SLOUGH TOWN CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION

RULES - 2016 / 2017 SEASON

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 (1) Team in a Section in accordance with the Rules.

"Competition" means the Slough Town Challenge Cup Competition.

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

"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 eligible to play for a Club.

"Playing Season" means the period between the dates 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 Berks & Bucks 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 shall be known as the Slough Town Challenge Cup Competition" (or such other name as the Competition may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition shall 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 shall 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 be designated the Slough Town Challenge Cup Competition. The Competition shall be competed for annually and shall consist of not more than forty (40) Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

(B) All Clubs shall be affiliated to an affiliated County Football Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on the Form "D" to the Berks & Bucks County Football Association. The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be restricted to those Clubs who have their registered grounds situated within a twenty-five (25) miles radius of Slough Town Hall.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Berks & Bucks Football Association.

The constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped into Premier and Junior Sections.

(C) Inclusivity and Non-Discrimination

(i) This Competition and each Club shall be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination.

(ii) Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation shall be referred to the appropriate sanctioning Association for investigation.

(D) Clubs shall 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.

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

3. (A) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) shall be made in writing to the Secretary.

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.

(B) The Annual Subscription shall be (£25.00 per Team) as set out in the Fees Tariff payable on or before the 30th June in each year.

(C) Each Club shall within fourteen (14) days of election pay a Deposit (£20.00 per Team), as set out in the Fees Tariff which shall be returnable to Clubs on leaving the Competition providing 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 Annual Subscription and Deposit have been paid.

(E) Clubs shall advise annually to the Secretary, in writing, by 1st August, of its Sanctioning Authority affiliation number for the forthcoming season, failing which they shall incur a fine (£5.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff. Clubs shall advise the Secretary on the prescribed form of details of Headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition.

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

4. (A) (i) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and not more than five (5) members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

(ii) The Officers of the Competition shall be the President, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Referees Secretary, Match Secretary and Results Secretary to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

N.B. Verifiers are not Officers).

(B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination.

All candidates for election as Officers or Members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two (2) 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 three (3) calendar months between each meeting.

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

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

(E) All communications received from Clubs shall 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 such 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 Berks & Bucks Football Association having been obtained the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call 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 (1) 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 is 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 the Rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition. Any action by the Competition shall be taken within twenty-eight (28) days of the Competition being notified.

With the exception of Rules 5(I), 6(H), 10(A), 11 and 19 for any breaches of Rule a formal written charge shall be issued. The respondent shall be given seven (7) days from the date of notice 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, Rules and Regulations of The Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance with Football Association Rules by the appropriate Association.

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

The maximum fine permitted for any breach of Competition Rule is £250.00, as set out in the Fines Tariff, and, when setting any fine, the Competition shall 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 shall be notified in writing to those concerned within ten (10) days.

(F) Four (4) members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee and any Sub-Committee of the Competition.

(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 shall comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee and shall attend to the business and /or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. A Club failing to comply shall incur a fine (£20.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff.

(I) All fines and charges are payable forthwith and shall be paid within twenty-one (21) days of the date of notification of the decision.

Any Club failing to do so shall incur a fine (not exceeding £50.00), as set out in the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within fourteen (14) days shall 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 Meeting 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 shall be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6. (A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 30th June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least ten (10) Members are present and entitled to vote:-

To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.

(i) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.

(ii) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.

(iii) Constitution of Competition for ensuing season.

(iv) Election of Officers and Management Committee.

(v) Appointment of Verifier of accounts.

(vi) Alteration to Rules, if any.

(vii) Fix the date for the commencement of the season and kick-off times applicable to the Competition.

(viii) 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 verified Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting, together with any proposed change of Rules.

(C) A signed copy of the duly verified Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Berks & Bucks County Football Association within fourteen (14) days of it adoption by the Annual General Meeting.

(D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two (2) delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one (1) vote only. Not less than fourteen (14) 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 shall 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 is demanded by at least fifty (50) percent 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 (1) Member Club.

(H) Any continuing Club shall be represented at the Annual General Meeting. Any continuing Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting shall incur a fine (£15.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff.

(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 (2) 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 the _____ Football Club (Limited) have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Slough Town Challenge Cup 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 alternation of the Chairman and/or Secretary on the above Agreement shall be notified to the County Football Association to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary of the Competition.

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

8. (A) (i) Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules, 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 ten (10) and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

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

(B) Any bona-fide member of a Club shall be eligible to play for that Club in this Competition provided he has not, in the current season, played for another Club in this Competition.

(C) No player shall play in the Premier Section who during the current season has played in more than six (6) COMPETITIVE GAMES for the First Team of a Senior Club. For the purpose of this Rule, a Senior Club is defined as a Club which competes in the Cup Competition designated as the Senior Cup by its County Football Association.

(D) No player shall play in the Premier Section who has played in any of the following: FA Cup; FA Trophy; FA Vase or Senior Cup of any County Association after the 30th September, unless playing for a Club that won the County Intermediate Cup the previous season.

(E) No player shall compete in the Junior Section who is not eligible to compete in any County FA Junior Cup. A player who has taken part in the Premier Sections shall be ineligible to play in the Junior Section during the same season.

Should a Club have more than one (1) representative side in any Section of the Competition then any player having once played for one (1) side in that Section shall not then play for the other side in that Section.

(F) After the first round each individual shall have been a recognised playing member of the Club for which he proposes to compete, at least fourteen (14) days previous to the day of the match. A recognised playing member is one who during the current season:

(i) for Teams operating in Leagues where Registration Forms are requisite, is registered for that Team, with that League, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the match, or

(ii) for Teams that operate in Leagues where Registration Forms are not requisite has been advised to the Competition Secretary, in writing, and at least fourteen (14) days prior to the match, as being a playing member of that Team. The Secretary shall acknowledge receipt of such notice in writing.

(G) Where a match is postponed, drawn or abandoned, only those players who were qualified on the original date shall be eligible to play in the rearranged fixture, except a player who has been suspended may play after the term of his suspension has expired.

(H) If the Management Committee has any doubt as to the qualification of any player taking part in this Competition, it shall have power to call upon such player, or the Club for which he has played in the Competition, to prove to the satisfaction of the Management Committee that he is properly qualified, according to the Rules, and failing such satisfactory proof the Management Committee shall disqualify such player and may remove the Club from the Competition and may impose a fine (£50.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff.

(I) Any Club playing a player who is under suspension by The Football Association or their County Association may incur a fine £15.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff and their offending Team may be removed from the Competition at the discretion of the Management Committee. In the event of a Team being removed from the Competition their opponents shall go forward to the next round.

(J) (i) The Management Committee shall have power to accept the registration of any player subject to the provisions of Rule 8(J)(ii) and Rule 8(J)(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 Football Association 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 that has had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 8(ii) but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of twelve (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 should be empowered to consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

(Note: Action under Rule 8(J)(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 shall in any case be subject to an Appeal to The Football Association. All decisions shall include the period of restriction. For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the Competition into disrepute can only be considered where the player has received in excess of one hundred and twelve (112) days' suspension, or ten (10) matches in match based discipline, in a period of two (2) years or less from the date of the first offence)

(K) A Club shall keep a list of its players and a record of the games, in which they have played, and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee.

Registrations are valid for one (1) season only.

(L) In the Semi-Final and Final Ties the competing Clubs shall forward to the Match Secretary and to their opponents not later than six (6) days prior to the date of the match, a list of players from whom their Team shall be selected. Where a Club wishes to object to the qualification of any player named in the lists, it shall do so not less than three (3) days before the match to the opposing Club and the Secretary of the Competition.

It is the responsibility of the Club submitting the list, to ensure that each player listed is a qualified player, eligible to play in the Competition.

The Management Committee shall have the right to disqualify any player from participating in the Semi-Final and Final Ties. Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall incur a fine (£15.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff. If any Club plays a player who is not on their list that player shall be regarded as not properly qualified and player and Club shall be dealt with in accordance with Rule 8.

(M) The following Clause applies to Competitions involving players in full-time secondary education:

(i) Priority shall be given at all times to school and school organisations activities.

(ii) The availability of children shall be cleared with the Head Teacher (except for Sunday Leagues).

(iii) To play open age football the player shall have achieved the age of sixteen (16).

CLUB COLOURS, CLUB NAME

9. (A) Every Club shall register the colour of its shirts, shorts and socks on the Entry Form provided, with the Secretary.by 30th June who shall decide as their suitability.

Goalkeepers shall wear colours, which distinguish them from 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 the colours in which they shall play to its opponents at least five (5) days before the match.

If, in the opinion of the Referee, two (2) Clubs have the same or similar colours (shirts, shorts and socks), the Home Team shall make the change. Any Team not having a change of colours or delaying the kick-off by not having a change shall incur a fine (£5.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff.

Shirts shall be numbered.

(B) Any Club wishing to change its name shall obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority and from the Management Committee.

Any Club wishing to change its colours during the playing Season shall 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 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 shall 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.

If a match is postponed on two (2) consecutive occasions, the Management Committee may order the match to be played on the opposing Clubs 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 shall be tested (by a FIFA accredited test institute) every three (3) years and the results passed to The Football Association. The Football Association shall 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 ninety (90) minutes (forty-five (45) minutes each half) and in all matches an extra thirty (30) minutes (fifteen (15) minutes each half), or at the discretion of the Referee, twenty (20) minutes (ten (10) minutes each half) shall be played in the event of a draw after ninety (90) minutes.

In all matches in the event of a draw after extra time then kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken, in accordance with the procedure adopted by the International Football Association Board, to obtain a result.

In the event of extra time not being completed and neither Team being at fault, the match shall be re-played on the ground of the Away Club in that match.

Kick-off times shall be fixed at the Annual General Meeting and shall be:

September and October	14-00 hours
November to February inclusive	13-30 hours
March and April	14-00 hours

Midweek kick-off times as notified by the Match Secretary

The Management Committee shall determine the kick-off times for Final matches.

Referees shall order matches to commence at the appointed time and shall report all late starts to the Competition. In the case of a late start the Club or Clubs at fault, as reported by the appointed Referee, shall incur a fine (£5.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff.

The Home Team shall provide goal nets and at least two (2) footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable.

At grounds where a designed Technical Area exists, the number of persons permitted to occupy the Area shall not exceed eight (8) per Club, including the one (1) person allowed to stand when conveying tactical instructions, according to the Laws of the Game (Law 5).

(C) (i) The Management Committee may exempt from the First Round or divide the competing Clubs into such Sections as may be advisable. All the necessary byes shall be given in the First Round and the Ties shall be drawn and played on the dates determined by the Management Committee.

(ii) The Match Secretary shall inform each Club of the name of the Club it is drawn against, the date on or before which the tie shall be played and the time of kick-off. It is the responsibility of Clubs to notify the Secretaries of Leagues in which they compete, of the dates fixed for the Slough Town Challenge Cup Competition, and the only matches which shall take priority are those stipulated by Berks & Bucks Football Association.

(iii) Except in the Final Tie the Club first drawn shall have the choice of ground.

(iv) In the case of a revised fixture date, the Clubs shall be given by the Competition five (5) clear days' notice of the match (unless otherwise mutually agreed).

(D) The Secretary of the Home Club shall 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 (3) clear days prior to the playing of the match. If not so provide, the away club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition. Any club failing to comply with this Rule shall incur a fine (£5.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff.

(E) A minimum of seven (7) players shall constitute a team for a Competition match.

(F) (i) Any Club with more than one (1) 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 incur a fine (£10.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff or otherwise dealt with by the Management Committee.

(ii) A Club with more than one (1) Team shall not be permitted to postpone a Slough Town Challenge Cup fixture on the grounds that another Team has a Home game unless that other game takes precedence under the Regulations of

the governing Sanctioning Authority.

(iii) Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a fixture has been postponed for any reason shall, without delay, give notice to the Fixture Secretary, the Referees Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials.

(iv) If a Club is unable to fulfil a Slough Town Challenge Cup fixture because it is engaged on the same date in a Cup Tie which takes precedence under the Regulations of its governing Sanctioning Authority, it shall give eight (8) days' notice in the case of an original Cup Tie or five (5) days' notice in the case of a rearranged or replayed Cup Tie to the Match Secretary, the opposing Club and the Referee.

(v) In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither club has control, it shall be re-arranged for a date notified by the Match Secretary.

(vi) 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 (1) Team or its Club member(s)they shall be empowered to award the match to the opponent. In cases where a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams or their Club members, the Management Committee shall rule the match as void. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match.

(vii) 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 above. Where both Teams were under suspension the game shall be declared null and void.

(viii) The Match Secretary shall report to the Management Committee all cases not covered by this Rule in which a Club has failed to fulfil a fixture on the date notified. The Management Committee may award the match to their opponents. The Management Committee may order the defaulting Club to pay all reasonable expenses incurred by its opponents in connection with the match and the Referee's fee where a Referee has attended the ground and reported the non-fulfilment of a fixture to the Referee Secretary.

All rescheduled games shall be as notified by the Match Secretary and may include midweek games and or games played under floodlights if necessary.

(ix) Both competing Teams shall submit a correctly completed Competition Team Sheet to the Referee and, to a Representative of the opposing Team, at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time. The Team Sheet shall show players names which shall correspond with the numbers worn by the players.

Failure to comply shall incur a fine (not exceeding £25.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff.

(G) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use five (5) substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from five (5) players.

The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than fifteen (15) minutes before the start of the match. A player not so named may not take part in the 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 five (5) minutes duration, but it shall not exceed fifteen minutes (15). The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

(I) The Clubs taking part in a 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) The Match Secretary shall receive within four (4) days of the date played, the result of each Competition match in the prescribed manner. This shall include the forename(s) and surname of the Team players (in block letters) or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to do so shall incur a fine (£10.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff and/or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decides Where a Club fails to supply a correctly completed Match Result Sheet within a further fourteen (14) days of notification of the original fine, then an additional fine (£10.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff shall be imposed.

(B) The Home Club shall telephone/SMS/email/notify the result of each match to the Results Secretary within two (2) hours of completion of the match. Failure to comply shall incur in a fine (£10.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff.

(C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of the Club. The Management Committee shall have power to take such action as they deem suitable against a Club, which submits an incomplete form or incorrect information.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

12. Both Premier and Junior Sections shall operate on a knock-out basis.

REFEREES

13. (A) Registered Referees (and Assistant Referees where approved by The Football Association or County Football Association) 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 agree upon a Referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee. Individuals under the age of sixteen (16) shall 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. Failure to do so shall incur in a fine (£5.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff being imposed on the defaulting Team.

(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 shall be accepted.

(E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the sanctioning Association Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be entitled to charge the following match fees inclusive of expenses:-

Referee £35.00, Registered Referees appointed by the Management Committee as Assistant Referees £20.00, subject to any limits laid down by the sanctioning Association.

Each Club shall pay the Officials their fees at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the start of the game.

Where a Referee or Referee and Assistant Referees are appointed, the fees shall be borne equally by both Clubs.

(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 full fee. Where a match is not played owing to one (1) Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Officials, if they attend the ground, their full fee.

(G) A Referee not keeping his engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to his 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 prescribed Form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall incur a fine (£5.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.

(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 Football Association.

(J) The Referee shall submit a report Form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the match, the number of players in each Team and the time of kick-off to the Referee Secretary within two (2) days of the match.

(K) Referees and Assistant Referees shall be supplied, each Season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.

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 shall notify the Secretary in writing by 31st March each Season or be liable to a fine (£10.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff.

(B) The Management Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a team unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season. A fine (£10.00) may be imposed as set out in the Fines Tariff.

(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 shall 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 shall contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) shall be lodged in duplicate with the Secretary within three (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 Secretary a sum (£10.00) 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 shall receive a copy of the submission and shall be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least seven (7) days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.

(i) All parties shall have received seven (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.

Should the Management Committee find the protest proven, they may, where the match has been won by the defaulting Club, or has been drawn, declare the result void and award the game to the Club making the protest, or they may order the match to be replayed upon such conditions as they deem fit.

BOARD OF APPEAL

16. (A) Any appeal against a decision of the Management Committee shall 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 (£50.00) as set out in the Fees Tariff which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. A copy of the appeal shall also be sent to the Secretary.

(B) 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 further membership which shall be supported by (more than) two-thirds 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 shall be

supported by (more than) two-thirds 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 Rule 17(A).

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 _____ and B _____, the Chairman and Secretary of _____FC, members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of the Slough Town Challenge 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 Secretary on or before 1st March. 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) Winners and Runners-up in both Premier and Junior Sections shall be awarded plaques or medals at the rate of sixteen (16) per Team. Applications for extra trophies may be made to the Secretary in accordance with Berks & Bucks Regulation 4/64 at the Clubs' own cost.

(C) The Competition shall be responsible for the insurance of all trophies.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

19. Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting.

The Management Committee may call a Special General Meeting at any time.

At least fourteen (14) 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 (2) delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one (1) vote only as shall members of the Management Committee.

Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall incur a fine (£10.00) as set out in the Fines tariff.

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

ALTERATION TO RULES

20. (A) Alterations, for which consent has been given by the sanctioning Association, 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 the Rule relating to the qualification of players shall not take effect until the following season.

(B) Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary by 28th February in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 15th March and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 31st March.

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 (more than) two-thirds of those present and entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

(C) A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the Berks & Bucks Football Association by not later than 14th April.

A copy of the proposed alterations and proposed amendments to be considered at a Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the Berks & Bucks Football Association by no later than twenty-eight (28) days prior to the date of the meeting.

(D) Any alterations or additions decided upon at any meeting shall not become operative until the approval of the Berks & Bucks Football Association shall have been obtained.

FINANCE

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

(B) All expenditure in excess of £100.00 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two (2) Officers nominated by the Management Committee.

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

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

(E) The proceeds of the Final Ties of the Premier Section and Junior Section shall be placed to the credit of the Competition.

INSURANCE

22. All Clubs shall have Public Liability Insurance cover of at least ten (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 shall be the cover required by the affiliated Association to which a Club affiliates.

DISSOLUTION

23. (A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a Special General Meeting by a majority of three (3) quarters 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 Association may decide.

CHILD PROTECTION

1. Any act, statement, conduct or other matter which harms a child or children, or poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children, shall constitute behaviour which is improper and brings the game into disrepute.

2. In these Regulations the expression "Offence" shall mean any one or more of the offences contained in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and any other criminal offence which reasonably causes The Association to believe that the person accused of the offence poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children.

3. Upon receipt by The Association of:

   3.1 notification that an individual has been charged with an Offence; or
   3.2 notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the Police, Social Services or any other authority relating to an Offence; or
   3.3 any other information which causes The Association reasonably to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children then The Association shall have the power to order that the individual be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.

4. In reaching its determination as to whether an order under Regulation 3 should be made The Association shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:

   4.1 whether a child is or children are or may be at risk of harm;
   4.2 whether the matters are of a serious nature;
   4.3 whether an order is necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by The Association or any other authority or body to proceed unimpeded.

5. The period of an order referred to in 3 above shall not be capable of lasting beyond the date upon which any charge under The Rules of The Association or any Offence is decided or brought to an end.

6. Where an order is imposed on an individual under Regulation 3 above, The Association shall bring and conclude any proceedings under the Rules of The Association against the person relating to the matters as soon as reasonably practicable.

7. Where a person is convicted, or is made the subject of a caution in respect of an Offence, that shall constitute a breach of the Rules of The Association and The Association shall have the power to order the suspension of the person from all or any specific football activity for such a period (including indefinitely) and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.

8. For the purposes of these Regulations, The Association shall act through its Council or any Committee or Sub-Committee thereof, including the Board.

9. Notification in writing of an order referred to above shall be given to the person concerned and/or any Club with which he is associated as soon as reasonably practicable.

10. The applicable standard of proof shall be the civil standard, of the balance of probability. The more serious the allegation taking into account the nature of the misconduct alleged and the context of the case the greater the burden of evidence required to find the matter proved. Save that for charges pursuant to The Football Association's Child Protection Policy, where the welfare and protection of children shall be paramount and the test shall be whether more likely than not.

FEES TARIFF

Rule Number	Description	Maximum Fee
3 (B)	Annual Subscription(per Team)	£ 25.00
3(C)	Deposit (per Team)	£ 20.00
13 (E)	Referees' Fees	£ 35.00
13 (E)	Assistant Referees' Fee	£ 20.00
13 (F)	Referee Assistant Referee	£ 35.00 £ 20.00
15 (D)	Protest Deposit	£ 10.00
16	Appeal Deposit	£ 50.00

FINES TARIFF

Rule Number	Description	Maximum Fine
2 (B)	Failure to Affiliate to County FA	
2 (E)	Failure to Comply with FA Initiatives	
3 (E)	Failure to advise County affiliation number	£ 5.00
4 (D) & (E)	Failure to address all communications with the Secretary of the Competition/failure of a Club to conduct communication with their nominated Officers	
5 (D)	Maximum fine for any breach of Competition Rule	£ 250.00
5 (H)	Failure to Comply with an Instruction of the Management Committee	£ 20.00
5 (I)	Failure to Pay a Fine within 14 Days of Notice	£ 50.00
6 (H)	Failure to be Represented at the Annual General Meeting	£ 15.00
7	Agreement contravention	
8(H)	Qualification Irregularities	£ 50.00
8 (L)	Playing a player under suspension	£ 15.00
9 (A) & 10 (B)	Delaying kick-off.	£ 5.00
10 (D)	Failure to provide details of a fixture	£ 5.00
10 (F)(i)	Failure to comply with order of precedence	£ 10.00
10 (F) (viii)	Failure to submit team sheet to referee	£ 25.00
11 (A)	Late team sheet	£ 10.00
11 (B)	Failure to telephone match result	£ 10.00
13 (B)	Failure to agree a Referee and match not played	
13 (C)	Failure to provide an Assistant Referee	£ 5.00
13 (H)	Failure to provide Referee's mark	£ 5.00
13 (E)	Failure to pay Match Officials Fee within 15 minutes of the end of the match	
13 (H)	Failure to award marks to Match Officials	
13 (J)	Failure to provide Assistant Referees flags to Referee	
14 (A)	Withdrawal from Competition after31st March	£ 10.00

14 (B)	Failure to start/complete fixtures	£ 10.00
18 (A)	Failure to Complete and Return Trophy Agreement	
18 (C)	Failure to allow a trophy to mishandled, mistreated or put at risk	
19	Failure to be Represented at a Special General Meeting	£ 10.00