

Slough Town Challenge Cup Competition.

Rules Season 2020/21

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.

“Club” means a club for the time being in membership of the Competition.

“Competition” means the Slough Town Challenge Cup Competition.

“Competition Match” means any match played or to be played under the jurisdiction 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.

“Deposit” means a sum of money deposited with the Competition as part of the requirements of membership of the Competition.

“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, as set out at Schedule A.

“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, as set out at Schedule A.

“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.

“Participant” shall have the same meaning as set out in the rules of The FA from time to time.

“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 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...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.

“Season” means the period of time between an AGM and the subsequent AGM.

“Secretary” means such person or persons appointed or elected to carry out the administration of the Competition.

“SGM” means a special general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

“Team” means a team affiliated to a Club, including where a Club provides more than one team in the Competition in accordance with the Rules.

“The FA” means The Football Association Limited.

“WGS” means the Whole Game System and the procedures for the operation thereof as determined by The FA from time to time.

“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) Unless stated otherwise, terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

GOVERNANCE RULES

COMPETITION NAME, CONSTITUTION

2.

- (A) The Competition will be known as The Slough Town Challenge Cup Competition. (or such other name as the Competition may adopt). 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.
- (B) This Competition shall consist of not more than 40 Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority.
- (C) The geographical 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
- (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.
- (E) 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 7.
- (F) The Rules are taken from the Standard Code of Rules (the "Standard Code") determined by The FA from time to time. In the event of any omissions from the Standard Code then the requirements of the Standard Code shall be deemed to apply to the Competition.
- (G) All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority and must have a constitution approved by the Sanctioning Authority. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Sanctioning Authority and the constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped into Premier and Junior Sections.

Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

- (i) The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (to include those contained in the Equality Act 2010).
 - (ii) This Competition and each Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise.
 - (iii) Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.
- (l) 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. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
 - (j) All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The FA from time to time.
 - (k) At the AGM or a SGM called for the purpose, a 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 22.

CLUB NAME

- 3. Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority and from the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

- 4. (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 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 AGM or an SGM.
- (B) The annual subscription shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per *Team* payable on or before the AGM of the Competition in each year.

- (C) Each Club shall within fourteen (14) days of election pay a Deposit, 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 (if required) have been paid.
- (E) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 1st August of its Sanctioning Authority affiliation number for the forthcoming Playing Season. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, its Officers and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

- 5. (A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and not more than 5 members who shall all be elected at the AGM.
- (B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination provided that the Officer notifies the Secretary in writing not later than 1st June in each year.
All other candidates for election as Officers of the Competition or members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the secretaries of two Clubs, not later than 1st June in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the AGM.
- (C) The Management Committee shall meet as and when required, save that no more than three calendar months shall pass between each meeting.
On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Management 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 must be conducted through their Officers and sent to the Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

- 6. (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 FA or Affiliated Association.
- (B) Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority 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 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 also apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).
In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman of the Management Committee 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 6(I), 8(H), and 9, for all alleged breaches of a Rule the Management Committee shall issue a formal written charge to the Club concerned. The Club charged shall be given 7 days from the date of notification of the charge to reply. In such reply a Club may:
 - (i) Accept the charge and submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
 - (ii) Accept the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or
 - (iii) Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
 - (iv) Deny the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee.

Where the Club charged fails to respond within 7 days, the Management Committee shall determine the charge in such manner and upon such evidence as it considers appropriate.

Where required, hearings shall take place as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of the reply of the Club as more fully set out above.

Having considered the reply of the Club (whether in writing or at a hearing), the Management Committee shall make its decision and, in the event that the charge is accepted or proven, decide on the appropriate penalty (with reference to the Fines Tariff where applicable).

With the exception of Teams playing at Step 7 of the National League System, the maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Management Committee must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

The maximum fine permitted for a breach of a Rule by a Team playing at Step 7 of the National League System is £500.

No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

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.

- (E) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7.
Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 7 days.
- (F) 30% 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. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (I) Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges must be paid within 14 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 a further 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 Competition 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 AGM or SGM called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Playing Season.
- (L) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

- 7. (A) (i) All questions of eligibility, qualification of Players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee or a sub-committee duly appointed by 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 Competition 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 founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within 3 days (excluding Sundays) of the Competition 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 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 inquiry 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 it should indicate such when forwarding the written response.
- (E) The Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Management Committee shall direct.
- (F) Any appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of the posting of the written notification of the decision causing the appeal, accompanied by a fee

(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 must also be sent to the Secretary. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority, in such respect the Sanctioning Authority may (but is not obliged to):

- (i) invite submissions by the parties involved;
- (ii) convene a hearing to hear the appeal;
- (iii) permit new evidence; or
- (iv) impose deadlines as are appropriate.

Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee.

(G) No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

(H) 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 (as set out in the Fees Tariff) 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.

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

- (i) To receive and confirm the minutes of the preceding AGM.
- (ii) To receive and adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts.
- (iii) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
- (iv) Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Season.
- (v) Election of Officers of the Competition and the Management Committee members.
- (vi) Appointment of auditors.
- (vii) Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14).
- (viii) Fix the date for the commencement of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.
- (ix) Fix the date for the end of the Playing Season (save for Step 7 which shall be determined by The FA).
- (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an AGM.

(B) A copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet, statement of accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 14 days prior to the meeting, together with any proposed Rule changes.

(C) A signed copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet and statement of accounts shall be sent to the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of its adoption by the AGM.

(D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. 14 days' notice shall be given of any AGM.

(E) Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the Playing 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 12.*

(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 Club.

(H) Any continuing Club must be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(I) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM.

(J) Where a Competition is an incorporated entity, the Officers of the Competition shall ensure that the Articles of Association of the Competition are consistent with the requirements of these Rules.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

9. Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call a SGM.

The Management Committee may call a SGM at any time.

At least seven (7) days' notice shall be given of a meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.

Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.

Any Club failing to be represented at a SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs.

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

10. Each Club 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 Slough Town Challenge Cup Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, if elected or accepted into membership, 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 7."

The agreement shall be signed by:

- (i) Where a Club is an unincorporated association, the Club chairman and secretary; or
- (ii) Where a Club is an incorporated entity, two directors of the Club.

Any alteration of the chairman and /or secretary of the Club on the above agreement must be notified to the parent County Football Association to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

11. (A) Any 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 31st March each season. This does not apply to a Club moving in accordance with Rule 22(B). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (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, including, but not limited to, issuing a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (C) Notwithstanding the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 6(I), in the event of a Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50, the Management Committee shall be empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.

EXCLUSION OF CLUBS, TEAMS. MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

12. (A) At the AGM or SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, 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: (i) remove a member of the Management Committee from office; (ii) exclude any Club or Team from membership, both of 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 member of the Management Committee or Club which is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.
- (B) At the AGM, or at a SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, 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 Officer 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 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) and/or (B) of this Rule.

TROPHY

13. (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 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."

Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (B) *At the close of each Competition awards may be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.*

ALTERATION TO RULES

14. Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at a SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. Any alteration made during the Playing Season to these Rules shall not take effect until the following Playing Season.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM 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 AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or SGM shall be submitted to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA (as applicable) at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

FINANCE

15. (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 £100 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.
- (C) The financial year of the Competition will end on 30th April
- (D) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be *verified* annually by a suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

INSURANCE

16. (A) All Clubs must have valid public liability insurance cover of at least ten million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.
- (B) All Clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Players' personal accident insurance cover must be in place prior to the Club taking part in any Competition Match and shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time to time by the Sanctioning Authority. In instances where The FA is the Sanctioning Authority, the minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which a Club affiliates.

Failure to comply with Rule 16(A) or 16(B) will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

DISSOLUTION

17. (A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a SGM by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant SGM.
- (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 Authority.
 - (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.

MATCH RELATED RULES

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

18. (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 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 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 18(J)(ii) and Rule 18(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 7).

(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 7) 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 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.

(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

19. Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 30 June who shall decide as to their suitability.

Any Club wishing to change its colours during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the Management Committee.

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 colours of the goalkeepers jersey) at least 5 days before the Competition Match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the *home* Team shall make the change. Should a Team delay the scheduled time of kick off for a Competition Match by not having a change of colours they will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Shirts must be numbered, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

20. (A) All Competition 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 Competition 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.

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.

The Management Committee shall have power to decide whether a pitch and/or facilities are suitable for Competition Matches and to order the Club concerned to play its Competition Match(es) on another ground.

Football Turf Pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition provided they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA's Register of Football Turf Pitches. All Football Turf Pitches used 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 20(C).

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.

The times of kick-off shall be fixed at the AGM 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

These times can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs prior to the scheduled date of the Competition Match with written notification given to the Competition at least 7 days prior.

Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition.

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

The home Team must provide goal nets, corner flags and at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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).

(B) (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.

(C) Except by permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a Competition match with the consent of the *Fixtures* Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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) An Officer 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 an Officer of the opposing Club at least 5 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. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (E) In accordance with the Laws of the Game, the minimum number of Players that will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is 7. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (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 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 18 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 also impose a fine as set out in the Fines & Fees Tariff and 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.

- (G) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use substitute Players in any Competition Match. A Club may name up to 5 substitute Players of whom not more than 5 may be used.

The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitute Players not later than 15 minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a Player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match.

A Player who has been named as a substitute before the start of the Competition Match but does not actually play in that game shall not be considered to have been a Player in that Competition Match within the meaning of Rule 18 of this Competition.

- (H) The half time interval shall be of 5 minutes' duration, but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.
- (I) The Teams taking part in a Competition Match shall identify a Team captain who *may* wear an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his/her teammates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

REPORTING RESULTS

- (A) The Results 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 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 as set out in the Fines Tariff.
- (C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by an Officer of the Club, or as prescribed by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

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

22. MATCH OFFICIALS

(A) Registered referees (and assistant referees where approved by The FA or County FA) for all Competition 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 Match Officials in attendance, the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that Competition Match, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any Competition Match.
- (C) Where assistant referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club assistant referee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (D) The appointed referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground in all Competition Matches and that decision shall be final, subject to the determination of the Local Authority or the owners of a Ground, which must be accepted.
- (E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Authority, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff
Match Officials will be paid their fees and/or expenses by the home Club before the Competition Match. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (F) In the event of a Competition 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 Competition Match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Ground, their full fee and expenses. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (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 Affiliated Association with which he or she is registered.
- (H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The FA, award marks to the referee for each Competition 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 be liable to be fined (in accordance with 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 FA/County FA.
- (J) *The referee shall submit a report form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the Competition Match, the number of Players in each Team and the time of kick-off to the (Registration) Secretary within two days of the Competition Match.*
- (K) *Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.*

SCHEDULE A

FEES TARIFF		
RULE	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
4 (A)	CLUB ENTRY FEE	£
4 (B)	CLUB/TEAM ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£25.00
4 (C)	DEPOSIT	£20.00
7 (C), 7 (E),	PROTEST/APPEAL FEES	£10.00
7(F)	APPEAL FEE	£50.00
18 (D)	PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE	£
18 (H)	TRANSFER FEE	£
23 (E)	REFEREE FEES	£42.00
23 (E)	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES	£30.00

FINES TARIFF		
RULE	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
2 (G)	FAILURE TO AFFILIATE	£5.00
2 (I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£5.00
2 (K)	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO	£
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF	£5.00
4 (C)	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£
4(E)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE AFFILIATION NUMBER/DETAILS	£5.00
5(E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£5.00
6 (H)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£20.00
6 (I)	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED	£50.00
8 (H)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£15.00
9	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM	£15.00
10	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO	£5.00
11(A)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL	£10.00
11 (B)	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£5.00
13 (A)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£5.00
16(A)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£5.00
16(B)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£5.00
18 (A)	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£
18 (B) (ii)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE SEASON	£
18 (F)	REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS, OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION	£
18 (G)(ii)	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£
18 (M)	FIELDING MORE THAN THE PERMITTED NUMBER OF PLAYERS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SENIOR	£
18 (H) (I)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£50.00
18(L)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE LIST OF PLAYERS	£10.00
19	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO NO CHANGE OF	£5.00
19	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS	£5.00
20(A)	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO PROVIDE	£5.00
20 (B)	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	£25.00
20 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£5.00
20 (D)	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED	£5.00
20 (E) (i) & (viii)	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	£25.00
20 (H)	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£5.00
21 (A)	LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION FORM	£10.00
21(A)	LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION CONTINUED FAILURE	£10.00
21 (B)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT	£10.00
21(C)	RESULT NOTIFICATION NOT SIGNED BY	£5.00
23 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£5.00
23 (E)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND	£5.00
23 (F)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A	£5.00
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