

The Nene Sunday League – Rules & Regulations 2021/22 Season

1. DEFINITIONS	
1.A	<p>In these Rules:</p> <p>“Affiliated Association” means an Association accorded the status of an Affiliated Association under the rules of The FA.</p> <p>“AGM” shall mean the annual general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.</p> <p>“Club” means a club for the time being in membership of the Competition.</p> <p>“Competition” means the Nene Sunday League.</p> <p>“Competition Match” means any match played or to be played under the jurisdiction of the Competition.</p> <p>“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.</p> <p>“Deposit” means a sum of money deposited with the Competition as part of the requirements of membership of the Competition.</p> <p>“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.</p> <p>“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.</p> <p>“Ground” means the ground on which the Club’s Team(s) plays its Competition Matches.</p> <p>“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.</p> <p>“Match Officials” means the referee, the assistant referees and any fourth official appointed to a Competition Match.</p> <p>“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.</p> <p>“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.</p> <p>“Participant” shall have the same meaning as set out in the rules of The FA from time to time.</p> <p>“Player” means any Contract Player, Non Contract Player or other player who plays or who is eligible to play for a Club.</p> <p>“Player Registration System” means The FA system to register players as determined by The FA from time to time.</p> <p>“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.</p> <p>“Rules” means these rules under which the Competition is administered.</p> <p>“Sanctioning Authority” means [The FA] [Northamptonshire County Football Association Limited].</p> <p>“Scholarship” means a Scholarship as defined in the FA Rules.</p> <p>“Season” means the period of time between one AGM and the next AGM</p> <p>“Secretary” means such person or persons appointed or elected to carry out the administration of the Competition.</p> <p>“SGM” means a special general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.</p> <p>“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.</p> <p>“The FA” means The Football Association Limited.</p> <p>“Virtual Meetings” means meetings held electronically</p> <p>“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.</p>
1.B	<p>Unless stated otherwise, terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and also the other way around</p>

GOVERNANCE RULES	
2. COMPETITION NAME, CONSTITUTION	
2.A	<p>The Competition will be known as The Nene Sunday League (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 automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.</p>
2.B	<p>This Competition shall consist of not more than 96 Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority.</p>
2.C	<p>The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be Northamptonshire and surrounding areas.</p>
2.D	<p>The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Management Committee in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of The FA.</p>
2.E	<p>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 to them, subject to the provisions of Rule 7.</p>
2.F	<p>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.</p>
2.G	<p>1. 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.</p> <p>2. This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Sanctioning Authority and the constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped in divisions as determined by the Management Committee</p>
2.H	<p>Inclusivity and Non-discrimination:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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 (including those contained in the Equality Act 2010). 2. 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. 3. Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.
2.I	Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including, but not limited to, England Football Accredited and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
2.J	All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children and Regulations for Safeguarding Adults at Risk as determined by The FA from time to time.
2.K	Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing in the Competition in any other competitions (with the exception of FA and County FA Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
2.L	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.
2.M	Only one Team from a Club shall be permitted to participate in a single division unless there is no viable alternative because of logistical issues and/or reasons linked to participation and geographical boundaries in which case the Competition will obtain the prior approval of the Sanctioning Authority. This Competition will ensure that, where permission is given, Teams from a Club operating in the same division are run as separate entities with no interchange of players other than by transfers of registration in accordance with these Rules.
3. CLUB NAME	
3.A	Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority following consultation with the Competition. In the event that permission is granted, the Club must advise the Competition Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
4. ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT	
4.A	<p>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 by [June 30th] and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee for each Team as set out in the Fees Tariff, which shall be returned in the event of non-election.</p> <p>Applications, of which due notice has been given, will be received at the AGM or an SGM if confirmed by a majority of the accredited voting members present.</p> <p>When Rule 22(B) is applied or a Team seeks a transfer or, is compulsorily transferred to another division, no Entry Fee shall be payable</p>
4.B	The annual subscription shall be payable, in accordance with the Fees Tariff for each Team payable on or before the AGM of the Competition in each year NB~ Clubs will be given until January 31st each season to achieve FA Accredited Club Status
4.C	In the event of any issue concerning the membership of any Club with the Competition the Management Committee may require a Deposit to be paid (in accordance with the Fees Tariff) by or on behalf of the Club on such terms and for such period as it may in its entire discretion think fit. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
4.D	A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the entry fee, annual subscription and deposit (if required) have been paid.
4.E	Clubs must advise the Secretary annually in writing by 31 st July 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.
5. MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION	
5.A	The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and 0 members who shall all be elected at the AGM. The AGM may elect up to 6 members to act as sub committee members as determined by the Management Committee. Members of the Management Committee shall receive an annual honorarium in line with the amount of work they undertake on behalf of the league. An Honorarium may also be paid to non Management Committee personal for a role undertaken on behalf of the Management Committee, as deemed necessary by the Management Committee
5.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 31 st May 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 31 st May 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 for any office by the date stated in the earlier part of this Rule, nominations may be received at the AGM. No person(s) can be nominated for election as an officer of the competition until they have been a member of the Nene Sunday League for at least 5 consecutive seasons
5.C	The Management Committee shall meet a minimum of twice a season or as and when required, 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.
5.D	Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary/General Administrator who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.
5.E	All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through the Club Secretary and sent to the Secretary/General Administrator of the League unless otherwise directed. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

6. 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.
6.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 on each Club to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the Season.
6.C	Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee meetings and have one vote at all such meetings but no member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly relating to that 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)
6.D	In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chair shall have a second or casting vote.
6.E	<p>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.</p> <p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accept the charge and /or submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee; or 2. Accept the charge and notify the Competition that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or 3. Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee; or 4. Deny the charge and notify the Competition that it wishes to have a hearing before the Management Committee. <p>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.</p> <p>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). 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.</p> <p>With the exception of Teams playing at Regional NLS Feeder League 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.</p> <p>The maximum fine permitted for a breach of a Rule by a Team playing at Regional NLS Feeder League level is £500.</p> <p>No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.</p> <p>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 sanctioning Association.</p>
6.F	<p>All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7.</p> <p>Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 7 days.</p>
6.G	A minimum of 50% of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any of its sub-committees
6.H	The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill any vacancies that may occur in their number.
6.I	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.
6.J	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.
6.K	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.
6.L	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. subject to the provisions of the National League System Regulations or Women's Football Pyramid Regulations (which shall take precedence if applicable).
6.M	The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.
7. PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS	
7.A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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. 2. Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee prior to the commencement of the Match.
7.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.

7.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.
7.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 before the protest or complaint being heard. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All parties must have received a minimum of 7 days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend. 2. Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should indicate such when forwarding the written response.
7.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.
7.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, and the Sanctioning Authority may (but is not obliged to): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. invite submissions by the parties involved; 2. convene a hearing to hear the appeal; 3. permit new evidence; or 4. impose appropriate deadlines. Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee.
7.G	No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct
7.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 in these circumstances 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 14 days of the event or decision causing any of these to be submitted.
8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	
8.A	The AGM shall be held not later than 31 st July in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least 50% members are present and entitled to vote:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confirm-the minutes of the last AGM. 2. Adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts from the previous season or accounting period. 3. Election of Clubs to fill vacancies. 4. Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Season. 5. Election of Competition Officers and Management Committee members. 6. Appointment of auditors/verifiers 7. Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14). 8. Agree the date for the beginning of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition. 9. Agree the date for the end of the Playing Season (save for Regional NLS Feeder League which shall be determined by The FA). 10. Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted by the Chair as being relevant to an AGM.
8.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.
8.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.
8.D	Each Club shall be empowered to send a maximum of two delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. 14 days' notice shall be given of any AGM.
8.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.
8.F	All voting shall be conducted by a show of hands, or count of email or virtual responses (for virtual meetings), unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chair so decides.
8.G	No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Club.
8.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.
8.I	Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM, but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a club (See Rule 8.G)

8.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.
9. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS	
9.A	On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call an SGM.
9B	The Management Committee may call an SGM at any time
9C	At least 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.
9D	Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.
9E	Any Club failing to be represented at an SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
9F	Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs, but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a club (See Rule 9.D)
10. AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED	
10.	<p>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,</p> <p>“We, (A) (name) [] of (address) [] (Chair)/(Director) and (B) (name) [] of (address) [] (Secretary)/(Director) of [] Football Club (Limited) have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the [] Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, 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.”</p> <p>The agreement shall be signed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. where a Club is an unincorporated association, by the Club Chair and Secretary; or 2. where a Club is an incorporated entity, by two directors of the Club. <p>Any change of Chair Secretary or Directors of the Club as named on the above agreement must be notified to the [] County Football Association to which the Club is sanctioned and to the Secretary of this Competition.</p> <p>Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p>
11. 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 fulfillment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the Secretary in writing of such intention by 31 st 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.
11.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.
11.C	Notwithstanding the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 6.1, 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 or The Management Committee may at its own discretion, decide to use the leagues own debt recovery provision
12. 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: <p>(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.</p>
12.B	At the AGM, or at an 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, provided this is 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 <p>Any Club/Team who receive a misconduct charge from the sanctioning authority may be considered to be bringing the league into disrepute. Any Club/Team who are found proven of misconduct by the sanctioning authority will be considered to be bringing the league into disrepute. In both instances, the Management Committee reserves the right to deal with the Club/Team with a range of sanctions including but not limited to, A Fine, Points Deductions, Expulsion from League Competitions, Expulsion from the league via an AGM/SGM as detailed above</p>
12.C	Any Officer or member of a Club found 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 12.A and/or 12.B of this Rule.
13. TROPHY	
13.A	<p>The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the cup or trophy:</p> <p>“We (A) (name) and (B) (name), the Chair and Secretary of [] FC (Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of cup or trophy, and the cup or trophy 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 31st 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.”</p> <p>Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p>
13.B	At the close of each Competition awards may/shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

	NB- It is the responsibility of the winning team to have the presented trophy appropriately engraved with the season and their club name. Failure to do so will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff
14. ALTERATION TO RULES	
14.A	Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at an 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, except in exceptional circumstances and approved by Sanctioning Authority or The FA.
14.B	Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by 31 st March in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 30 th April and any amendments to these proposals shall be submitted to the Secretary by 31 st May. The proposals and proposed amendments to these proposals shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a 2/3 majority of those present and entitled to vote and voting are in favour.
14.C	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.
15. FINANCE	
15.A	The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.
15.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.
15.C	The financial year of the Competition will end on 30 th June
15.D	The accounting records 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.
15.E	Clubs shall be required to submit their financial accounts to the league by 1 st September every season in line with the same regulation for the Sanctioning Authority. Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tarriff
16. INSURANCE	
16.A	All Clubs must have valid Public Liability Insurance cover for a minimum of ten million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.
16.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.
16.C	Failure to comply with Rule 16.A or 16.B will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
17. DISSOLUTION	
17.A	Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at an SGM by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant SGM.
17.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.
17.C	The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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. 2. 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

18. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS	
18.A	<p>A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Registered through the Player Registration System (WGS) and received approval from the Competition. <p>Any registration that is not fully and correctly completed will be returned to the Club unprocessed and the player classed as unregistered. If a Club attempts to register a player via the Player Registration System (WGS) but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via-the Player Registration System (WGS) the registration will not be processed.</p> <p>A player will only be considered to be registered by the league if all of the following information requirements have been met; First Name, Last Name, Date of Birth, Address including Postcode, Email Address, Telephone Number, Colour Photograph (photograph must be of the player only and of sufficient detail that allows for easy identification)</p> <p>Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p>
18.B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contract players are not permitted in this Competition with the exception of those Players who are registered under Contract with the same Club who have a team operating at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System or Tiers 1-4 of the Women Pyramid System. 2. It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any Player registered to the Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any Player aged 10 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

	<p>3. Each team must have at least 20 Players registered 21 days before the start of each Playing Season. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Player Registrations will close on the 31st August and open again on 1st October except by permission of the management committee. In addition, at the deadline of initial registrations, no one club will be permitted to transfer more than 3 players from another club in the same season</p> <p>4. In the event of a Non Contract Player changing his status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, or with a Club in another Competition their registration as a Non Contract Player will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 18.B.1.</p> <p>5. Where a club has folded in the previous season and the club in question owes a debt to the league, no more than 3 of their players may be signed to any other club in the following season unless the debt is paid in full by the folded club. Should the folded club not pay the debt in full, any new registration can only take place once the individual concerned has resolved all their individual outstanding debts to the league</p> <p>6. Where a club folds in the current season and the club in question owes a debt to the league, none of their players may be signed to any other club in the current season until the debt is paid in full. Once the debt has been paid in full, no more than 3 of their players may be signed to any other club in the current season</p>
18.C	<p>A Player that owes a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) shall be permitted to register for a Club but will be suspended from football activities if the Player does not comply with the terms of the Football Debt Recovery Regulations in respect of that Football Debt.</p> <p>A Player that owes a Football Debt to the league will not be eligible to play for any club in the league until that debt is cleared</p>
18.D	A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered.
18.E	<p>The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes.</p> <p>In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club, priority of registration shall decide for which Club the Player shall be registered. The Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.</p>
18.F	<p>It shall be a breach of Rule for a Player to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred. 2. Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season except for the purpose of a transfer or where the Competition adopts rule 18.P <p>Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p>
18.G	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Management Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rules 18.G.2 and 18.G.3 below. 2. The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player or may fine any Player, at their discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 7). 3. 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 Sanctioning Authority. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the Player is registered or intending to be registered with. <p>Undesirable conduct includes, but is not limited to; Violent Conduct. Physical, Verbal or Online Abuse of Match Officials. Physical, Verbal or Online Abuse of Management Committee or Panel members</p> <p>Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. A Player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18(G)(iii) but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the Player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition may consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute. <p>(Note: Action under Rule 18.G.3 shall not be taken against a Player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and then only in cases of the Player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any event be subject to an appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. All decisions must 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 112 days' suspension, or 10 matches in match based discipline, in any competition (and is not restricted to the Competition) in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.)</p>
18.H	<p>Subject to compliance with FA Rule C when a Club wishes to register a player who is already registered with another club it shall submit a transfer notification to the Competition via the Player Registration System. A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff will be required.</p> <p>Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to the club for which the player is registered. Should this club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the player concerned within 3 days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within 3 days, the Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or 7 days after receipt of such transfer.</p> <p>In the event of an objection to a transfer the matter shall be referred to the Management Committee for a decision.</p>
18.I	A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 31 st March except by special permission of the Management Committee
18.J	Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.
18.K	A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding Competition Match (as specified in Rule (22.A) unless the Player has played 5 Competition Matches for that Team in the current Playing Season.

18.L.	<p>A Team shall not include more than 3 Players who have taken part in 10 or more senior Competition Matches during the current Playing Season unless a period of 21 days has elapsed since they last played.</p> <p>For the purpose of this Rule a senior competition(s) is any higher league division and/or Cup Competition</p> <p>Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p>
18.M	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Subject to Rule 18.M.2 any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a Competition Match or Matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that Competition Match deducted from its record, up to a maximum of 12 points, and have levied upon it a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff). 2. The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18.M.1 only in circumstances where the ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate or where the ineligibility is related to the Player's status. 3. Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 18.M.2 above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed; or b) Levy penalty points against the Club in default; or c) Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).
18.N	<p>The following clause applies to Competitions involving Players in full-time secondary education:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Priority must be given at all times to activities of schools and school organisations. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. 2. The availability of children and young people must be cleared with the Head Teachers or Principals (except for Sunday leagues competitions). 3. To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16.
18.O	<p>A Player who has played for a Team in a higher division 10 times or more shall not, in that Playing Season, be eligible to Transfer and play in a lower division except by permission of the Management Committee. The Management Committee will agree a 'Transfer Matrix' which allows teams to improve but does not affect the integrity of the competition</p>
19. CLUB COLOURS	
19	<p>Every team must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 31st July and the Competition Secretary shall decide as to their suitability. Teams are required to have a change of kit (shirt, shorts and socks) to avoid kit clashes at all times. Change of Kit must be completely different in colour (shirts, shorts and socks) Failure to have a correct change of kit will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff</p>
19.B	<p>Any team changing its colours during the Playing Season must notify the Competition Secretary immediately.</p>
19.C	<p>Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all other Players and the Match Officials.</p>
19.D	<p>No Player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.</p>
19.E	<p>Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents of the colours in which they will play (including the colours of the goalkeepers jersey) at least 4 days before the Competition Match.</p>
19.F	<p>If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the Away 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.</p>
19.G	<p>Shirts must all be numbered and no two shirts shall have the same number, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff</p>
20. PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY, TIMES OF KICK-OFF. POSTPONEMENTS. SUBSTITUTES	
20.A	<p>All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>NOTE: The Management Committee instructs all teams to have an alternative pitch provision in order to ensure that all games go ahead every match day (This can include the reversal of the fixture if possible). Failure to do so will be deemed as failure to fulfill a fixture and result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff and further action as set out in Rule 20 (E) (1) & (4)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The home Club is also responsible for advising Participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements in accordance with Rule 20.C.</p>

	<p>Within the National League System (“NLS”) and Regional NLS Feeder Leagues, all Competition Matches shall have a duration of 90 minutes. All other Competition Matches outside of the NLS shall have duration of 90 minutes unless a shorter time (not less than sixty (60) minutes) is mutually arranged by the two Clubs in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves. Two matches involving the same two Teams can be played on the same day providing the total playing time is not more than 120 minutes.</p> <p>The times of kick-off shall be agreed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs and the Competition. Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition.</p> <p>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 not provided. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p> <p>No overhead netting is allowed for 9v9 and 11v11 affiliated matches</p> <p><u>Regional NLS Feeder Leagues:</u> Overhead wires used to support pitch divider netting are removed for all affiliated matches in the NLS and at Regional NLS Feeder League level</p> <p><u>For those leagues which are not Regional NLS Feeder Leagues:</u> Overhead wires used to support pitch divider netting are ideally removed for affiliated matches but if they cannot be removed then discretion is given to the match official to restart the match in accordance of the laws of the game.</p>
20.B	<p>Except by permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches must be played on the dates originally agreed 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 Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p> <p>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).</p>
20.C	<p>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 4 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.</p>
20.D	<p>In accordance with the Laws of the Game, the minimum number of Players which will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is 7.</p>
20.E	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have power to impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff), deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the Competition Match in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except by the award of goals. Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a Competition Match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent’s Ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances. Additionally, any club that fails to fulfill a fixture may not be invited to play in internal cup competitions and/or may be removed from existing internal cup competitions 2. Any Club with more than one Team in the Competition shall always fulfill its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence:- First Team, Reserve Team, A Team, etc 3. Any Club unable to fulfill a fixture or where a Competition Match has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the Competition, the secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. 4. In the event of a Competition Match not being played or being abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Competition Failing such agreement and notification to the Competition within 7 days. The Competition shall have the power to order the Match to be played on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. 5. The Management Committee shall review all Competition 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 order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a Match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Team or its Club member(s) they shall award the points for the Match to the opponent. In cases where a Match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule that neither Team will be awarded any points for that Match and it shall not be replayed. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned Match. <p>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 FA 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(N) above. Where both Teams were under suspension the game must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.</p>
20.F	<p>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.</p> <p>A Player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace a Player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.</p> <p>The referee and [a representative of the opposing Club] shall be informed of the names of the Players taking part in the Match (including the substitutes) 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.</p>

	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.
20.G	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.
20.H	The Teams taking part in a Competition Match shall identify a Team captain who will wear an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of their teammates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
21. REPORTING RESULTS	
21.A	The Fixtures Secretary must receive within 3 days of the date played, the result of each Competition Match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the Team Players (in block letters) and also the referee markings required by Rule 23, or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
21.B	Both Clubs shall SMS Text the result of each Competition Match to the Full Time website within 2 hours of fixture completion. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
21.C	The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by an Officer of the Team, or as prescribed by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
22. DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP	
22.A	<p>Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn Competition Match. The Teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the end of the Playing Season shall be adjudged the winners, except for when the AGM has agreed to a different structure, such as a playoff system or other such method to determine the winner. Competition Matches must not be played for double points.</p> <p>In the event of two or more Teams being equal on points at the end of the Playing Season, rankings shall be determined by goal difference (where the goals scored against each Team shall be deducted from the goals scored by that Team and the Team with the most favourable goal difference shall be placed highest).</p> <p>In the event of two or more Teams still being equal, the Team which has scored the most goals during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.</p> <p>In the event of two or more Teams still being equal, the Team that has won the most matches during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.</p> <p>In the event of two or more Teams still being equal, the Team which has the better playing record against the other Team in their head to head Competition Matches during the Playing Season will be placed highest.</p> <p>If the records of two or more Teams are still equal and it is necessary for any reason to determine the position of each then the Teams affected shall play a deciding match or matches under conditions as determined by the Management Committee.</p>
22.B	<p>Automatic promotion shall be applied for the first 0 Teams and automatic relegation shall be applied for the last 0 Teams in each division except as provided for below subject to the provisions of Rule 2.L.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Should one or more Teams withdraw from any one division after the Playing Season has commenced an equal number of Teams to those withdrawing in that division shall not be automatically relegated. 2. Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the Playing Season may be filled in any of the following ways: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. retention of otherwise relegated Team(s); or b. additional promotion of the next ranked Team(s) from the division below; or c. election. 3. The last placed Team in the lowest division shall retire, but be eligible for re-election except as below, and be subject to the conditions of Rule 22.B.1 above. 4. When a senior Team is relegated to a lower division of which its reserve Team is a member, or entitled to be a member, such reserve Team must accept relegation to, or retain its position in, the next lower division; and should the senior Team be relegated to the lowest division its reserve Team automatically retires from the Competition. 5. Should either or both of the leading Teams in any of the divisions have its senior Team in the next higher division, promotion shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next highest Team or Teams in the division concerned. <p>Note: Whilst the Management Committee will try to ensure that Rule 22.B is adhered to as written this will be entirely dependent on the circumstances at the start of each season. The Management Committee reserves the right to structure the competition as they deem necessary in order to provide the most competitive structure possible.</p>
22.C	<i>Not Applicable</i>
22.D	In the event of a Team withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the Playing Season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting Team shall be expunged from the Competition table. For the purposes of this Rule 22.D a completed fixture shall include any Competition Match(es) which has been awarded by the Management Committee.
22.E	<i>Not Applicable</i>
22.F	In the event of any unforeseen circumstance(s) that cause the competition to be terminated before its natural conclusion, all final league standings will be determined using the Points Per Game method, providing 75% of the total fixtures have been completed.

Should 75% of the fixtures not have been completed, the competition shall be declared Null & Void. The outcome of Cup Competitions will be determined by the Management Committee

23. MATCH OFFICIALS

23.A	<p>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.</p> <p>Referees will be required to provide the league with their availability to officiate on a format agreed and prescribed by the management committee</p>
23.B	<p>1..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.</p> <p>2. 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.</p>
23.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.
23.D	Not Applicable
23.E	<p>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 inclusive of travel expenses. Match Officials will be required to travel up to a maximum of 40 miles (round trip) from their home address to the postcode of the match venue. Any mileage above this will be paid at fifty pence per mile. The Referee Secretary will endeavor to appoint all match officials within the 40 mile limit</p> <p>Match Officials will be paid their fees in cash by the away Club before the Competition Match. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p>
23.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 half fee only. 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. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
23.G	A referee not keeping their 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.
23.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.
23.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 Sanctioning Authority.
23.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, plus any other information as requested by the Management Committee, to the Secretary within three days of the Competition Match.
23.K	Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.
23.L	Match Officials shall comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA and/or Sanctioning Authority adopted by the Competition
24.	UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES
24.A	In the event of any unforeseen circumstance(s) that cause the competition to be terminated before its natural conclusion, The Management Committee will have the authority to amend any rule it deems necessary to ensure that all administrative tasks are still adhered to but without being bound by the date schedules detailed in the Rules 1-23

SCHEDULE A

FEES TARIFF		
RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
4 A	CLUB ENTRY FEE	£0
4 B	ANNUAL CLUB SUBSCRIPTION	£50
4 C	DEPOSIT	£250
7 C, 7 E, 7 G	PROTEST/APPEAL FEES	£50
18 D	PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE (FIRST 25 PER TEAM FREE OF CHARGE)	£2
18 H	TRANSFER FEE	£10
23 E	REFEREE FEES	£40
23 E	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES (WHERE APPOINTED)	£30

FINES TARIFF		
RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
2 G	FAILURE TO AFFILIATE	£100
2 I	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£100
2 K	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	£250
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	£50
4 C	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£250
4 E	FAILURE TO PROVIDE AFFILIATION NUMBER/DETAILS FORM	£50
5 E	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£100
6 H	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£100
6 I	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIME FRAME	£100
8 H	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£100
9	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM	£100
10	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES	£50
11 A	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE	£250
11 B	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£250
13 A	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£50
15 E	FAILURE TO SUBMIT CLUB ACCOUNTS	£100
16 A	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£50
16 B	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£50
18 A	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£100
18 B 3	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS	£50
18 F	REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS, OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM	£100
18 G 2	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£100
18 K	FIELDING MORE THAN THE PERMITTED NUMBER OF PLAYERS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SENIOR COMPETITIONS MATCHES	£100
18 L	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£150
18 M	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£50
19	NO CHANGE OF KIT	£250
19 F	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS	£50
19 G	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS	£50
19 G	FAILURE TO HAVE DIFFERENT NUMBER SHIRTS	£50
20 A	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT	£50
20 B	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	£100
20 C	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£50
20 D	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS	£50
20 E 1 & 4	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	£250
20 H	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£50
21 A	LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION FORM	£50
21 B	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT	£50
21 C	RESULT NOTIFICATION NOT SIGNED BY APPROPRIATE SIGNATORIES	£50
23 C	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£50
23 E	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES	£50
23 F	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£50
23 H	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£50

SCHEDULE B – INDEX

Rule 1 Definitions

GOVERNANCE RULES

Rule 2 Name and Constitution

Rule 3 Club Name

Rule 4 Entry Fee, Subscription, Deposit

Rule 5 Management, Nomination, Election

Rule 6 Powers of Management

Rule 7 Protests, Claims, Complains, Appeals

Rule 8 Annual General Meeting

Rule 9 Special General Meeting

Rule 10 Agreement to be Signed

Rule 11 Continuation of Membership, Withdrawal of a Club

Rule 12 Exclusion of Clubs, Teams. Misconduct of Clubs, Officers, Players, Management Committee

Rule 13 Trophy

Rule 14 Alteration to Rules

Rule 15 Finance

Rule 16 Insurance

Rule 17 Dissolution

MATCH RELATED RULES

Rule 18 Qualification of Players

Rule 19 Club Colours

Rule 20 Playing Season. Conditions of Play, Times of Kick-Off. Postponements. Substitutes

Rule 21 Reporting Results

Rule 22 Determining Championship

Rule 23 Match Officials

SCHEDULE A

Fees Tariff

Fines Tariff

NENE SUNDAY LEAGUE – LEAGUE CUP RULES 2021/22

1. NAMES OF TROPHIES

The Cups shall be named “The Nene Cup” “The David Ferguson Trophy”, “The Alan Dimmer Trophy”, “The Senior Plate”, “The Junior Plate”, “The Millennium Trophy”, ‘The Dale Stratford Trophy’, ‘The Intermediate Plate’ ‘The Northants Charity Cup’.

The Trophies shall never become the absolute property of any Club. The Chairman and Secretary of The Nene Sunday League for the time being and for intents and purposes will be the legal owners of the Cups in trust of the League.

2. MANAGEMENT OF COMPETITIONS

The entire control and management of the League Cup Competitions shall be vested in the Management Committee of the League. League Competition rules shall apply to League Cup Competitions except as prescribed

3. CLUB ELIGIBILITY

All affiliated Nene Sunday League Clubs may be allotted to League Cup Competitions as decreed by the Management Committee. No club will have more than one team entered into any one league cup competition unless by permission of the Management Committee

4. ENTRANCE FEES

Entrance Fees for League Cup Competitions are included within the League Entry Fees but have no specific value

5. COMPETITION MATCHES

Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

In all Cup Matches, except Semi Finals & Finals, the Club first drawn shall have choice of ground. The Management Committee reserves the right to change the venue of any match if deemed necessary.

The home team must provide a correctly marked out pitch complete with goal posts, goal nets, corner flags and at least two suitable match balls, failure to do so may result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff

All teams must have an alternative pitch provision in order to ensure that all games go ahead every match day (This can include the reversal of the fixture). Unless all reasonable steps have been taken, should the fixture not take place it will be deemed as failure to fulfil a fixture and result in the defaulting team being expelled from the competition and a fine issued in accordance with the fines tariff

Any Club refusing to play, failing to play, scratching from playing, or failing to complete the match against the team with whom it has been drawn within the time stated, will be expelled from the Competition and be fined in accordance with the fines tariff

Where Applicable In all Group Stage Matches, a drawn game is a drawn game. In all Knockout Cup matches in the event of a draw the match will go straight to kicks from the penalty mark. In **all** matches no extra time will be played.

The conclusion of any match not completed as a result of a non-fault abandonment will be determined by the Management Committee. Matches abandoned through the fault of the teams shall be reported to and dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority. Any team found responsible for an abandonment of a fixture as a result of misconduct (determined by the Sanctioning Authority) will be expelled from the competition and fined in accordance with the fines tariff

The Final ties of all Competitions shall be played on grounds selected by the Management Committee who shall have direct control of all the arrangements in connection with the matches. Where possible, this shall extend to all Semi Finals. The charges for admission to semi-final and final ties will be determined by the Management Committee.

In all matches where assistant referees are appointed, or when instructed by the Management Committee, Clubs must provide barriers or roping to ensure no encroaching on the field of play or the impeding of assistant referee. Clubs being unable to comply, due to local conditions must seek guidance from the Management Committee.

Where dug-outs are provided only the Named Substitutes, Coach (Manager), Assistant Coach (Assistant Manager), and persons responsible for the treatment of injuries to players to be allowed in the dug-out, a maximum of 8 persons. All other persons to remain behind the barriers at all times. Where a technical area is designated, Law 5 of the Laws of the Game to apply. In matches where dug-outs are not provided and a technical area not defined, the Coach (Manager) may convey tactical instructions to players during the match, however the Coach (Manager) must conduct himself, at all times, in a responsible manner.

Teams who progress to Semi Finals and Finals will be required to provide a volunteer to assist the management committee at the fixture

6. TEAM COLOURS

Where the colours of two competing teams are similar, the away team must change. All Players, Including Goalkeepers must wear

colours which distinguish them from other players and the Match Officials. All shirts must be distinctly numbered on the back. No player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts. Failure to comply may result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff.

7. MATCH EXPENSES

Match Expenses should be split between the competing clubs. The normal process being that the home team covers the costs associated with the pitch and the away team covers the costs associated with the referee. Where assistants are appointed the total match expenses should be halved between the two teams.

For Semi Finals the League will cover the cost of the venue, the competing clubs will cover the cost of the officials. For Finals, the league will cover all the costs

8. MATCH OFFICIALS

All Appointed Match Officials should wear standard black uniform except when it is practical to wear an alternative coloured uniform

In all Cup matches the Officials shall be appointed by the Referee Secretary. In all matches except semi final and final ties the home Club shall be responsible for paying the Match Officials their fee.

Match Officials shall be paid a match fee as stipulated in the League Rules. Referees must report to the Referee Secretary all cases of short teams, late starts, abandoned matches, failure to provide an assistant referee, no match balls, no nets, no corner flags and/or failure to pay the match fee.

In all matches, except final ties, the secretaries of the Home Clubs shall notify to the appointed Referee and Assistant Referee, full match particulars at least 4 clear days before the match. Failure to do so may result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff. Referees must report Clubs, which fail to observe this instruction. Where assistant referees are not appointed, both Clubs must provide a suitable assistant Referee. Clubs failing to do so may result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff

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

The Referee Secretary may appoint assistant referees in Semi-Final and Final ties if they deem such a course necessary. Reserve Officials may also be appointed by the Referee Secretary to all final ties (Fees as per Assistant Referee). Where deemed advisable, assistant referees may be appointed in the earlier rounds of all league cup competitions. Referee and Assistant Referees (when appointed) must arrive at the venue for the match at least 30 minutes before the kick-off.

Note: - All references to Assistant Referee(s) apply to neutral appointments only. Where no Assistant Referee is appointed, the functions are to be carried out by an assistant referee who must be provided by each club. Failure to provide an assistant referee may result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff

9. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

Players must be registered in accordance with League Rule 18.

No player shall be eligible to play in a semi-final or final unless he has played in a previous round of the competition concerned and has also played 8 or more times for that team in any competition during the season prior to the semi-final.

No player having previously represented any Team in a Cup Competition may subsequently in the same season represent another Team in the Competition. A player in such instance shall be considered 'Cup Tied'. For Clarification, The Nene Cup and The Northants Charity Cup sit outside this rule. If you are unsure on a players eligibility you must contact the Secretary of the League in advance of the cup fixture

Where a Club has more than one registered Team, no player will be eligible to play for a lower ranked team if they have played five or more games for a higher ranked team or unless 21 days or more has passed since his last appearance. This does not include absence through suspension

Where a Club has more than one registered Team, a player who would otherwise become cup tied will be eligible to play up a competition level without penalty in order to assist with the fulfilling of fixtures. However, permission must be sort from the Management Committee in advance for this to apply

For Semi Finals and Finals, special permission may be granted by the Management Committee for an otherwise ineligible goalkeeper to be selected should circumstances require it. Any request for special permission must be submitted in advance of the fixture.

With regards to Semi Finals and Finals, In cases of postponed, drawn, abandoned, or replayed matches only those players shall be

allowed to play who are eligible on the date originally fixed for the tie to be played, except a player who has been suspended who may play following the expiry of any suspension.

In all rounds, it is the Clubs responsibility to ensure that selected players are eligible to play. Any Club found to have played an ineligible player will be expelled from of the Competition and be fine in accordance with the fines tariff

10. RESULT OF THE MATCH

Teams are required to text the result of the match to the Management Committee via the FA Full Time text service within 2 hours of the conclusion of the fixture. Failure to comply may result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff.

Notice of the result of each match, with name of the players, shall be submitted by both of the competing teams on the FA Full Time website within 3 days after the match has been played. Failure to comply may result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff.

Incorrect or falsified result sheets will be referred to the Management Committee, who will deal with them as deemed necessary and may result in clubs being expelled from the competition and may result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff.

11. PROVISIONS CONCERNING PROTESTS

All issues relating to the interpretation of the Competition Rules, shall be referred to the Management Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding. The Management Committee shall consider any such matter and following such procedures as it considers appropriate. The Management Committee shall not be bound by any enactment or Rule of Law relating to the admissibility of evidence in proceeding before a Court of Law.

Where a club wishes to protest that there has been a breach of the Competition rules, such protest must be made in writing and must contain the particulars of the grounds upon which it is made. The protest must be received by the Management Committee accompanied by a fee of £50, within two working days of the match to which it relates. The fee may be forfeited to the League in the event of the protest not being upheld.

The Management Committee may make such orders as it considers appropriate in relation to any issue or protest referred to it. The Management Committee may make such orders as it considers appropriate as to the costs incurred by the parties or the League.

Any protest relating to the ground, goal posts or bars or other appurtenances of the game shall not be considered by the Management Committee unless an objection has been lodged with the referee and the home club at least 30 minutes before the official time of the kick off. The referee shall require the home club to correct the cause of the objection, if this is possible without unduly delaying the progress of the match.

Where an objection has been lodged with the referee and the home club as above, a protest must be made to the League and neither objection or protest may be withdrawn, except by leave of the Management Committee.

The League shall send a copy of any protest to the club protested against, which shall lodge a defence to the protest with particulars of the defence within two working days of receipt of the protest.

Members of the Management Committee directly connected with a club concerned in a protest shall not have any involvement in the consideration of the matter.

A club, or a player or any person directly connected with the management of the club may be summoned to attend at a hearing of a protest. A club may be represented by one or more persons. A barrister or solicitor may represent a club only with prior written consent of the Management Committee. Any person summoned to attend a hearing of a protest must attend personally and shall not be legally represented except with the prior written consent of the Management Committee.

12. POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE

If the Management Committee should subsequently discover that any rule or spirit of the rules has, in their opinion, been violated by mutual agreements or otherwise, it shall be in the power of The Management committee to disqualify one or both teams from further competing in the ties, or order the match or matches to be replayed and to impose such other penalty as it may think fit without any protest having been laid by either or any team. The Management Committee reserves the right to re-instate any team to a competition.

All questions of eligibility, disqualification of players, interpretation of the Rule or Laws of the game, as well as other matters in dispute, shall be referred to The Management Committee whose decision shall be final.

13. CUPS AND TROPHIES

Following the presentation of the Trophy, a representative of the League shall ensure that two representatives of the Club sign a document on behalf of the Club accepting same in good condition.

The Trophy to be returned to the League in like good condition on or before the 31st March of the following season. Failure to return the Trophy, properly engraved by 31st March may result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff.. If the Cup be destroyed,



damaged, or not in good conditions when returned, the Club concerned shall be responsible for all expenses incurred in the repair or replacement.

14. MEMENTOES

The League will present mementoes to the winners of the final tie. Mementoes will also be presented to the runners-up in all Cup Competitions. When a player taking part in any final tie of the Competition is ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct, the award to which he may be entitled will be withheld until the matter has been dealt with by the Management Committee. Applications to purchase extra mementoes with name of Players will be dealt with by the Management Committee. In final ties of Competitions, the appointed Referees, Assistant Referees and Reserve Officials will receive a memento in addition to their fees. The League may also award a player of the match and a club volunteer award.

LEAGUE CUP FINES TARIFF – 2020/21

RULE	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
5	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CORRECT MATCH EQUIPMENT	£50 – In each case
5	FAILURE TO FULFILL A FIXTURE	£250
5	EXPULSION FROM COMPETITION (any reason)	£250
6	INCORRECT PLAYING KIT	£50
8	FAILURE TO NOTIFY OPPONENTS AND/OR MATCH OFFICIALS	£50- In each case
8	FAILURE TO PROVIDE AN ASSISTANT REFEREE (IF REQUIRED)	£50
8	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS	£50 – in each case
9	FIELDING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£150 – In each case
10	FAILURE TO TEXT IN RESULT	£50
10	LATE/NO RESULT SHEET	£50
10	INCORRECT/FALSIFIED RESULT SHEET	£100
13	FAILURE TO RETURN TROPHY BY 31ST MARCH	£250
13	FAILURE TO APPROPRIATELY ENGRAVE TROPHY	£100
13	DESTROYED/DAMAGED/LOST TROPHY	TOTAL COST RECOVERY