MK41 0TG ☎07852945559  
Vice-Chairman: Emilio Lionetti ☎07854756829  
Ground: Bedford Borough Council, Jubilee Park [pitch 1 allocated]  
Colours: Navy Blue shirts, shorts and socks

# DIRECTORY OF CLUBS

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## **BEDFORD ALBION [Q-BED0501]**

Secretary and Chairman: Khaneal Statham [,  
27 Arden Walk, Bedford MK41 0AX  
Manager: Richard Price

☎07718381988  
☎07780204370

Ground: Bedford Borough Council, Woodlands

Colours: Cyan Blue shirts, Navy Blue shorts, Cyan Blue socks

## **BEDFORD UNITED [Q-BED0684]**

Club Secretary: Carl Pates [cpates@gmail.com]  
29 Kelvin Avenue, Bedford MK42 9SA

☎07912029478

**First Team Secretary and main contact:** Dave Farooqui [dave@bedfordunitedfc.co.uk]  
c/o Bedford Sports & Hockey Centre, Chester Road, Bedford MK40 4HL

☎07944774272

Chairman: Gregg Jones

52 St. Loyes Street, Bedford MK40 1EZ

☎07960857114

Another Contact: Mike Garcia

☎07447467306

Ground: Bedford Sports & Hockey Centre, Bedford MK40 4HL

Colours: Sky Blue and Navy shirts, Navy and Sky Blue shorts and socks

## **CALDECOTE FC [Q-BED0586]**

Secretary: Mike Swales [mickswales@hotmail.com] 2 Ashby Drive, Upper Caldecote,  
Nr Biggleswade, Beds SG18 9DJ

☎07711774129 or 01767 317481

Chairman: Sid Fage

'Silvermead', Potton Road, Biggleswade, Beds SG18 0EJ

☎07828063548 or 01767 312758

Committee Member: Neil Mapletoft

☎07738437323

Clubhouse

☎01767 600236

Ground: The Playing Fields, Harvey Close, Upper Caldecote SG18 9BQ

Colours: Red and White stripes shirts, Red shorts and socks

Second Team: Red and Black shirts, Black shorts, Red socks

'A' Team: Red and White stripes shirts, Red shorts and socks

## **CLAPHAM SPORTS FC [Q-BED0613]**

Secretary: Robert Graham Yates [g.yates164@btinternet.com]

22 Folly Park, High Street, Clapham, Beds MK41 6AF

☎07944565833 or 01234 210974

Chairman: Robert Hall

40 Folly Park, High Street, Clapham, Beds MK41 6AF

☎07960493971

Another Contact: Jason Prior

☎07857851174

Ground: King George V Playing Field, Clapham

Colours: Blue and White shirts, Black shorts, Blue socks

## **CLIFTON FC [Q-BED0554]**

Secretary: Kayleigh Thomas [cliftonbeds@yahoo.co.uk]

21 Anderson Road, Biggleswade, Beds SG18 8FX

☎01767 769498

Chairman: Josh Thomas

21 Anderson Road, Biggleswade, Beds SG18 8FX

☎07816442297

Committee Member: Jason Shacklock

☎07909888577

Ground: The Playing Field, Whiston Crescent, Clifton SG17 5HY

Colours: Red and Black shirts, Black shorts and socks

## **COPLE & BEDFORD S.A. FC [Q-BED0446]**

Secretary: Rob Andrews [bobandrews18@sky.com]

6 Stour Way, Bedford MK41 7BD

☎07967054559 or 01234 309836

Chairman: John Barnes

52 Hookhams Lane, Renhold, Beds MK41 0JU

☎07884110786 or 01234 772752

Manager: Lee Andrews

☎07966629437 or 01234 346345

Ground: Cople Playing Field

Colours: Red shirts, Black shorts, Red socks

# DIRECTORY OF CLUBS

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## **CRANFIELD UNITED FC [Q-BED0447]**

Secretary: Stewart Perrin [s.perrin707@btinternet.com] ☎07808212626 or 01234 751896  
2 Bowling Green Road, Cranfield, Beds MK43 0ET  
Chairman: Ed Frost ☎07860129394  
182 High Street, Cranfield, Beds MK43 0EN ☎07795904207  
First Team Manager: Chris Hyde ☎01234 751444  
Clubhouse:  
Ground: Crawley Road, Cranfield MK43 0AA  
Colours: Red and White shirts, Black shorts and socks  
Second Team: Green and White shirts, Black shorts and socks

## **DINAMO FLITWICK FC [Q-BED0547]**

Secretary: Neil Hannam [neil@azizauk.co.uk] ☎07920853764  
56 Fir Tree Close, Flitwick, Beds MK45 1NZ  
Chairman: Jamie Burton ☎to be advised  
9 Crowsley Road, Kempston, Beds MK42 7FN ☎to be advised  
Another Contact: to be advised  
Ground: **FOOTBALL TURF [3G]** Redborne Upper School [North Site],  
Flitwick Road, Ampthill, Beds MK45 2NU  
Colours: Blue shirts, shorts and socks

## **EASTCOTTS AFC [Q-BED0524]**

Secretary: Chris Nelson [secretary-eastcottsfc@ntlworld.com] ☎07540518867  
11 Hartwell Drive, Kempston, Bedfordshire MK42 8US  
Chairman: Tim Roberts ☎07771733894  
7 Wells Close, Kempston, Bedfordshire MK42 8TS ☎07802223398  
Chairman Elect: Sean Alexander  
Ground: Weston Park, Wootton [Wootton Blue Cross]  
Colours: Yellow shirts, shorts and socks

## **ELSTOW ABBEY FC [Q-BED0414]**

Secretary: Nicholas Snelson [elstowabbeyfc@sky.com] ☎07834955549  
46 Rochester Way, Shortstown, Bedford MK42 0GF  
Chairman: Roland Simmonds ☎07501059080 or 01234 217688  
15 Wigram Close, Elstow, Beds MK42 9PZ ☎07769891725  
First Team Manager: Keith Thomas ☎07779222286  
Reserve Team Manager: Kevin Poulton  
Ground: The Warren, Elstow Playing Field, Wilstead Road, Elstow MK42 9YD  
Colours [First and Reserves]: White shirts, Black shorts and socks

## **FC HOUGHTON ATHLETIC [Q-BED0541]**

Secretary: Nicky Fearn [nicky.fearn17@gmail.com] ☎07533161574  
6 Tennyson Avenue, Houghton Regis, Beds LU5 5UQ  
Chairman: Dave Taylor ☎07828838492  
78 Trident Drive, Houghton Regis, Dunstable LU5 5QG ☎07791487908 or 01582 528754  
Committee Member: Ciaran Dolan  
Ground: Moore Crescent, Houghton Regis, Dunstable LU5 5GZ  
Colours: Navy Blue shirts, shorts and socks

## **FLITWICK TOWN FC [Q-BED0504]**

Secretary: Craig Phillips [flitwicktfc@gmail.com] ☎07824809622  
12 Aire Walk, Bedford MK41 7XU  
Chairman: Chris Cheshire ☎07940718848  
17 Nene Road, Flitwick, Bedfordshire MK45 1SF ☎07832192418  
Vice Chairman: Chris Brydon  
Ground: Flitwick Community Football Centre, Ampthill Road, Flitwick MK45 1BA  
Colours [all teams]: Royal Blue Shirts, White Shorts and Royal Blue Socks



# DIRECTORY OF CLUBS

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## **HENLOW FC [Q-BED0659]**

Secretary: William Scott McMillan [scottmcmillan199@yahoo.co.uk]  
12 St. John's Road, Arlesey, Bedfordshire SG15 6ST ☎01462 731680 or 07432852941  
Chairman: Greg Hall  
4 Clifton Road, Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5AA ☎01462 816797 or 07766536713  
Manager: Stephen Worboys ☎07850242069  
Ground: Henlow Park, Groveside, Henlow Village  
Colours: Claret shirts, White shorts, Claret socks

## **ICKLEFORD FC [Q-BED0552]**[formerly Marabese Ceramics]

Secretary: Colin Standley [colin@colin216.orangehome.co.uk]  
49 Garfield, Langford, Beds SG18 9NG ☎07967031456  
Chairman: Gabriel Follano  
17 Cricketers Lane, Arlesey, Beds SG15 6SP ☎07831275942  
Treasurer: R. Follano ☎07887507162  
Ground: Ickleford Sports & Social Ground, Chambers Lane, Ickleford SG5 3YA  
Colours: Sky Blue shirts, shorts and socks

## **ICKWELL & OLD WARDEN FC [Q-BED0467]**

Secretary: Peter Bygraves  
29 Ickwell Green, Nr Biggleswade, Beds SG18 9EE ☎01767 627747  
Chairman: Terence John Winter [terrywinter@btconnect.com], Old Warden Cottage  
2 Warden Road, Ickwell, Bedfordshire SG18 9EL ☎01767 627716  
Treasurer: Peter Faulkner ☎01767 626340  
Ground: Ickwell Green  
Colours: Sky Blue shirts, Black and White shirts and socks

## **KEMPSTON ATHLETIC FC [Q-BED0602]**

Secretary: Mark Nicholson [nicko17783@yahoo.co.uk]  
26 Chantry Road, Kempston, Bedford MK42 7RR ☎07568192350  
Chairman: Daniel Dobrzanski  
Flat 40, Castle Quay, Castle Lane, Bedford MK40 3FG ☎07825616138  
Other Contact: to be advised ☎to be advised  
Ground: Kempston Hammer Sports & Social Club, 134 High Street, Kempston  
Colours: White shirts, Black shorts and socks

## **KEMPSTON HAMMERS SPORTS FC [Q-BED0463]**

Secretary: Ian Tysoe [i.tysoe@hotmail.com]  
116 Mephram Road, Wootton, Bedfordshire MK43 9EW ☎01234 766847  
Chairman: Jeremy Bennett  
Chase End, Moor End Road, Radwell, Beds MK43 7HX ☎to be advised  
Committee Member: Paul Atkins ☎07956847941  
Ground: Kempston Hammer Sports & Social Club, 134 High Street, Kempston  
Colours: Gold shirts, shorts and socks

## **LEA SPORTS PSG FC [Q-HER0703-Herts FA]**

President and Club Secretary: Steve Smith [[secretary@leasports.com](mailto:secretary@leasports.com)]  
The Old Post Office, 6 Great Green, Pirton, Hitchin, Herts SG5 3QD

☎07721746872

**Secretary for BCFL and main contact:** Nathan Moorhouse [bcflsec@leasports.com]

☎07581720553

Chairman: Philip Toyer

1 Fishers Close, Upper Gravenhurst, Beds MK45 4LJ ☎01462 711211 or 07799791216

Ground: the Recreation Ground, Walnut Tree Road, Pirton, Hitchin SG5 3PX

Colours: Red and Black stripes shirts, Black shorts and socks

# DIRECTORY OF CLUBS

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## **LIDLINGTON UNITED SPORTS CLUB FC [Q-BED0468]**

Secretary: Brian Shepherd [lidlington.united@btinternet.com]  
22 Lombard Street, Lidlington, Bedfordshire MK43 ORP ☎01525 403616 or 07711152186  
Chairman: Sally Lancaster  
2 The Lane, Lidlington, Bedfordshire MK43 OUP ☎07843477584  
Manager: Jamie Lingard ☎07779088426  
Ground: Hurst Grove, Lidlington  
Colours: Green and Navy Blue shirts, Navy Blue shorts, Green socks

## **MARSTON SHELTON ROVERS FC [Q-BED0553]**

Secretary: David Money [a.money321@btinternet.com]  
111 Lower Shelton Road, Marston Moretaine, Bedfordshire MK43 OLW ☎01234 765579  
Chairman: Michael Champkin, 2 Banks Close  
Marston Moretaine, Bedfordshire MK43 OMP ☎01234 767306  
Other Contact: Mark Champkin ☎01234 766617  
Ground: Playing Field, Bedford Road, Marston  
Colours: Claret and Sky Blue shirts, Claret shorts and socks  
Second Team: Sky Blue and Claret shirts, Claret shorts and socks

## **MELTIS ALBION FC [Q-BED0585]**

Secretary: Roy Burnage [tburnage@btinternet.com]  
19 Eaton Road, Kempston, Bedfordshire MK42 7RP ☎01234 852561 or 07761534130  
Chairman: Simon Stafford  
73 Mile Road, Bedford MK42 9UD ☎01234 350327 or 07901764443  
Manager: Steve Goodman ☎07976383823  
Ground: Meltis Sports Ground, Miller Road, Bedford MK42 9NY  
**Colours: Yellow shirts, Black shorts and socks**  
**Second Team: Blue and Yellow shirts, Blue shorts and socks**

## **MID BEDS TIGERS FC [Q-BED0597]**

Club Secretary: Emma Coster [surge74@gmail.com]  
97 Merlin Drive, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2UN ☎07884187322  
**Manager First Team and main contact:** Dean Wren [dean.wren@hotmail.co.uk]  
☎07427148838  
Chairman: Neil Croucher  
9 Brambling Close, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2UJ ☎07860388518  
Ground: Sandye Place Academy, Park Road, Sandy SG19 1JD  
Colours: Orange shirts, Black shorts, Black and Orange socks

## **PAVENHAM FC [Q-BED0612]**

Secretary: Tom Ellis [ellislboro@gmail.com]  
17 Yew Tree Close, Silsoe, Bedfordshire MK45 4EQ ☎07739833329  
Chairman: James Owen, Drapers Farm  
Beancroft Road, Marston Moretaine, Beds MK43 0QE ☎07702300233  
Club Captain: Tim Bowers ☎07811154300  
Ground: Pavenham Playing Field, Bedford Road, Pavenham, Bedfordshire MK43 7PE  
Colours: Yellow shirts, Navy Blue shorts, Yellow socks

## **POLONIA BEDFORD FC [Q-BED0698]**

Secretary: Przemyslaw Stramski [pstramski@wp.pl]  
37 Cobden Square, Bedford MK40 2JE ☎07914386175  
Chairman: Piotr Karpuik  
73 Crowe Road, Bedford MK40 4FY ☎007704576735  
Manager: Krystian Olszanski ☎to be advised  
Ground: Bedford Borough Council, Allen Park  
Colours: Red shirts, Red shorts, White socks

# DIRECTORY OF CLUBS

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## **POTTON TOWN FC [Q-BED0667]**

Secretary: Nick Armond [pottontownfc@gmail.com] ☎01767 260521 or 07515144119  
65 Spencer Close, Potton, Sandy, Beds SG19 2QR  
Chairman: Howard Moore  
49 King Street, Potton, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2QZ ☎01767 260155 or 07720633257  
Assistant Manager: Matt Mijalski ☎07525068345  
Ground: Mill Lane, Potton SG19 2PG  
Colours: Blue and Black shirts, Black shorts and socks

## **QUEENS PARK CRESCENTS FC [Q-BED0648]**

Secretary: Mohammed Raheem ☎07811151495  
28 Ouselnd Road, Bedford MK40 4XN  
Chairman: Meharban Hussain [merv\_7@hotmail.co.uk] ☎07840378297  
89 Ford End Road, Bedford MK40 4JT ☎07805509489  
Treasurer: Hassan Yousuf  
Ground: Bedford Borough Council, Allen Park  
Colours: Red and White shirts, Red and White shorts, Red socks

## **RENHOLD UNITED FC [Q-BED0622]**

Secretary: Keith Harlow [k.harlow@virgin.net] ☎01234 871178  
14 High Street, Great Barford, Bedfordshire MK44 3LB  
Chairman: Lyn Dimmock ☎01234 871060  
3 Woodfield Lane, Renhold, Bedfordshire MK41 0LH ☎07889157325  
Manager: Ginge Chana  
Ground: Renhold Playing Fields  
Colours: Red and Blue shirts, Blue shorts and socks  
Second Team: Red and Black shirts, Black shorts, Red socks

## **RISELEY SPORTS FC [Q-BED0502]**

Secretary: Mrs Lynne Clayton [spursgal50@aol.com] ☎01234 708136 or 07903886512  
4 Keysoe Road, Riseley, Bedfordshire MK44 1DE  
Chairman: David Balderstone ☎01234 708181  
Oldfield House, Rotten Row, Riseley, Beds MK44 1EJ ☎01234 708191  
Treasurer & Club Welfare Officer: Andrew Gell  
Ground: The Playing Field, Gold Street, Riseley MK44 1EG  
Colours: Sky Blue with White stripes shirts, Black shorts, Sky Blue socks

## **SANDY FC [Q-BED0479]**

Secretary: Dorothy Oakley [d.lawes.oakley@ntlworld.com] ☎01767 226230  
27 Western Way, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DU  
Chairman: Colin Osborne MBE [colin.osborne@codo.co.uk] ☎01767 682032 or 07774679948  
2 Leeds Smith Drive, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1LU ☎07904644328  
**Fixtures:** James Jacobs  
Ground: Bedford Road, Sandy SG19 1EL  
Colours: Black and White stripes shirts, Black shorts and socks  
Second Team: Black and White stripes shirts, Black shorts and socks

## **SHARNBROOK FC [Q-BED0674]**

Secretary: Michael Harding ☎01234 782330 or 07803935236  
11 Wellpond Close, Sharnbrook, Bedfordshire MK44 1PL  
Chairman: Mark Singleton ☎01234 781101  
24 Wellpond Close, Sharnbrook, Bedfordshire MK44 1PL ☎07540852061  
Manager: Chris Lander  
Ground: Playing Field, Lodge Road, Sharnbrook MK44 1JP  
Colours: Royal Blue shirts, shorts and socks

# DIRECTORY OF CLUBS

## **SHEFFORD TOWN AND CAMPTON FC [Q-BED0539]**

Secretary: Heather Hayday [hmjh54@gmail.com]

25 Town Meadow Drive, Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5EF ☎01462 236237 or 07504692273

Chairman: Graham Earl

59 Park Lane, Helnow, Beds SG16 6AT

☎01462 857240 or 07779990020

Fixtures: Dan Gauntlett

☎07584370376

Vice-Chairman: Roy Hayday

☎07504902099

Ground: Shefford Sports Club, Hitchin Road, Shefford SG17 5JD

Second and 'A' Teams Ground: Campton Recreation Ground, Rectory Road, Campton SG17 5PF

Colours [all teams]: Royal Blue and White shirts, Royal Blue shorts, Royal Blue and White socks

## **STAUGHTON FC [Q-HUN0177][Hunts FA]**

Secretary: Tracy A. Huntley [racytracy@live.co.uk] Berrywood Farm, Bushmead,

Little Staughton, Colmworth, Beds MK44 2LD

☎07831598000

Chairman: Mark S. **Darlow**, Berrywood Farm, Bushmead,

Little Staughton, Colmworth, Beds MK44 2LD

☎01234 378985 or 07818349406

**Player: Chris Jenkins**

~~☎01234 378985~~

Ground: The Playing Field, The Causeway, Great Staughton, St. Neots PE19 5BP

Colours: Yellow and Blue shirts, Blue shorts and shirts

## **STEVINGTON FC [Q-BED0555]**

Secretary: Gareth King [garethking542@aol.com]

17 Burridges Close, Stevington, Bedfordshire MK43 7QE ☎01234 826519 or 07810868738

Chairman: Stephen White

40 Silver Street, Stevington, Bedfordshire MK43 7QP

☎07967820376

Treasurer: Shane King

☎01234 824751

Ground: Playing Field, Stevington MK43 7QT

Colours: Maroon and Blue shirts, Blue shorts and socks

## **SUNDON PARK RANGERS FC [Q-BED0448]**

Secretary: Helen Conway [helenconway@live.co.uk]

1 Coverdale, Toddington Road, Luton LU4 9JP

☎01582 933740

Chairman: Lionel Dunn

92 Roman Road, Luton LU4 9SE

☎07722207851

Manager: Gordon Conway

☎07801273371

Ground: Stockwood Athletic Track, Farley Hill Road, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 4BH

Colours: Red and Black shirts, Black shorts, Red socks

## **SUNDON PARK ROVERS FC [Q-BED0480]**

Secretary: Mark Bonnar [mark.bonnar@ntlworld.com]

9 Trimley Close, Luton LU4 9HJ

☎01582 755518 or 07885280585

Chairman: Bill Buttigieg

34 Galston Road, Luton LU3 3JZ

☎01582 617597 or 07717844734

Manager: Martyn Dawson

☎01582 594505 or 07889187909

Ground: Luton Borough Council, Leagrave Park

Colours: Red and White shirts, Black shorts and socks

## **WESTONING FC [Q-BED0449]**

Secretary: David Wing [sec.westoningfc@btinternet.com]

17 Naseby Place, Flitwick, Bedfordshire MK45 1FB

☎07956589706

Chairman: Julian Dennis

1a Bunyan Road, Westoning, Beds MK45 5LG

☎07813355390

Another Contact: Ian Cooksley

☎07861304470

Ground: Recreation Ground, Greenfield Road, Westoning MK45 5JD

Colours: Navy Blue and Yellow shirts, Navy Blue shorts and socks

Second Team: Navy Blue and Yellow shirts, Navy Blue shorts and socks



## DIRECTORY OF CLUBS

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### **WHITE EAGLES FC [Q-BED0562]**

Secretary: Daniel Kobelarz [daniel.kobelarz@wp.pl]

19 Sidney Road, Bedford MK40 2BQ

☎07752764607

Chairman: Marcin Watroba

73 Henley Road, Bedford MK40 4FX

☎07861008197

**Another Contact: Artur Lukowski**

☎**07999522817**

Ground: Bedford Borough Council, Mowsbury Park

Colours: White shirts, Red shorts and socks

### **WILSTEAD FC [Q-BED0599]**

Secretary: Jane Wooding [janewooding74@btinternet.com]

18 Armstrong Close, Wilstead, Bedfordshire MK45 3EJ ☎01234 740165

Chairman: James Struthers

15 Snow Hill, Maulden, Bedfordshire MK45 2BP

☎07971492151

Vice Chairman: David Riddle

☎07468480535

Ground: Jubilee Playing Field, Bedford Road, Wilstead MK45 3HE

Colours: Blue and Black shirts, Black shorts and socks

Second Team: Blue and Black shirts, Black shorts and socks

### **WIXAMS FC [Q-BED0415]**

Secretary: Gareth Loadman [gareth@tula.uo.com]

15 Ash Tree Covert, Silsoe, Beds MK45 4GN

☎07789863108

Chairman: Thomas Sargent

83 Bluebell Close, Flitwick, Beds MK45 1NR

☎to be advised

Manager: Luke Caulfield

☎07773555891

Ground: **FOOTBALL TURF [3G]**, Wixams

Colours: Yellow and Black shirts, Black shorts and socks

### **WOOTTON VILLAGE FC [Q-BED0510]**

Secretary: Graham Norman [dlnorman@btinternet.com]

30 Neale Way, Wootton, Bedfordshire MK43 9EP

☎01234 314030 or 07872917094

Chairman: Mark Flynn

18 Manor Road, Wootton, Bedfordshire MK43 9JX

☎01234 765822 or 07712554591

Treasurer: Denise Norman

☎01234 314030 or 07972338210

Ground: Wootton Recreation Ground, Village Hall, Church Road, Wootton MK43 9EU

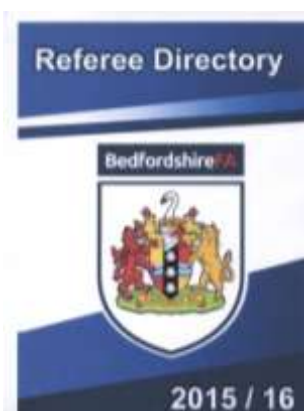
Colours: Yellow and Green halves shirts, Green shorts, Yellow and Green socks

### **ALTERATIONS TO DIRECTORY ENTRIES**

Any alterations notified to the General Secretary will be included in the next revision of the electronic version of the handbook, distributed to all Clubs on a bi-monthly basis between October 2015 and April 2016 inclusive.

## REFEREES

Referees are appointed to League and Cup matches by the Central Appointments Officers at Bedfordshire Football Association. **For any queries please contact Mike Desborough 07803 623374 email: [mike.desborough@bedfordshirefa.com](mailto:mike.desborough@bedfordshirefa.com) or contact Beds FA on 01582 565111 <http://www.bedfordshirefa.com/referee/appointments-system>**



**For full referee details refer to Bedfordshire FA Referee Directory, circulated to all Clubs.**

<b>Ahearn</b> , Thomas	tomfromhixon@gmail.com	07854 613092
<b>Ajisola</b> , Babatunde	tundeajisola@yahoo.com	07961 577314
<b>Aldous</b> , Jeffrey	aldous6@btinternet.com	07749 030047
<b>Beal</b> , Tony	tonybeal@hotmail.co.uk	07786 258289
<b>Blakeborough</b> , Lee	leeboro@hotmail.com	07528 164174
<b>Beardon</b> , Stewart	stewartbeardon@btinternet.com	07941 709035
<b>Benson</b> , Mark	mark@premiercables.com	07825 351113
<b>Blood</b> , Carl	carlblood@hotmail.co.uk	07846 383099
<b>Bloom</b> , Jake	pnbloom04@aol.com	07507 793029
<b>Bonnick</b> , Paul	bonnickpaul@yahoo.co.uk	07947 396794
<b>Borg</b> , Matthew	mattborg@gmail.com	07846 131060
<b>Bowtell</b> , Alan	alan.bowtell@btopenworld.com	07973 826692
<b>Bradley</b> , Michael	mbradleysrus@aol.com	07977 218214
<b>Bright</b> , Mark	mark.bright@sainsburys.co.uk	07828 710245
<b>Brookes</b> , Mark	markbrookes10@gmail.com	07917645160
<b>Brown</b> , Jonathan	joncyflsecretary@btinternet.com	07772 326887
<b>Burgess</b> , Scott	scottburgess78@yahoo.co.uk	07814 989422
<b>Bywaters</b> , Ritchie	bywatersritchie@yahoo.co.uk	07779330565
<b>Campbell</b> , James	james.campbell30@hotmail.co.uk	07736 846405
<b>Chamberlain</b> , Ryan	chamberlain.rc@gmail.com	07801 994669
<b>Chidley</b> , John	john.chidley@ntlworld.com	07722 038661
<b>Cook</b> , Frederick	fred.cook@mitie.com	07816 662594
<b>Cooper</b> , Brian	cooperb1974@ntlworld.com	07954 333820
<b>Cronin</b> , Michael	mickcronin2003@yahoo.co.uk	
<b>Crozier</b> , Ian	i.crozier@ntlworld.com	077105 09223
<b>Cullen</b> , John	jaycul@hotmail.com	07799 590177
<b>Culleton</b> , Scott	sjculleton@gmail.com	07817 162660
<b>Cushen</b> , Jordan	jordycushen@msn.com	07505 880239
<b>Dahl</b> , Nicky	nickydahl@virginmedia.com	07824 825610
<b>Deans</b> , Marc	marc.deans@hotmail.com	07980 024292
<b>Durnford</b> , Tony	tony.durnford@hotmail.co.uk	07941 217018
<b>Elegunde</b> , Yemi	yemster41@btinternet.com	07745 149629
<b>Feiger</b> , Steven	stevenfeiger1@sky.com	07831 235113
<b>Finnie</b> , Will	wfinnie@outlook.com	07506 344305
<b>Forrester</b> , Lee	leeforrester85@icloud.com	07957 876421
<b>Fricker</b> , Aaron	aaron.fricker@googlemail.com	07733 265495
<b>Fuller</b> , Nicholas	nickfuller.henley@virgin.net	07767 796722
<b>Gellender</b> , Andrew	andygellender@googlemail.com	07532 718544
<b>Giles</b> , Jack	jack.giles@mail.com	07522 987155
<b>Hallett</b> , Kevin	kevin.hallett17@virginmedia.com	07831 771896
<b>Hallybone</b> , Bradley	bradhallybone@hotmail.co.uk	07521 360055
<b>Harkin</b> , Thomas	thomas_harkin1@hotmail.com	07917 170247
<b>Harris</b> , Stuart	stuartharrislfc@live.co.uk	07956 983901
<b>Haywood</b> , Kieran	kieranhaywood@ntlworld.com	07765 543465
<b>Horswell</b> , Richard	richhorswell@hotmail.co.uk	07957 123493
<b>Howes</b> , Christopher	Pbhowes@ntlworld.com	07898 141573
<b>Humphries</b> , Brian	footyref@hotmail.com	07521 790300
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# FINAL LEAGUE TABLES SEASON 2014-2015

Premier Division	P	HW	HD	HL	HF	HA	AW	AD	AL	AF	AA	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Renhold United	26	11	1	1	24	5	11	1	1	39	14	22	2	2	63	19	44	68
Flitwick Town	26	9	2	2	31	17	9	2	2	36	13	18	4	4	67	30	37	58
AFC Oakley M&DH	26	8	3	2	26	17	8	1	4	36	24	16	4	6	62	41	21	52
AFC Kempston Town & BC	26	5	2	6	31	21	8	2	3	27	24	13	4	9	58	45	13	43
Shefford Town & Campton	26	5	2	6	29	31	7	3	3	30	18	12	5	9	59	49	10	41
Marston Shelton Rovers	26	4	2	7	24	28	7	3	3	33	22	11	5	10	57	50	7	38
Wootton Blue Cross	26	6	2	5	37	28	5	1	7	24	22	11	3	12	61	50	11	33
Sandy	26	3	4	6	9	16	6	2	5	21	23	9	6	11	30	39	-9	33
Pavenham	26	6	0	7	15	22	4	2	7	21	26	10	2	14	36	48	-12	32
Wilstead	26	3	3	7	31	42	4	3	6	26	27	7	6	13	57	69	-12	27
Sharnbrook	26	3	4	6	22	29	4	2	7	21	27	7	6	13	43	56	-13	27
Eastcotts AFC	26	4	0	9	14	22	3	2	8	12	29	7	2	17	26	51	-25	23
Caldecote	26	4	1	8	30	44	2	2	9	15	41	6	3	17	45	85	-40	18
Ickwell & Old Warden	26	2	0	11	14	44	5	0	8	25	27	7	0	19	39	71	-32	17
AFC Turvey	Withdrew during the season																	
Lidlington United Sports	Withdrew during the season																	

Division One	P	HW	HD	HL	HF	HA	AW	AD	AL	AF	AA	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Cranfield United	28	14	0	0	50	9	11	1	2	45	14	25	1	2	95	23	72	76
Elstow Abbey	28	9	3	2	41	13	12	0	2	42	18	21	3	4	83	31	52	66
Sundon Park Rangers	28	9	2	3	37	23	8	0	6	43	33	17	2	9	80	56	24	53
Henlow	28	7	1	6	39	26	9	2	3	38	19	16	3	9	77	45	32	50
Great Barford	28	7	3	4	39	31	7	1	6	32	21	14	4	10	71	52	19	43
Meltis Albion	28	7	2	5	37	26	4	3	7	23	34	11	5	12	60	60	0	38
Queens Park Crescents	28	6	1	7	23	25	5	3	6	19	24	11	4	13	42	49	-7	37
Riseley Sports	28	7	2	5	23	23	3	5	6	21	31	10	7	11	44	54	-10	37
Potton Town	28	5	2	7	16	28	6	1	7	21	27	11	3	14	37	55	-18	35
AFC Kempston Tn & BC Res	28	5	2	7	28	32	5	2	7	23	33	10	4	14	51	65	-14	33
Shefford Town & Camp Res	28	5	2	7	16	20	4	4	6	22	26	9	6	13	38	46	-8	32
AFC Oakley M&DH Res	28	2	4	8	20	41	4	2	8	22	35	6	6	16	42	76	-34	23
Marabese Ceramics	28	1	6	7	19	31	4	5	5	32	31	5	11	12	51	62	-11	22
AFC Harlington	28	2	3	9	22	46	3	2	9	20	39	5	5	18	42	85	-43	19
Bedford SA	28	2	1	11	15	56	3	3	8	27	40	5	4	19	42	96	-54	19
Brache Sparta	Withdrew during the season																	

Division Two	P	HW	HD	HL	HF	HA	AW	AD	AL	AF	AA	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Stevington	28	12	1	1	74	18	12	0	2	77	15	24	1	3	151	33	118	73
Westoning	28	13	0	1	77	25	11	1	2	69	34	24	1	3	146	59	87	73
Houghton Athletic	28	11	1	2	46	11	10	1	3	61	23	21	2	5	107	34	73	64
Clapham Sports	28	11	1	2	59	23	8	3	3	52	34	19	4	5	111	57	54	61
Elstow Abbey Reserves	28	8	1	5	43	40	5	2	7	32	50	13	3	12	75	90	-15	42
Kempston Hammers Sports	28	6	3	5	30	26	3	6	5	32	39	9	9	10	62	65	-3	36
Wootton Village	28	7	1	6	18	33	4	2	8	25	28	11	3	14	43	61	-18	36
Bedford United	28	2	5	7	44	54	8	0	6	37	43	10	5	13	81	97	-16	34
Kempston Athletic	28	6	0	8	39	50	5	1	8	27	50	11	1	16	66	100	-34	34
Marston Shelton Rovers Res	28	6	1	7	34	37	4	1	9	27	37	10	2	16	61	74	-13	32
Renhold United Reserves	28	6	1	7	46	41	5	1	8	34	43	11	2	15	80	84	-4	30
Moggerhanger United	28	5	2	7	35	42	4	1	9	30	57	9	3	16	65	99	-34	30
Meltis Albion Reserves	28	4	0	10	29	63	6	1	7	33	38	10	1	17	62	101	-39	25
Caldecote Reserves	28	4	0	10	37	70	1	0	13	25	90	5	0	23	62	160	-98	14
Wilstead Reserves	28	0	3	11	34	63	3	0	11	35	64	3	3	22	69	127	-58	12

## FINAL LEAGUE TABLES SEASON 2014-2015

Division Three	P	HW	HD	HL	HF	HA	AW	AD	AL	AF	AA	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Cranfield United Reserves	24	10	1	1	37	8	8	2	2	30	12	18	3	3	67	20	47	57
Lea Sports PSG	24	9	0	3	19	12	8	3	1	33	21	17	3	4	52	33	19	54
Atletico Europa	24	7	1	4	36	24	8	2	2	38	18	15	3	6	74	42	32	48
Flitwick Town Reserves	24	8	2	2	25	12	6	2	4	28	17	14	4	6	53	29	24	45
Dinamo Flitwick	24	7	1	4	28	23	5	3	4	29	25	12	4	8	57	48	9	40
FC Serbia Bedford	24	6	3	3	34	26	6	0	6	15	21	12	3	9	49	47	2	39
White Eagles	24	5	0	7	20	16	6	0	6	15	22	11	0	13	35	38	-3	33
Clifton	24	7	2	3	36	21	2	1	9	19	36	9	3	12	55	57	-2	30
Shefford Town & Camp 'A'	24	5	2	5	19	20	2	2	8	10	29	7	4	13	29	49	-20	23
Sandy Reserves	24	3	3	6	15	24	3	1	8	19	33	6	4	14	34	57	-23	22
Caldecote 'A'	24	2	2	8	9	29	2	2	8	10	29	4	4	16	19	58	-39	16
Westoning Reserves	24	4	0	8	18	31	4	0	8	19	28	8	0	16	37	59	-22	14
Mid Beds Tigers	24	2	2	8	26	33	2	1	9	14	31	4	3	17	40	64	-24	10
Ickwell & OW Reserves	Withdrew during the season																	

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING DATES SEASON 2015-2016

2015 August 6, September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3  
2016 January 7, February 4, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016 Wednesday June 15

### HONOURS BOARD SEASON 2014-2015

**BRITANNIA:** AFC KEMPSTON TOWN & BEDFORD COLLEGE

Finalists: WILSTEAD FC

**CENTENARY:** MELTIS ALBION FC

Finalists: GREAT BARFORD FC

**JUBILEE:** STEVINGTON FC

Finalists: WESTONING FC

**WATSON SHIELD:** ATLETICO EUROPA FC

Finalists: CRANFIELD UNITED FC RESERVES

## BEDFORDSHIRE FA CUPS

**SENIOR TROPHY:** Finalist: AFC OAKLEY M&DH

**INTERMEDIATE:** Finalist: GREAT BARFORD FC

**JUNIOR:** Winners STEVINGTON FC



# PREMIER DIVISION ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

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The Football Association has reviewed the requirements for the grounds of Clubs in the National League System. The Football Association has placed the Bedfordshire County Football League at STEP 7B of the National System. This placement may be reviewed annually, and Clubs have until 31st December in any year to meet the requirements in full. The following is a summary of the main points:

- to provide good sized, separate dressing rooms for each team [minimum size 12 sq.m. excluding shower/toilet area] and separate accommodation for the referee [minimum size 4 sq.m. excluding shower/toilet area].
- Showers and toilet facilities must be provided for each team and for the referee and for spectators. Separate showers shall be provided for each team, each with a minimum of 3 working shower heads. Separate shower facilities must also be provided for the referee. There should be sufficient toilets provided for the sole use of all players, with additional toilet facilities for the sole use of the referee. Club officials and spectators must also have access to their own toilets.
- The pitch should be of a good standard, conforming to the Laws of the game and be as close to 100m x 64m as possible. It must either have fixed barriers or rope on all four sides off the pitch in accordance with instructions from the League Management Committee, unless agreed otherwise. A combination of fixed barriers and rope, erected only for the football season, would be a good solution. The Management Committee will help Clubs to achieve this requirement.
- In addition, all Premier Division Clubs must mark two Technical Areas on the same side of the pitch in the area adjacent to the half way line, INSIDE THE BARRIER leaving sufficient space for the Assistant Referee to operate. These areas may be formed by using the touchline rope, or by markings on the ground. It will be expected that all Club Officials and substitute players remain in the technical area or behind the rope barrier for the duration of the match. There is no current requirement to install Trainers Boxes, though Clubs are encouraged to do so.

## **Additionally:**

- The Standard Match Ball, as specified and provided by the Management Committee must be used in all Premier Division matches.
- Each team shall provide an Assistant Referee, trained to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. The Assistant Referee cannot be the Manager who is with the team in that capacity, nor be a Substitute Player or a player who has been substituted, and except in the case of injury the Assistant Referee may not be changed during the match.
- The home team must provide refreshments for the referee. This may be a hot or cold drink and hot food or a sandwich after the game. Unless the referee indicates otherwise, these should be provided in his dressing room.
- The home team shall also provide after-match refreshments for their opponents. Unless the opponents have notified the home Club, they will be expected to remain for the refreshments after the match. An away Club must not do this on a regular basis.
- ALL CLUBS MUST SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION FOR A CHARTER STANDARD ADULT CLUB.

The Management Committee shall consider any failures to comply with the above under Rule 5[D].

# LEAGUE RECORDS

## FIRST DIVISION - JUBILEE CHALLENGE CUP 1904

1904-05 Queens Park Excelsior	Luton Clarence 1905-06
1906-07 Luton Clarence	Kempston Rovers 1907-08
1908-09 Kempston Rovers	Luton Clarence 1909-10
1910-11 Luton Clarence	Luton Clarence 1911-12
1912-13 Luton Amateurs	No Competition 1913-19
1919-20 Beds & Herts Depot	Woburn & Woburn Sands United 1920-21
1921-22 RAF Henlow Depot	Waterlows Athletic 1922-23
1923-24 Waterlows Athletic	Waterlows Athletic 1924-25
1925-26 Waterlows Athletic	
1926-27 Joint Holders: Bedford Town reserves and Queens Park Rangers	
1927-28 Stony Stratford	Wootton Blue Cross 1928-29
1929-30 Elstow Abbey	Forder's Elstow 1930-31
1931-32 Langford	Queens Park Rangers 1932-33
1933-34 Wootton Blue Cross	Sandy Albions 1934-35
1935-36 Marston Shelton	Marston Shelton 1936-37
1937-38 Marston Shelton	Marston Shelton 1938-39
1939-46 No Competition	Sandy Albions 1946-47
1947-48 Harrold United	Shefford Town 1948-49
1949-50 Langford	Great Barford 1950-51
1951-52 Lidlington United	RAF Brampton 1952-53
1953-54 Stevington	Clapham Sports 1954-55

## RE-ALLOCATED 1956 - PREMIER DIVISION

1955-56 Beds & Herts Regiment	GF United 1956-57
1957-58 Stevington	Kempston Rovers reserves 1958-59
1959-60 Potton United reserves	Kempston Rovers reserves 1960-61
1961-62 Shefford Town reserves	No Competition: 'The Big Freeze' 1962-63
1963-64 Clapham Sports	Ickwell & Old Warden 1964-65
1965-66 Bedford North End	Aspley Guise 1966-67
1967-68 Diemer & Reynolds	Ickwell & Old Warden 1968-69
1969-70 Haynes	Haynes 1970-71
1971-72 Moggerhanger	Everton United 1972-73
1973-74 Queens Athletic	Queens Athletic 1974-75
1975-76 Haynes	Queens Athletic 1976-77
1977-78 Bedford Park Wanderers	Queens Athletic 1978-79
1979-80 Bedford Park Wanderers	Queens Athletic 1980-81
1981-82 Queens Athletic	Queens Athletic 1982-83
1983-84 Queens Athletic	St Cuthberts 1984-85
1985-86 Allens	Bedford Falcons 1986-87
1987-88 Cotton End	Cotton End 1988-89
1989-90 Cotton End	Cotton End 1990-91
1991-92 Ickwell & Old Warden	Cotton End 1992-93

**Original Jubilee Challenge Cup [1904] taken out of general circulation at the end of season 1992-1993, to be replaced by a new trophy. The new trophy was presented to the League by The Duke Inn, Kempston. The Jubilee Challenge Cup was placed in the safe keeping of the Borough of Bedford on 21st June 1995. The Cup was accepted by His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Malcolm Evans, at the League A.G.M. held that evening.**

## THE PREMIER CUP 1993

1993-94 Dunton	Biggleswade United 1994-95
1995-96 Biggleswade United	Caldecote 1996-97
1997-98 Blunham	Caldecote 1998-99
99-2000 Caldecote	Caldecote 2000-01
2001-02 Caldecote	North Park Rangers 2002-03
2003-04 Elstow Abbey	Caldecote 2004-05
2005-06 Caldecote	Westoning Recreation Club 2006-07
2007-08 Campton	Caldecote 2008-09

# LEAGUE RECORDS

2009-10 Blunham  
2011-12 Shefford Town & Campton  
2013-14 Oakley Sports M&DH

Blunham 2010-11  
Caldecote 2012-13  
Renhold United 2014-15

## **DIVISION ONE - IGRANIC CHALLENGE BOWL 1956**

1955-56 Bletsoe  
1957-58 Bletsoe  
1959-60 Renhold United  
1961-62 Clifton  
1963-64 Ickwell & Old Warden  
1965-66 Queens Park United  
1967-68 Cranfield United  
1969-70 Lidlington United  
1971-72 Renhold United  
1973-74 Marston Shelton  
1975-76 Clapham Sports  
1977-78 Wilstead Wanderers  
1979-80 Bedford United  
1981-82 Bromham United  
1983-84 Cotton End  
1985-86 Campton  
1987-88 Marston Shelton  
1989-90 Blunham  
1991-92 Biggleswade United  
1993-94 Caldecote  
1995-96 Wootton United  
1997-98 Cranfield Village  
99-2000 Stevington  
2001-02 Elstow Abbey  
2003-04 Turvey  
2005-06 Henlow  
2007-08 Bedford S.A.  
2009-10 Flitwick Town  
2011-12 Ickwell & Old Warden  
2013-14 AFC Turvey

Stevington 1956-57  
Clapham Sports 1958-59  
Elstow Abbey 1960-61  
No Competition 'The Big Freeze' 1962-63  
Great Barford 1964-65  
Ampthill Town reserves 1966-67  
Ampthill Athletic 1968-69  
Lidlington United 1970-71  
Nicholls Athletic 1972-73  
Bromham United 1974-75  
Hunting Athletic 1976-77  
Bedford Young Indians 1978-79  
Claypot Athletic 1980-81  
White City 1982-83  
AFC Stanley 1984-85  
Clapham Sports 1986-87  
Wootton United 1988-89  
Caldecote 1990-91  
Elstow Abbey 1992-93  
Riseley Sports 1994-95  
Bromham United 1996-97  
North Park Rangers 1998-99  
Campton 2000-01  
Golden Lion 2002-03  
Three Horseshoes Renhold 2004-05  
Meltis Corinthians 2006-07  
Westoning Recreation Club 2008-09  
Bedford Hatters 2010-11  
Leighton United 2012-13  
Cranfield United 2014-15

## **DIVISION TWO - GALLETLY CUP 1920**

1919-20 Queens Park Rangers  
1921-22 Harrold  
1923-24 Goldington  
1925-26 Queens Park Rangers  
1927-28 St. Neots & District reserves  
1929-30 Harrold United  
1931-32 Eynesbury Rovers  
1933-34 Kempston Rovers  
1935-36 Elstow Abbey  
1937-38 Britannia Works  
1939-46 No Competition  
1947-48 Great Barford  
1949-50 Stevington  
1951-52 Woburn Athletic  
1953-54 Beds & Herts Regiment  
1955-56 Sharnbrook  
1957-58 Renhold United  
1959-60 Wyboston  
1961-62 Bedford Wanderers  
1963-64 Flitton & Greenfield  
1965-66 Everton United  
1967-68 Ampthill Athletic  
1969-70 Goldington United  
1971-72 Haylands O.B.

Sharnbrook 1920-21  
Sandy Albions reserves 1922-23  
Harrold United 1924-25  
Eynesbury Rovers 1926-27  
Potton Town 1928-29  
Eynesbury Rovers 1930-31  
Marston Shelton 1932-33  
Marston Rovers 1934-35  
Wootton Blue Cross reserves 1936-37  
Green End United 1938-39  
St. Neots St. Marys 1946-47  
Haynes Athletic 1948-49  
Lidlington 1950-51  
Stondon Athletic 1952-53  
Bletsoe 1954-55  
Carlton Athletic 1956-57  
RBS & Hopkirks 1958-59  
Sharnbrook 1960-61  
No Competition 'The Big Freeze' 1962-63  
Goldington United 1964-65  
Haynes 1966-67  
Bedford Park Wanderers 1968-69  
Flitton & Greenfield 1970-71  
Cotton End 1972-73

# LEAGUE RECORDS

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1973-74 Bedford Falcons	Dunton 1974-75
1975-76 Northside Athletic	Wilstead Wanderers 1976-77
1977-78 Marston Shelton	Biggleswade Town reserves 1978-79
1979-80 Clapham Sports reserves	Elstow Abbey 1980-81
1981-82 White City	Cotton End 1982-83
1983-84 Granada Rentals	Goldington Electric 1984-85
1985-86 Allens	Wootton United 1986-87
1987-88 Ickwell & Old Warden	Smiths Sports 1988-89
1989-90 Ickwell & Old Warden reserves	Biggleswade United 1990-91
1991-92 Elstow Abbey	Brickhill Tigers 1992-93
1993-94 White Horse	Blunham 1994-95
1995-96 St Cuthberts	Cranfield Village 1996-97
1997-98 Stevington	Renhold United 1998-99
99-2000 Thurleigh Casuals	Cranfield United 2000-01
2001-02 Golden Lion	Flitwick Town 2002-03
2003-04 Biggleswade United 'A'	Denbigh Hall S&S Club 2004-05
2005-06 Marston Social	Westoning Recreation Club reserves 2006-07
2007-08 Bedford College	Blunham reserves 2008-09
2009-10 Potton Wanderers	Lea Sports PSG 2010-11
2011-12 Elstow Abbey	Goldington 2012-13
2013-14 Oakley Sports M&DH reserves	Stevington 2014-15

## **DIVISION THREE CUP 1995 - Presented by Mr & Mrs T.M.Sadler**

1994-95 Corinthians	Dunton reserves 1995-96
1996-97 Potton Town	Renhold United 1997-98
1998-99 Campton reserves	Royal Oak Kempston 99-2000
2000-01 North Park Rangers reserves	MK Wanderers 2001-02
2002-03 to 2005-06 No Division Three Competition	
2006-07 Ickwell & Old Warden reserves	Kings AFC 2007-08
2008-09 Leighton United	Queens Park Crescents 2009-10
2010-11 Sharnbrook reserves	Cranfield United reserves 2011-12
2012-13 Westoning reserves	Meltis Albion 2013-14
2014-15 Cranfield United reserves	

## **DIVISION FOUR - EXECUTIVE CUP 1970**

1970-71 Hunting Athletic	Tempsford 1971-72
1972-73 KS Mewa	Northside Athletic 1973-74
1974-75 Cople	Everton 1975-76
1976-77 Bedford West Indians	BETA reserves 1977-78
1978-79 Elstow Abbey	USACLI 1979-80
1980-81 Allens reserves	Wootton United 1981-82
1982-83 Wilshamstead reserves	CIT 1983-84
1984-85 Foresters Arms	Westoning reserves 1985-86
1986-87 Cotton End reserves	Ickwell & Old Warden reserves 1987-88
1988-89 Riseley Sports	Cotton End reserves 1989-90
1990-91 Marston Shelton Rovers reserves	Bedford SA 1991-92
1992-93 Bow Brickhill	Clifton 1993-94
1994-95 Dunton reserves	Woburn reserves 1995-96
1996-97 Campton reserves	Royal Oak Kempston 1997-98
1998-99 Thurleigh Casuals	Wilshamstead 99-2000
2000-01 Blunham Village	Oakley Sports reserves 2001-02

## **RE-ALLOCATED 2002 - ASSOCIATE DIVISION ONE**

2002-03 Dunton reserves	Elstow Abbey reserves 2003-04
2004-05 Bedford SA reserves	Caldecote reserves 2005-06
2006-09 No competition	

## **RE-ALLOCATED 2009 - DIVISION FOUR**

2009-10 Sharnbrook reserves	AFC Turvey 2010-11
2011-12 Bedford Park Rangers	Bedford Panthers 2012-13
2013-14 Meltis Albion reserves	No Competition 2014-15

# LEAGUE RECORDS

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## **DIVISION FIVE - PRESIDENTS CUP 1969 Presented by Mr & Mrs H.Rutter**

1968-69 Cotton End United	Westfield Youth Club 1969-70
1970-71 Haynes reserves	Renhold reserves 1971-72
1972-73 ERCU	Cople 1973-74
1974-75 Kempston Green End	Great Barford 1975-76
1976-77 BETA reserves	Mulberry Sports 1977-78
1978-79 USACLI	St Cuthberts reserves 1979-80
1980-81 Cotton End	White City reserves 1981-82
1982-83 Cotton End reserves	Brickhill Tigers 1983-84
1984-85 Campton reserves	AFC Stanley reserves 1985-86
1986-87 Riseley Sports	Goldington Sportsman 1987-88
1988-89 Marston Shelton Rovers reserves	Lidlington United reserves 1989-90
1990-91 Kempston Town	Tempsford 1991-92
1992-93 Hunting Athletic reserves	Haynes 1993-94
1994-95 Golden Lion	Olympus Sports 1995-96
1996-97 Renhold United	Elstow Abbey reserves 1997-98
1998-99 Wilshamstead	Meppershall Jurassic 99-2000
2000-01 Bedford SA reserves	Westoning reserves 2001-02

## **RE-ALLOCATED 2002 – ASSOCIATE DIVISION TWO**

2002-03 Meltis Sports	Ickwell & Old Warden reserves 2003-04
2004-05 Woburn reserves	Exel United 2005-06
2006-15 No Competition	

## **BRITANNIA CUP 1948**

1948-49 Shefford Town	Langford 1949-50
1950-51 RAF Henlow	Joint Holders: Clapham Sports and Stevington 1951-52
1952-53 RAF Brampton	Clapham Sports 1953-54
1954-55 Clapham Sports	Bletsoe 1955-56
1956-57 Bedford North End	Kempston Rovers reserves 1957-58
1958-59 Kempston Rovers reserves	Potton United reserves 1959-60
1960-61 Shefford Town reserves	Bedford Avenue 1961-62
1962-63 Eaton Socon	Moggerhanger United 1963-64
1964-65 Haynes	Campton 1965-66
1966-67 Clapham Sports	Diemer & Reynolds 1967-68
1968-69 Ampthill Athletic	Haynes 1969-70
1970-71 Lidlington United	Queens Athletic 1971-72
1972-73 Everton United	Ickwell & Old Warden 1973-74
1974-75 Haynes	Moggerhanger United 1975-76
1976-77 Queens Athletic	Westoning 1977-78
1978-79 Bedford Park Wanderers	Bedford Young Indians 1979-80
1980-81 Bedford Young Indians	Claypot Athletic 1981-82
1982-83 Clapham Sports	Queens Athletic 1983-84
1984-85 Queens Athletic	St Cuthberts 1985-86
1986-87 USACLI	Eaton Socon 1987-88
1988-89 Cotton End	Fairfield Social 1989-90
1990-91 Smiths Sports	Wilshamstead 1991-92
1992-93 No Competition 'The Wet Winter'	Biggleswade United 1993-94
1994-95 Biggleswade United	Biggleswade United 1995-96
1996-97 Caldecote	Blunham 1997-98
1998-99 Caldecote	St Cuthberts 99-2000
2000-01 Blunham	Caldecote 2001-02
2002-03 Elstow Abbey	Caldecote 2003-04
2004-05 Campton	Caldecote 2005-06
2006-07 Westoning Recreation Club	Meltis Corinthians 2007-08
2008-09 Caldecote	Caldecote 2009-10
2010-11 Shefford Town & Campton	Oakley Sports 2011-12
2012-13 Oakley Sports M&DH	Shefford Town & Campton 2013-14
2014-15 AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College	



# LEAGUE RECORDS

## AUBREY TINGEY MEMORIAL CUP 1972

1972-73 Cotton End	Dunton 1973-74
1974-75 Arlesey Youth Club	Northside Athletic 1975-76
1976-77 Marston Shelton	Bedford Queens Works 1977-78
1978-79 Cutler Hammer	Queens Athletic reserves 1979-80
1980-81 White City	White City 1981-82
1982-83 Cotton End	Westoning 1983-84
1984-85 Westoning	Wootton United 1985-86
1986-87 Blunham	Lidlington United Sports 1987-88
1988-89 Biggleswade United	Lidlington United Sports 1989-90
1990-91 Lidlington United Sports	Riseley Sports 1991-92
1992-93 No Competition 'The Wet Winter'	Bow Brickhill 1993-94
1994-95 Sandy Town	Rushden Rangers 1995-96
1996-97 Duke Inn Sports	Henlow 1997-98
1998-99 Renhold United	Royal Oak Kempston 99-2000
2000-01 Royal Oak Kempston	Lidlington United Sports 2001-02
2002-03 Golden Lion	Three Horseshoes Renhold 2003-04

## 2004 Trophy Withdrawn

## CENTENARY CUP 2004

2004-05 Three Horseshoes Renhold	Henlow 2005-06
2006-07 Meltis Corinthians	Bedford S.A. 2007-08
2008-09 Royal Oak Kempston	Leighton United 2009-10
2010-11 Bedford Hatters	Ickwell & Old Warden 2011-12
2012-13 Henlow	Henlow 2013-14
2014-15 Meltis Albion	

## JUBILEE CUP 1965

1965-66 St Neots St Mary's	Haynes 1966-67
1967-68 Wyboston United	Dunton 1968-69
1969-70 Clifton	Tempsford 1970-71
1971-72 Queens Athletic reserves	Northside Athletic 1972-73
1973-74 Arlesey Youth Club	Clapham Sports reserves 1974-75
1975-76 Renhold reserves	Bedford West Indians 1976-77
1977-78 Woburn reserves	Elstow Abbey 1978-79
1979-80 White City	Allens reserves 1980-81
1981-82 Goldington Electric	Westoning reserves 1982-83
1983-84 Blunham	Brickhill Tigers 1984-85
1985-86 Haynes	KC Sports 1986-87
1987-88 Riseley Sports	Riseley Sports 1988-89
1989-90 Biggleswade Town 'A'	Biggleswade United reserves 1990-91
1991-92 Kempston Town	No Competition 'The Wet Winter' 1992-93
1993-94 Clifton	North Park Rangers 1994-95
1995-96 Woburn reserves	Olympus Sports 1996-97
1997-98 Ickwell & Old Warden reserves	Thurleigh Casuals 1998-99
99-2000 Wilshamstead	Woburn reserves 2000-01
2001-02 Bedford SA reserves	Corinthians 2002-03
2003-04 Duke Sports	Denbigh Hall S&S Club 2004-05
2005-06 Marston Social	Westoning Recreation Club reserves 2006-07
2007-08 Great Barford	Meppershall Jurassic 2008-09
2009-10 Bedford Hatters	Westoning Recreation Club 2010-11
2011-12 AFC Turvey	Marabese Ceramics 2012-13
2013-14 Great Barford	Stevington 2014-15

## WATSON SHIELD 2002 – Presented by Mr B. T. Watson

2002-03 Dunton reserves	2003-04 Stevington reserves
2004-05 Caldecote reserves	Caldecote reserves 2005-06
2006-07 Clifton	Riseley Sports reserves 2007-08
2008-09 Leighton United	M & DH Oakley 2009-10
2010-11 Co-op Sports [Saturday]	Goldington 2011-12
2012-13 Renhold United reserves	Stevington 2013-14
2014-15 Atletico Europa	

# REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM SEASON 2015-2016

1. **Definitions:** In the interpretation of these Regulations: any words and expressions, unless otherwise defined herein, shall be words and expressions as defined as follows:-

“**AC**” means the Alliance Committee appointed by FA Council.

“**Association**” means The Football Association Limited.

“**Club**” means a football club for the time being in a League in membership of the NLS.

“**League**” means any competition sanctioned by the Association and/or an Affiliated Association in membership of the NLS.

“**LC**” means the Leagues Committee appointed by FA Council.

“**NLS**” means the National League System of competitions controlled by the Association where promotion and relegation links exist between participating Leagues.

“**Playing Season**” means the period between the date on which the first competitive fixture in the League is played each year until the date on which the last competitive fixture in the League is played. For Clubs participating in Play Off Matches this does include the period when Play Off Matches are played.

“**Play Off Matches**” means matches played between Clubs in a Play Off Position on a format to be determined by each League provided that the format is the same across each Step.

“**Play Off Position**” means the position of a Club at the end of each Playing Season which is provided for in Standardised Rule 13 as qualifying the Club to take part in a Play Off Match to qualify for promotion to the next Step for the next Playing Season.

“**Regulations**” means these regulations.

“**Rules**” means the FA Standardised Rules or FA Standard Code of Rules under which a League is administered.

“**Step**” means the level at which a Club participates in the National League System.

2. The National League System (“NLS”) shall be operated in accordance with the Regulations.

The aims and objectives of the NLS are to provide:

**2.1** Clubs with a level of competitive football appropriate to their playing ability, stadium/ground facilities and geographical location.

**2.2** A framework for discussion on matters of policy and common interest to Leagues and Clubs.

**2.3** The seasonal movement of Clubs.

All Leagues are bound by the Regulations. A Club is bound by the Regulations from the date it has qualified for placement into the NLS until such time as it leaves the NLS for whatever reason.

## 3. POSITION OF A LEAGUE IN THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM

3.1 The current structure of the NLS is set out below:

### STEP 1

National League

### STEP 2

National League  
North

National League  
South

# REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM SEASON 2015-2016

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## STEP 3

Northern Premier  
League Premier  
Division

Southern  
League Premier  
Division

Isthmian League  
Premier Division

## STEP 4

Northern  
Premier  
League  
Division  
One North

Northern  
Premier  
League  
Division  
One South

Southern  
League  
Division  
One Central

Southern  
League  
Division  
One South  
& West

Isthmian  
League  
Division  
One  
North

Isthmian  
League  
Division  
One  
South

## STEPS 5/6

Steps 5/6 Leagues

## STEP 7

STEP 7 LEAGUES

The Leagues currently at Steps 5, 6 and 7 are set out at the end of the Regulations.

**3.2** Any league wishing to become part of the NLS must apply to The Association by 31st December in the relevant year in such form and/or providing such information as shall be required by the LC from time to time. The decision as to whether or not a league should be admitted to the NLS shall be made by the LC which will then decide on the Step at which the League will play.

**3.3** Any League wishing to propose an adjustment to its position within the NLS must apply in writing to the LC by 31<sup>st</sup> December in any year for such proposal to be determined by the LC in order, if approved, to have effect in the following Playing Season.

## 4. Rules and Regulations for Promotion and Relegation

The LC shall provide for the seasonal promotion, relegation or lateral movement of Clubs. A League must be committed to promoting and relegating Clubs at the conclusion of each Playing Season.

## 5. Detailed Promotion and Relegation Issues

**5.1** The criteria for entry to the NLS and the criteria for ground/stadium facilities and the criteria for participation in Play Off Matches shall be determined by the LC. All criteria so determined shall be published by The Association from time to time.

**5.2** At the conclusion of each Playing Season, the following procedures will apply to promotion/relegation subject to the application of the Rules:

### STEP 1 AND STEP 2

The following does not apply to promotion from Step 1.

# **REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM SEASON 2015-2016**

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The Clubs finishing in the bottom four places at Step 1 at the end of the Playing Season will be relegated to a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 2 for the following Playing Season. They will be replaced by the Clubs finishing in 1<sup>st</sup> position in each of the divisions at Step 2 together with a further two Clubs determined by a series of Play Off Matches. Where a Club finishes in 1<sup>st</sup> position but does not meet the criteria for participation at the next Step, the Club finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> position shall be promoted and the Club finishing in the next eligible position shall take part in the Play Off Matches. Where a Club finishes in a Play Off Position but does not meet the criteria for participation in Play Off Matches the Club finishing in the next eligible position shall take part in the Play Off Matches. The Play Off Matches shall be played so that in each Step 2 division the highest placed of the eligible Clubs plays against the lowest placed and the other two Clubs play each other. The aggregate winners will play each other and the winner of that match will be promoted. If there are only three eligible Clubs then the highest placed shall receive a bye to a second match where it will play the winner of the other Play Off Match and the winner of that match will be promoted. Clubs finishing below position 7 will not be considered for Play Off Matches.

## **STEP 2 AND STEP 3**

The Clubs in the bottom three places in each of the two divisions at Step 2 at the end of the Playing Season will be relegated to a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 3 for the following Playing Season. They will be replaced by the Clubs finishing in 1<sup>st</sup> position in each of the divisions at Step 3 together with a further three Clubs determined by a series of Play Off Matches. Where a Club finishes in 1<sup>st</sup> position but does not meet the criteria for participation at the next Step, the Club finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> position shall be promoted and the Club finishing in the next eligible position shall take part in the Play Off Matches. Where a Club finishes in a Play Off Position but does not meet the criteria for participation in Play Off Matches the Club finishing in the next eligible position shall take part in the Play Off Matches. The Play Off Matches shall be played so that the highest placed of the eligible Clubs plays against the lowest placed and the other two Clubs play each other. At Step 2 the aggregate winners will play each other and the winner of that match will be promoted and at Step 3 the winners of each first match will play each other and the winner of that match will be promoted. If there are only three eligible Clubs then the highest placed shall receive a bye to a second match where it will play the winner of the other Play Off Match and the winner of that match will be promoted. Clubs finishing below position 7 will not be considered for Play Off Matches.

The promoted Clubs will be placed in a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 2.

## **STEP 3 AND STEP 4**

The Clubs in the bottom four places in each of the three divisions at Step 3 at the end of the Playing Season will be relegated to a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 4 for the following Playing Season. They will be replaced by the Club finishing in 1<sup>st</sup> position in each of the divisions at Step 4 together with a further six Clubs to be determined by a series of Play Off Matches. Where a Club finishes in 1<sup>st</sup> position but does not meet the criteria for participation at the next Step, the Club finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> position shall be promoted and the Club finishing in the next eligible position shall take part in the Play Off Matches. Where a Club finishes in a Play Off Position but does not meet the criteria for participation in Play Off Matches the Club finishing in the next eligible position shall take part in the Play Off Matches. The Play Off Matches shall be played so that the highest placed of the eligible Clubs plays against the lowest placed and the other two Clubs play each other. The winners of each match will play each other and the winner of that match will be promoted. If there are only three eligible Clubs then the highest placed shall receive a bye to a second match where it will play the winner of the other Play Off Match and the winner of that match will be promoted. Clubs finishing below position 7 will not be considered for Play Off Matches.

The promoted Clubs will be placed in a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 3.

# REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM SEASON 2015-2016

## STEP 4 AND STEP 5

At the end of the Playing Season the Clubs in the bottom two places in each of the four divisions at Step 4 administered by the Northern Premier and Southern Leagues, together with the Clubs in the bottom three places in each of the two divisions administered by the Isthmian League will be relegated and placed in the most geographically appropriate League at Step 5. Irrespective of any provision contained within the Rules the Clubs finishing in bottom position in each of the six Step 4 divisions will be relegated and will not be reprieved. These Clubs will be replaced by the fourteen most suitable Clubs from the Leagues at Step 5 as determined by the LC. The suitability shall be determined as the Club finishing in 1<sup>st</sup> position in each Step 5 League which meets the entry criteria and wishes to be considered for promotion. In the event of the 1<sup>st</sup> placed Club not being eligible, the Clubs finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> position shall be subject to the same criteria. In usual circumstances, no more than one Club will be promoted from any one League. The Clubs to be promoted from Step 5 will be allocated to the most geographically appropriate division at Step 4.

If vacancies remain, consideration will be given to reprieving those Clubs other than bottom placed clubs relegated from Step 4 who will be ranked according to the average number of points gained per games played and the Club with the highest average shall be reprieved first. In the event of Clubs having an identical record the Club to be reprieved shall be determined by the LC.

Any Club seeking promotion from Step 5 to Step 4 must make application to the Association on the prescribed form, copied to their existing League, by 30<sup>th</sup> November in the relevant year. The application must be accompanied by the appropriate application fee, as determined by the LC, which is non refundable. Applicant Clubs must achieve a minimum E Grade by 31<sup>st</sup> March in the Playing Season when promotion is sought.

## STEP 5 TO STEP 6 AND STEP 6 TO STEP 7

The promotion and relegation of Clubs between Steps 5, 6 and 7 shall be dealt with as follows.

Movement of Clubs between Steps 5, 6 and 7, where a League operates at each Step, shall be included in their constitutional rules and regulations. Irrespective of any provision contained within the Rules, the Clubs finishing in bottom position in each of the fourteen Step 5 divisions will be relegated to Step 6 and will not be reprieved, as determined by the LC.

Clubs seeking promotion to Step 5 from a League at Step 6 which is not linked to Step 5, must make application using the prescribed form direct to the Association, copied to their existing League, by 31<sup>st</sup> December in the relevant year. Each application must be accompanied by the agreed application fee, as determined by the LC, which is non refundable.

*Clubs seeking promotion to Step 6 from a League at Step 7 which is not linked to Step 6, must make application using the prescribed form direct to the Association, copied to their existing League, by 31<sup>st</sup> December in the relevant year. In order to be considered for promotion Clubs must finish in 1<sup>st</sup> position in their Step 7 league. If the Club finishing in 1<sup>st</sup> position does not wish to be promoted or fails to meet the entry criteria then the club finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> position will be eligible for promotion. If the club in 2<sup>nd</sup> position does not seek promotion or fails to meet the entry criteria then clubs down to 5<sup>th</sup> position may be considered for promotion provided that they meet the appropriate entry criteria. Clubs finishing below 5<sup>th</sup> position will not be considered for promotion and only one club will be considered from each League. Each application must be accompanied by the agreed application fee, as determined by the LC, which is non refundable.*

**5.3** Where a vacancy occurs within the NLS the following procedures will apply:-

**5.3.1 (a)** Where a Club notifies its intention to resign from its League at the end of the Playing Season, then a vacancy is created on the date the notification of intention to resign is formally accepted by that League.



# REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM SEASON 2015-2016

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In all cases, the Club will be placed in the bottom position in that division.

In cases where the vacancy is created prior to the end of the Playing Season, the vacancy will be filled by the best ranked Club in that same division.

In cases where the vacancy is created after the end of the Playing Season but before the League's AGM, the vacancy will be filled in accordance with Regulation 5.3.2 below.

**5.3.1 (b)** Where, during the course of the Playing Season, a Club notifies its intention to resign from its League with immediate effect or where a Club is removed from the League for any other reason, then the playing record of that Club will be expunged and a vacancy is created on the date the resignation or removal is formally accepted or recorded by that League.

In all such cases the Club will be placed in the bottom position in that division and the vacancy will be filled by the best ranked Club in that same division.

**5.3.2** Where a vacancy occurs at Step 1 following the completion of a Playing Season the best ranked Club in a relegation position in that division is rerieved.

Where a vacancy occurs at Steps 2 and 3 following the completion of a Playing Season the best ranked Club in a relegation position across the particular Step is rerieved. The ranking to be determined by the average points gained per game played and comparable league position. The Club with the highest average shall be rerieved first. In the event of Clubs having an identical record the Club to be rerieved shall be determined by the LC.

Where a vacancy arises and clubs at Step 4 are to be rerieved, the four clubs in 21<sup>st</sup> position in the Northern Premier and Southern Leagues and the two clubs in 22<sup>nd</sup> position in the Isthmian League would be ranked by the average points per game played. In the event of all of the above six clubs being rerieved and there are further vacancies available the next two places would be allocated to the clubs in 23<sup>rd</sup> position in the Isthmian League ranked on the average points per game played.

**5.3.3** Where a vacancy occurs after the date of a League AGM then a League is not able to replace the Club(s) concerned for the following Playing Season.

**5.3.4** In the event that for any reason whatsoever there are more vacancies in a division before the end of a Playing Season than relegation places in that division, the question of relegation and rerieves shall be dealt with at the sole discretion of the LC.

**5.4** Only internal changes to the constitution of a League are allowed following the holding of a League's Annual General Meeting.

**5.5** Clubs are not allowed to enter into a ground share agreement in order to gain promotion or to retain membership at a particular Step where the Club has failed to attain or maintain the relevant Grade.

**5.6** Ground grading requirements will be in accordance with the Rules.

In order to be considered for promotion, the following requirements will apply.

**Step 1** - Clubs must comply fully with the requirements of Grade A.

**Step 2** - Clubs competing at Step 2 must comply fully with the requirements of Grade B. To be considered for promotion to Step 1 or to be included in the Play Off Matches, Clubs must meet the requirements of Grade B together with any additional requirements by 31<sup>st</sup> March in the year in which they seek promotion. Clubs must also attain Grade A by 31<sup>st</sup> March in the year following promotion.

# **REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM SEASON 2015-2016**

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**Step 3** - Clubs competing at Step 3 must comply fully with the requirements of Grade C. To be considered for promotion to Step 2 or to be included in the Play Off Matches, Clubs must meet the requirements of Grade C and attain Grade B by 31<sup>st</sup> March in the year following promotion.

**Step 4** - Clubs competing at Step 4 must comply fully with the requirements of Grade D. To be considered for promotion to Step 3 or to be included in the Play Off Matches, Clubs must meet the requirements of Grade D and attain Grade C by 31<sup>st</sup> March in the year following promotion.

**Step 5** - Clubs competing at Step 5 must comply fully with the requirements of Grade F. To be considered for promotion to Step 4, Clubs must meet the requirements of Grade E by 31<sup>st</sup> March in the year in which they seek promotion, and attain Grade D by 31<sup>st</sup> March in the year following promotion.

**Step 6** - Clubs competing at Step 6 must comply fully with the requirements of Grade G. To be considered for promotion to Step 5 Clubs must meet the requirements of Grade G and attain Grade F by 31<sup>st</sup> March in the year following promotion.

**Step 7** - Clubs competing at Step 7 must comply fully with the minimum requirements in force. To be considered for promotion to Step 6 Clubs must meet the requirements of Grade H and attain Grade G by 31<sup>st</sup> March in the year following promotion. Clubs can be promoted from Step 7 to 6 without floodlights provided that all other requirements of Grade H are met by 31<sup>st</sup> March in the Playing Season in which the Club wishes to gain promotion and that the Club has the following in place:-

- Planning permission for floodlights
- Funding applications submitted if required
- Quotations/estimates for the work to be carried out
- A development/business plan
- That by 30<sup>th</sup> September following promotion the floodlights are installed and in working order.

Failure to install floodlights in working order by 30<sup>th</sup> September following promotion will result in a sanction being imposed at the discretion of the League of which the Club is a member. If by 31<sup>st</sup> March in the year following promotion the floodlights are still not installed then the Club will be a relegated Club and be dealt with accordingly.

**5.7** If a Club is relegated for not achieving the required Grade for the Step at which it is playing it will not be eligible for promotion again until it has attained the required Grade for the Step to which it wishes to be promoted. The Club must have that Grade at 31<sup>st</sup> March in the year in which it seeks promotion.

## **6. The Movement of Clubs within the National League System other than by Promotion or Relegation**

**6.1** Movement of a Club from participation in one League to another is not permitted other than by promotion and relegation or otherwise as set out in League Rules save with the approval of the LC.

It may be necessary from time to time to move Clubs laterally at the same Step. Each year the LC will consider whether any lateral movements may be necessary at each Step; if so the Clubs likely to be affected shall be notified and given the opportunity to present a case if that Club does not wish to be moved laterally. The final decision shall rest with a sub-committee of the LC. This sub-committee may include members of Step 5 or Step 6 Leagues if appropriate. Any appeal shall be to the LC using members who have not been involved in the original decision. The decision of that appeal shall be final and binding subject only to Arbitration under FA Rule K.

In coming to its decision the LC will have regard to any representations made by any party, the distance to be travelled by any Club to be moved compared to the distance travelled in the Playing Season prior to movement; the financial impact on the Club to be moved, the frequency with which the Club has been moved in the past; the number of Clubs both in the division to

# **REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM SEASON 2015-2016**

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which the Club is to be moved and in the division from which the Club is moved, and any other matter that it considers to be relevant.

**6.2** Any Club proposing to move from one League to another must make application in writing to The Association on or before 31<sup>st</sup> March in each year to be effective for the following Playing Season. In the event of such application being successful the League from which the Club is moving shall not levy a financial penalty on that Club.

**6.3 (i)** If a Club (whether a Members' Club or a Company) is wound up, liquidated, or is removed from its League or withdraws from football competition ('the Former Club'), and a new Club ('the New Club') is established which wishes to be placed within the NLS, then unless otherwise determined by the LC, it will be allowed to make an application only to join a League/division at Step 5 of the NLS unless the Former Club was in either Step 4 or Step 5 when the event which caused it to cease its membership occurred in which case it must re-join the NLS at a minimum of two Steps below the level at which it was at the time the event occurred, or withdrew from football competition, whichever is lower. Where the Former Club was a member of The FA Premier League or Football League then the LC shall at its absolute discretion determine in which League the New Club shall be placed for the following Playing Season and will set out at its complete discretion the requirements to be met by the New Club.

In order for consideration to be given to the placement in the NLS of the New Club in the following Playing Season, an initial application must be received by the LC by 1st March or within twenty-one days of the Former Club being wound up, liquidated, resigning or being removed from its League or withdrawing from football competition, if such date is later than 1st March.

The full application accompanied by all necessary documents including evidence of security of tenure having been granted to the New Club and affiliation to a County Football Association must be received by 31<sup>st</sup> March or within twenty-one days of the Former Club being wound up, liquidated, resigning or being removed from its League or withdrawing from football competition, if such date is later than 1st March. The application shall be copied to the League of which membership is being requested. The application will be determined by the LC.

In considering any application, the LC will set out at its sole discretion the requirements to be met by the New Club.

In the event of more than one application being received within twenty-one days of the Former Club being wound up, liquidated, resigning or being removed from its League or withdrawing from football competition, the LC will consider at its discretion which application will be considered in accordance with this Regulation.

**6.3 (ii)** If a Club is removed from its League and wishes to remain in the NLS it shall apply to the LC within two working days of it receiving written notification of its removal from its League. The LC will consider such application and will place the Club in what it considers at its sole discretion to be the most appropriate League/division for the following Playing Season.

**6.4** If a Club (whether a Members' Club or a Company) ceases to be a member of its league and that Club (that is not a New Club as defined at 6.3 above) wishes to be placed within the NLS for the immediately following Playing Season, then unless otherwise determined by the LC, it may be allowed to make an application to join a League/division below the most recent League/division of which the Club was a member.

In order for consideration to be given to the placement in the NLS by the Club in the immediately following Playing Season, an initial application must be received by the LC in accordance with the procedures set out at 6.3 above. The application shall be copied to the League of which membership is being requested. The application will be determined by the LC at its absolute discretion.

# **REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM SEASON 2015-2016**

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In considering any application, the LC will set out at its sole discretion the requirements to be met by the Club in determining whether to approve the application.

**6.5** If two or more Clubs (“the Merging Clubs”) are proposing a transaction or series of transactions that result in the merging or consolidation (“the Proposed Merger”) of those Clubs into one Club (“the Merged Club”) then a formal application to do so must be received by the LC and the league(s) of which the Merging Clubs are members by 31<sup>st</sup> December to be valid for the following Playing Season.

A Deed of Agreement, which shall be legally binding on all parties must be submitted to The Association by 31<sup>st</sup> March in the year immediately following receipt of the application. The LC shall determine at its absolute discretion where the Merged Club is to be included in the NLS for the following Playing Season subject to the provisions of item 6.5.5 below.

In arriving at its decision the LC may apply the following minimum criteria:

**6.5.1** The requirements of Standardised Rule 2.9 for the current Playing Season must be met by each of the Merging Clubs. If one or more of the Merging Clubs is subject to an insolvency event then Standardised Rule 2.9.2 shall be applied to such club(s), otherwise Standardised Rule 2.9.1 shall be applied;

**6.5.2** The proposed playing name of the Merged Club must be acceptable to the LC; and

**6.5.3** The Merged Club must have security of tenure to a ground that meets the relevant ground grading requirements;

**6.5.4** Any other criteria that the LC may from time to time deem to be appropriate;

**6.5.5** The Merged Club will ordinarily be placed at the lower of the Steps at which the Merging Clubs ended the Playing Season in which the application is made. For the purposes of this Regulation, if one of the Merging Clubs has finished that Playing Season in a relegation place, then they will be deemed to have ended the Playing Season at the Step to which they would have been relegated without the Proposed Merger proceeding.

Any decision regarding whether a proposed transaction or series of transactions falls to be considered under this Regulation shall be determined by the LC at its absolute discretion

## **7. Placement of a Club into a League**

**7.1** Usually a club can only enter the NLS at Step 7. However, in exceptional circumstances a League may seek approval from the LC to receive a club not currently in membership of a League within the NLS provided that there is: (a) a vacancy within its constitution (b) the club meets the entry criteria and (c) promotion and relegation issues have been satisfied. Such request must be received by no later than 1<sup>st</sup> March.

**7.2** Reserve teams, including a team from a club or Club which is not considered by the LC to be sufficiently separate from another club or Club, will not be permitted to compete above Step 6 in the NLS. There must be a minimum of two Steps between a first and reserve team. This does not apply at Steps 6 & 7. No two teams from the same Club can play at the same Step. Reserve teams currently at Step 5 can remain unless relegated, once relegated they will not be permitted to be promoted back to Step 5.

**7.3** Teams from Higher Education or Further Education establishments are not permitted to compete above Step 5. This does not prevent any such establishment forming a Club which complies with all entry criteria and which is separate from the establishment itself.

**7.4** Where a Club moves from one League to another, for whatever reason, the League from which it is being moved must provide the League to which the Club is being moved with a certificate confirming that the Club being moved does not owe any money or other property of any nature to the League from which it is being moved. The Club being moved cannot compete in its new League until such certificate has been provided and the onus will be on the Club being moved to ensure that it has cleared all indebtedness to its previous League.

# REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM SEASON 2015-2016

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## **8. Procedures for the Determination of any Matter, Dispute or Difference by the Leagues Committee**

**8.1** The LC may adopt such procedures for the determination of any matter, dispute or difference as it considers appropriate and expedient, having regard to the aims and objectives set out at Regulation 1. The LC may require the attendance at a meeting or the written observations of any League or Club, as it considers appropriate to assist its determination.

**8.2(a)** Any dispute or difference between a League and a Club relating to promotion and relegation issues, lateral movement and/or other eligibility criteria must be referred for determination to the LC; such determination shall be final and binding subject only to Arbitration in accordance with Rule K.

**8.2(b)** Any decision of the LC shall be subject to a right of appeal to an Appeal Board. The decision of that Appeal Board shall be final and binding on all parties.

All referrals of appeals shall be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for Football Association Appeals save for appeals in relation to Ground Grading decisions where the procedures are outlined in 8.2(c) below.

### **8.2(c) Procedures for Ground Grading Appeals**

**(i)** The ratification of the Ground Grading decision must be sent in writing within 14 days of the final decision date, currently 31st March.

**(ii)** Appeals in relation to Ground Grading Appeals must be submitted to The FA Judicial Services Department within seven days from the date of the written decision outlining the Grounds of Appeal, with a copy to The FA Leagues & Clubs Department.

**(iii)** The Ground Grading Technical Panel will appear before an Appeal Board with the Appellant to respond to the application and there is no requirement to make a formal response in writing.

**(iv)** In all cases the Ground Grading Technical Panel will submit any documentation including the Ground Grading report that was considered by the Ground Grading Technical Panel in relation to the Ground Grading decision, (which the appellant would already have received).

**(v)** Dates would be set annually in advance by the Judicial Services Department for the hearing of Ground Grading appeals and details of the dates would be notified to all Clubs in the correspondence from the Ground Grading Technical Panel notifying the decision of the Ground Grading assessment.

**(vi)** All Ground Grading Appeals are to be heard by the end of April each year.

**8.3** The LC may, at its discretion, delegate the resolution of any matter, dispute or difference arising under these Regulations to any body it considers to be appropriate (including a sub-committee or commission which may include members of council not on the LC or a body constituted by a County Football Association).

## **9. Arbitration**

The fact of participation in the NLS and signifying agreement to be bound by the Regulations shall constitute an agreement between each League and Club to refer to Arbitration any challenge in law arising out of, or in relation to, the Regulations in accordance with the provisions of FA Rule K.

## **10. Precedence**

In the case of conflict between the Regulations for the Operation of the National League System and the Rules, the Regulations take precedence.



# REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM SEASON 2015-2016

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## LEAGUES and DIVISIONS at STEPS 5, 6 and 7 of the NLS SEASON 2015 - 2016

### Step 5

Combined Counties League Premier Division  
Eastern Counties League Premier Division  
Essex Senior League  
Hellenic League Premier Division  
Midland League Premier Division  
North West Counties League Premier Division  
Northern Counties East League Premier Division  
Northern League Division 1  
Southern Counties East League  
Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division  
Southern Combination Football League Premier Division  
United Counties League Premier Division  
Wessex League Premier Division  
Western League Premier Division

### Step 6

Combined Counties League Division 1  
East Midlands Counties League  
Eastern Counties League Division 1  
Hellenic League Division 1 East  
Hellenic League Division 1 West  
Kent Invicta League  
Midland League Division 1  
North West Counties Lg Division 1  
Northern Counties East Division 1  
Northern League Division 2  
South West Peninsula League Premier Division  
Spartan South Midlands League Division 1  
Southern Combination Football League Division 1  
United Counties League Division 1  
Wessex League Division 1  
West Midlands (Regional) League Premier Division  
Western League Division 1

### Step 7

Anglian Combination Premier Division  
Cambridgeshire County League Premier Division  
Central Midlands League Division North  
Central Midlands League Division South  
Cheshire League Premier Division  
Dorset Premier League  
Essex Olympian League Premier Division  
Essex & Suffolk Border League Premier Division  
Gloucestershire County League Premier Division  
Hampshire Premier League Senior Division  
Herts Senior County League Premier Division  
Humber Premier League Premier Division  
Kent County League Premier Division  
Leicestershire Senior League Premier Division  
Liverpool County Premier League Premier Division  
Manchester Football League Premier Division  
Middlesex County League Premier Division  
Northamptonshire Combination Premier Division  
Northern Football Alliance Premier Division  
Nottinghamshire Senior League Senior Division

# **REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM SEASON 2015-2016**

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Peterborough & District League Premier Division  
South West Peninsula League Division 1 East  
South West Peninsula League Division 1 West  
Somerset County League Premier Division  
Staffordshire County Senior League Premier Division  
Suffolk & Ipswich League Senior Division  
Wearside League  
West Cheshire League Division 1  
West Lancashire League Premier Division  
West Riding County Amateur League Premier Division  
West Yorkshire League Premier Division  
Wiltshire Football League Premier Division

## **Step 7A**

Midland League Division 2  
Oxfordshire Senior League Premier Division  
Sheffield & Hallamshire County Senior League Premier Division  
Spartan South Midlands League Division 2  
Thames Valley Premier League Premier Division  
Teesside League Division 1  
West Midlands (Regional) League Division 1  
York Football League Premier Division

## **Step 7B**

Bedfordshire County League Premier Division  
Surrey Elite Intermediate League Intermediate Division



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