

“ROCHDALE ONLINE” ALLIANCE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FOUNDED 1982

“He that striveth for mastery is temperate in all things”

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Steve Brophy, Cyril Barlow, Jason Croke,
David Entwistle, Janet Entwistle, David Foley,
Tony Gander, Brian Sutton, Trevor Winn

LIFE MEMBERS

Brian Fielden, Ken Rutherford
Roy Thompson, Graham Watkins

HEADQUARTERS

Rochdale Catholic Club, Ann St, Rochdale

AFFILIATED COUNTY

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DATES FOR MANAGEMENT AND CLUBS MEEETINGS

MANAGEMENT

Wednesday 11th August 2010
Wednesday 15th September 2010
Wednesday 13th October 2010
Wednesday 10th November 2010
Wednesday 15th December 2010
Wednesday 12th January 2011
Wednesday 9th February 2011
Wednesday 16th March 2011
Wednesday 13th April 2011
Wednesday 11th May 2011

CLUBS

Thursday 19th August 2010
Thursday 30th September 2010
Thursday 25th November 2010
Thursday 27th January 2011
Thursday 31st March 2011
Thursday 19th May 2011

ALL LEAGUE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS

ROCHDALE CATHOLIC CLUB, ANN ST, ROCHDALE

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD IN JUNE 2011

Football Association Order of Merit for 50 Years Service

2003	T Nichol	Littleborough Parish & Rochdale AFC
2004	F Alletson	Rochdale Referees Society, RAL & RAAFL
2004	J A Cattlin	Rochdale Referees Society
2004	J Culshaw	Rochdale Referees Society, RSSL & RAAFL
2004	C Fletcher	Brickcroft FC & RAAFL
2004	A Mitchell	Henry Whittle AFC, RSSL & RAAFL
2006	C Barlow	Henry Whittle AFC & RAAFL
2010	E Melvin	Rochdale Sunday League

L.F.A. Order Of Merit for 30 Years Service

1978	E Lythgoe	Rochdale Sunday Schools League
1983	T Nichol	Littleborough Parish & Rochdale AFC
1984	F Alletson	Rochdale Referees Society, RAL & RAAFL
1984	J A Cattlin	Rochdale Referees Society
1984	A Chadwick	Rochdale Alliance Association Football League
1984	J Culshaw	Rochdale Referees Society, RSSL & RAAFL
1984	C Fletcher	Brickcroft FC & RAAFL
1984	W Gregson	Rochdale Alliance Association Football League
1984	J Hardman	Rochdale Alliance Association Football League
1984	D Hinchcliffe	Rochdale Alliance Association Football League
1984	H Kikburn	Rochdale Alliance Association Football League
1984	A Mitchell	Henry Whittle AFC, RSSL & RAAFL
1984	K Rutherford	Rochdale Alliance Association Football League
1984	L Taylor	Rochdale Alliance Association Football League
1984	A Wade	Rochdale Alliance Association Football League
1986	C Barlow	Henry Whittle AFC & RAAFL
1986	G Hobbs	Rochdale Alliance Association Football League
1986	P Rawlinson	Rochdale Alliance Association Football League
1986	K Spinks	Rochdale Alliance Association Football League
1986	R Shackleton	Rochdale Alliance Association Football League
1990	E Melvin	Rochdale Sunday League
1990	J H Smith	Rochdale Nomads FC
1993	B T Rosbotham	Brickcroft FC
1995	T Jones	Rochdale Sunday League & Rochdale AFC
1998	J Murphy	Brickcroft FC
2000	J Heron	Sacred Heart FC
2000	D Ousey	Rochdale Referees Society
2000	F Williams	Rochdale Sunday League
2001	J A Wildeman	Rochdale Referees Society
2004	D Entwistle	Rochdale Alliance Association Football League
2004	T Winn	Rochdale Alliance Association Football League
2010	A Robinson	Rochdale Sunday League

NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

1. (A) This Competition shall be designated the Rochdale Alliance Association Football League and known as the "Rochdale Online" Alliance Football League and shall consist of not more than 48 Clubs who shall be Full Member Clubs.

All such Member Clubs must be affiliated to an affiliated County Football Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on the Form "D" to the Lancashire County Football Association. The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be determined from time to time by the Management Committee.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Lancashire Football Association and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions.

Member Clubs shall not enter any of their teams playing in the Competition in any other Competitions (with the exception of F.A. and County F.A. Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee of the Competition.

(B) At the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the compilation of the divisions at their discretion. When necessary this Rule shall take precedence over Rule 12.

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

2. (A) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of an additional team(s) must be made in writing to the Secretary and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee of £25 per team which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

Applications for new teams wishing to enter the Competition must be submitted to the League Secretary on or before the 30th April in each season.

At the discretion of a majority of the accredited voting members present applications, of which due notice has been given, may be received at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting. The Entry Fee shall apply.

When Rule 12(B) is applied or a team seeks a transfer or is compulsorily transferred to another division no Entry Fee shall be payable.

Any interest accrued from the fees and fines shall be retained by the Competition

(B) The Annual Subscription shall be £30 per team payable on or before the August League Meeting in each year.

(C) Each Club shall within 28 days of election pay a Deposit of £150 which shall be returnable to Clubs on leaving the Competition provided they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all orders of the Management Committee.

£100 of the deposit fee will be returned to the Club once they have completed two consecutive seasons. Deposit Fee for a reserve team shall be £10

(D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the Entry Fee, Annual Subscription, Registration Fee and Deposit have been paid.

(E) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 31st July in each year of its County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming Season failing which they shall be fined £20. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its Headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition by the 31st July in each year. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £20.

(F) Insurance – All Cubs must have player's personal insurance in order to commence playing in this competition. Any Club who does not subscribe to the insurance policy provided by the League shall produce a certificate of insurance to the League Secretary on or before the 31st August in each year. All policies must cover the player for a minimum payment of £50 per week in case of injury. Failure to do so will see the Clubs fixtures suspended and treated as a failed fixture(s) and dealt with in accordance with rule 10(F) until such time as proof of insurance has been provided.

Clubs who subscribe to the insurance policy provided by the League must pay their installments on or before the dates agreed at the Annual General Meeting. Failure to do so will see the Clubs fixtures suspended and be dealt with in accordance with rule 10(F).

OFFICERS

3. The Officers of the Competition shall be the President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, League Secretary, Registration Secretary, Fixtures Secretary and Referees Secretary to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. (N.B. Auditors are not Officers). The Press Secretary is to be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

The trustees of the League shall be the President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman and League Secretary.

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

4. (A) The Competition shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association by a Management Committee comprised of the Officers and up to eight members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. All participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The Association from time to time.

(B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination. All other candidates for election as Officers or Members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two Member Clubs, not later than 30th April in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting

(C) The Management Committee shall meet monthly to deal with business as it arises. On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the Members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Committee.

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

(E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Club Secretary. Exceptions will only be granted due to exceptional circumstances. When so the League Secretary must be informed immediately in writing the details of the temporary replacement

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

5. (A) The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all sub- committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of the Football Association or Affiliated Association.

(B) Subject to the permission of the Lancashire County Football Association having been obtained the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any Club which may have withdrawn during the season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the season. (See Rule 6(e))

(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. (This shall apply to the procedure of any sub-committee). In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

(D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition, including any not provided for in the Rules. Except where these Rules provide for the imposition of a set penalty any Club, Club Official (limited to Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer) or Player alleged to be in breach of a Competition Rule must be formally charged in writing and given the opportunity to present their case before the Management Committee. Financial penalties can only be imposed if included within the set penalties for breaches of Competition Rules. All breaches of the Laws of the Game, Rules and Regulations of The Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance with F.A. Rules by the appropriate Association.

With the exception of Clubs playing at Step 7 of the Football Pyramid and the FA Women's Premier League, the maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Competition rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Competition must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

(E) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal to the Board of Appeal in accordance with Rule 16. Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 14 days.

(F) Five Members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee and three Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by any sub-committee of the Competition.

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

(H) A Club having failed to comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee, or failing to satisfactorily attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition shall be liable to be fined or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(I) All fines and charges shall be paid within 14 days of the date of posting of the written notification. Clubs, Officials or individuals committing a breach of this Rule will incur such penalties as the Management Committee may impose.

(J) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or match may have any expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.

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

(L) No participant under the age of 18 can be fined

(M) The Management Committee shall have the power to appoint Life Vice-Presidents and Life Members to the Competition. These individuals are entitled to attend any meeting organised by the Competition but may not vote

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6. (A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 30th June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least 50% of Members are present and entitled to vote:-

- (i) To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
- (ii) To consider any business arising there from.
- (iii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
- (iv) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies (as recommended by the Management Committee).
- (v) Constitution of the Competition for ensuing season.
- (vi) Election of Officers and Management Committee.
- (vii) Appointment of Auditors.
- (viii) Alteration of Rules, if any (of which notice has been given).
- (ix) Fix the date for the commencement and conclusion of playing season.
- (x) Confirm dates at which the Leagues insurance policy installments are to be paid

1 st installment	August Clubs Meeting
2 nd installment	September Clubs Meeting
3 rd installment	November Clubs Meeting

(xi) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.

(B) A copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least fourteen days prior to the meeting, and to the Lancashire County Football Association.

(C) A signed copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Lancashire County Football Association within fourteen days of its adoption by the Annual General Meeting.

(D) Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Not less than fourteen days' notice shall be given of any Meeting.

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

(F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least two-thirds 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 Full Member Club.

(H) Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting shall be fined £20.

(I) Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an Annual General Meeting.

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

7. The Chairman and the Secretary of each Club 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 _____ of _____
_____ (Chairman)

and _____ of _____
_____ (Secretary)

of the _____ Football Club have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Rochdale Alliance Association Football League 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 16."

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

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

8. (A) Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules, are not permitted in this Competition.
- (B)(i) A registered playing member of a Club is one who, being in all other respects eligible has signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the (Registrations) Secretary three days prior to playing and whose completed registration counterfoil has been received by the Club prior to playing. (For Saturday fixtures this means by 5pm on a Wednesday, Monday fixtures by 5pm Thursday and Wednesday fixtures 5pm on a Saturday).
- (ii) If a submitted registration form is incomplete, it shall be returned to the Club for completion and they will incur an administration charge of £2 per form.
- (iii) While serving in any branch of Her Majesty's Regular Forces, a player must first obtain the consent of his/her Commanding Officer before signing a registration form to play for a Club
- (C) Each Club shall be allowed to register a maximum of 30 players per team at any one time during the season. Clubs must register a minimum of 10 players per team on or before the 31st July in each year. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £20.
- (D) A player having taken part in matches for any Club affiliated to any County Football Association shall not be allowed to join, be transferred to, or sign for a Club in the Competition without first proving to the officials of the intended Club that the player has discharged all reasonable financial liabilities to the previous Club or Clubs, and a Club official may not accept such player's signature without first ascertaining whether such claims have been discharged to the satisfaction of the Club, or Clubs, for which the player last played.
- (E) Registration forms are to be obtained from the Registration Secretary and the fees are as follows:
- (i) Registrations submitted after October 1st onwards – £1 each
- (F) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes. In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club priority of registration shall decide for which Club the player shall be registered. The Registrations Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.
- (G) It shall be a breach of Rule for a player to:-
- (i) Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same season without first being transferred.
- (ii) Having signed for one Club in the Competition, sign for another Club in the Competition in that season except for the purpose of a transfer.
- (iii) Submit a signed registration form for registration that the player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.
- (H)(i) The Management Committee shall have power to accept the registration of any player.
- (ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player or may fine any player, except those under 18 years

of age, at their discretion who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities. (Subject to Rule 16)

(iii) The Management Committee shall have power make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (Subject to Rule 16) subject to the right of appeal to the FA or relevant County Football Association.

Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated 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 with.

Note: Action under Clause (iii) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any case be subject to an Appeal to the Football Association. (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 in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.)

(I) Subject to The Football Association Rules dealing with players without a written contract when a player desires a transfer, the Club the player wishes to transfer to shall submit a transfer form to the Registrations Secretary accompanied by a fee of £2. Such transfer shall be referred by the (Registrations) Secretary 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 (Registrations) Secretary and to the player concerned within seven days of receipt of the transfer form. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within seven days, the (Registrations) Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or immediately after receipt of such transfer.

In the event of an objection to a transfer the matter shall be referred to the Management Committee for a decision.

(J) A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 5pm on the 1st March in the current season except by special permission of the Management Committee.

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

Failure to notify the Registration Secretary of a County FA suspension will result in a fine of £5

(L) A register containing the names of all players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Registrations Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of any duly appointed Member Club representative at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one Season only.

(M) A player shall not be eligible to play for a team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding match (as specified in Rule 12(A)) unless the player has played 4 games for that team in this Competition in the current season. No player shall be eligible to play in weekday matches after 1st March in each season until he has played in three games in the competition

(N) A player shall not be eligible to take part in a lower division game for his Club's team if he has played in 10 or more League and Cup matches combined in higher divisions, except by permission of the Management Committee.

(O)(i) Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players may have the points gained in the match deducted from its total and may be fined and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(ii) In addition the team may have 3 points deducted from its total at the discretion of the Management Committee and may be dealt with in any further manner which is thought to be fit.

(iii) The Management Committee may, at its discretion, award the points available in the match in question to the opponents, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.

Any player who plays in the Competition whilst serving a County FA suspension will be reported to the appropriate County FA

(P) To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16

(Note: For players under the age of 18 the provisions contained in Football Association Rules will apply.)

(Q) The Management Committee shall at its discretion arrange Inter-League games and select any player who is registered with the Competition. Any player selected shall not be eligible for his Club on the date of the game. A team having more than two players selected for Inter-League duty may apply to have its according fixture postponed. Any player failing to report for duty without due cause, will be summed before the Management Committee and dealt with at their discretion.

CLUB COLOURS, CLUB NAME

9. (A) Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the League Secretary by 1st July in each year who shall decide as to their suitability.

Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from other players and the referee.

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

Any team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify the colours in which they will play to its opponents at least 3 days before the match. If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the away team shall make the change. Any team not having a change of colours or delaying the kick-off by not having a change shall be fined £10.

The Secretary of the Competition may request shirts to be submitted if complaints are received as to lack of distinguishing colours, and the Management Committee may refuse to permit any shirts or shorts as they think fit. Shirts must be numbered. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £5 per offence

(B) Any Club wishing to change its name and/or colours must obtain permission from its affiliated County Association and from the Management Committee. Any team not playing in the Colours with which they are registered with the Competition shall be fined £10 per offence.

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

10. (A) The Annual General Meeting shall determine the commencing and concluding dates for the ensuing season which shall be in accordance with Football Association Rules. No Club shall be compelled to play after the concluding date

Any Club failing to be represented at a fixture (Clubs) meeting or otherwise infringing this Rule shall be liable for a fine of £20 and the Management Committee or the Fixtures Secretary shall arrange that Club's fixtures.

(B) All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board. Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their grounds in a playable condition. All matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee. If through any fault of the home team a match has to be replayed, the Management Committee shall have power to order the venue to be changed.

The Management Committee shall have power to decide whether a pitch and/or facilities are suitable for matches in the Competition and to order the Club concerned to play its fixtures on another ground.

All matches shall have a duration of 90 minutes unless a shorter time (not less than 70 minutes) is mutually arranged by the two captains in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves.

The times of kick-off shall be fixed by the A.G.M. or the Management Committee. Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time shall be fined a sum not exceeding £10 or be otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine.

All Saturday fixtures, including cup matches will commence at 2.00pm. All midweek matches will commence at 6.00pm

Any team reported to the Management Committee for not being ready to kick-off 20 minutes after the specified kick-off time shall be deemed to have failed their fixture. They may have points deducted from their total, be fined and the points available in the match in question awarded to their opponents, with the match not being replayed.

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

The home team must provide at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. Goal nets and corner flags must be used. Failure to provide goal nets and corner flags will result in a fine of £5

All teams are responsible for providing an assistant referee, failure to do so will incur a fine of £5. All teams must carry a whistle and first aid kit at all times, failure to do so will incur a fine of £5

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

The Fixtures Secretary must give teams at least five days clear notice of a re-arranged fixture

(D) The Secretary of the home Club must give notice in writing of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the match officials and the Secretary of the opposing Club at least one clear day prior to the playing of the match. The requested information may also be given by telephone or e-mail. Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be fined £5.

(E) Every Club shall play its best available qualified team or teams in all matches in the Competition.

(Note: The intention of this Rule is not to interfere with normal team selection by Clubs, but to prevent Clubs deliberately fielding a weakened team in order to unreasonably reserve players for another game or to boost the strength of another or lower team. It is NOT intended that Clubs MUST field higher team players in lower teams when the higher team has no engagement. If, in the opinion of the Management Committee, the substance or spirit of the Rule is obviously being disregarded, the Club or Clubs concerned may be called to account for its/their actions and shall be subject to such decisions as the Management Committee may determine, despite the fact that Rule 8 has not been infringed.)

In the event of a Club playing in any match with less than 10 players they shall be fined £2 for each missing player. A minimum of seven players will constitute a team for a Competition match.

(F) Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall inflict a fine of £20, award the points to the opponents, subject to the game not being replayed and order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals. Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent's ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

Any Club with more than one team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence: First Team, Reserve Team, 'A' Team. Clubs in breach of this requirement shall be fined £20 or otherwise dealt with by the Management Committee.

Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture must, without delay, give notice to the Fixtures Secretary, the Competition Referees Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the match official(s). Any Club failing to comply shall be dealt with by the Management Committee who may inflict any penalty it may deem suitable.

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

The Management Committee shall review all matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to

stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one team or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the match to the opponents and take what other action they may deem necessary. In cases where a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams or, their Club members, the Management Committee shall rule all points for the match as void. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match. Such action is subject to any disciplinary action taken by the appropriate Affiliated Association.

In the event that a team plays whilst under a County FA suspension they shall be reported to their affiliated County FA. If found guilty of the offence, they shall be deemed to have failed their fixture and may have the points gained in the match deducted from its total, may be fined and have further points deducted from their total. The points available in the match in question may be awarded to their opponents, with the match not being replayed.

A team under a County FA suspension, whose scheduled fixture is postponed for any reason, shall be deemed to have failed their fixture and may have the points gained in the match deducted from its total, may be fined and may have further points deducted from their total. The points available in the match in question may be awarded to their opponents, with the match not being replayed.

(G) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use three substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from five players. The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than 10 minutes before the start of the match.

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

(H) The half time interval may be of five minutes duration, but it shall not exceed fifteen minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

REPORTING RESULTS

11. (A) The Registrations Secretary must receive from both teams, the completed team sheet within three days of the date played (Sundays and Bank Holidays not included), in the prescribed manner. (For Saturday fixtures this means by 5pm on a Wednesday, Monday fixtures by 5pm on a Thursday and Wednesday fixtures by 5pm on a Saturday). This must include the Referees name, forename(s) and surname of both team's players (in block letters) and also the Referee markings required by Rule 13, or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £10 per offence and/or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide.

The team sheet may be faxed (0871 277 3040) or e-mailed to the Registration Secretary, but the original must be sent and received by the Registration Secretary in the prescribed time above.

If no match card is received from a team, then that team shall be fined a minimum of £20 and/or be dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(B) The Home Club shall telephone the result of all matches, whether they are competition or county competition to the Fixtures Secretary on the day of the match by 6pm for Saturday matches and 9.00pm in the case of midweek matches.

Failure to ring in the result by the prescribed time will incur a fine of £5. If the Fixtures Secretary has to contact the offending team in order to collect the result a £5 administration charge will be imposed

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

All substitutes must have an asterisk next to their name to indicate their participation in the game. No other proof of participation will be accepted. Any team, who submits a Referees assessment mark of 40 or less, must notify the League and Referees Secretary in writing within seven days of the match, their reasons for the award. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £10.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

12. (A) Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with 3 points to be awarded for a win and 1 point for a drawn match. The teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective Divisions at the conclusion shall be adjudged the winners. Matches must not be played for double points.

In the event of two or more teams being equal on points team rankings will be decided in the order of:-

- (i) goal difference
- (ii) goals scored
- (iii) deciding match(s) played under conditions determined by the Management Committee.
- (iv) If any of those teams have been negatively affected by point's adjustment then clauses (i) and (ii) are forgone and clause (iii) is implemented

(B) Automatic promotion and relegation shall be applied for the first two and last two teams in each Division except, subject to the provisions of Rule 1(B).

Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the season shall be filled by election at the Annual General Meeting

(C) In the event of a team either resigning or being expelled from the Competition during the season, all records relating to that team will be expunged from the Competition records.

(D) Not Applicable

REFEREES

13. (A) Registered Referees and Assistant Referees for all matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the sanctioning Association(s).

(B) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed Referee the appointed senior Assistant Referee shall take charge and a substitute Assistant Referee

appointed by the competing Teams. In cases where there are no officially appointed Assistant Referees, the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee. A Referee thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee.

If a fixture is not played due to the teams not agreeing over the choice of Referee, then both teams shall be deemed to have failed the fixture. This will result in both teams having 3 points deducted from their total and being fined £20. The fixture will then be re-arranged at the discretion of the Fixtures Secretary.

(C) The Management Committee may, if they consider it desirable, or upon application by the two competing Clubs, appoint Assistant Referees, if available, to any match. Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £5 being imposed on the defaulting Team.

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

(E) Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be entitled to the following match fees (inclusive of travelling expenses):-

Referee £25,

Registered Referees appointed by the Management Committee as Assistant Referees £12.50,

All fees are subject to any limits laid down by the Lancashire Football Association.

The Home Club shall pay the Referee their fee immediately after the match. If Assistant Referee's are appointed then the Away team shall pay them immediately after the match.

(F) In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to half fee, payable by the home team. 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.

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

Clubs must inform the Referees Secretary either by telephone or in writing if the appointed Referee has failed to keep their appointment.

(H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The Football Association, award marks to the Referee for each match and the name of the Referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed Form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined 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 Lancashire Football Association/County Association.

(J) The Referee shall submit a report Form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the match and any other information requested by the Management Committee to the Press Secretary within two days of the match.

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

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

14. (A) After 31st December in the current Season a Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the League Secretary in writing by 30th April in each Season or be liable to a fine of £50.

(B) A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its teams from the Competition after the arrangement of fixtures for the following Season. Any Club infringing this Rule shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £50 per team and shall also be liable for its share of any call which may be made under Rule 5(B).

(C) Not Applicable

(D) In the event of a Member Club which is an un-incorporated association withdrawing and/or disbanding it shall be immediately liable to discharge all its financial and other obligations to the Competition.

In the event that any such obligation remains un-discharged after a period of twenty-one (21) days then such obligation shall be met by the then current Club Members, excluding those under the age of 18. Until a Member's pro rata obligation is discharged in full the Member shall not be allowed to participate in the Competition, which may apply to the Club's Parent County Association for a suspension order.

(E) Any Club who is in debt to the Competition on the 31st May in each season, shall have its continued membership of the Competition reconsidered and may be expelled in accordance with Rule 17(A) at the Annual General Meeting.

PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS

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

(ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match. Any Club lodging such protest and not proceeding with it shall be deemed guilty of a breach of this Rule and shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.

(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 in duplicate with the Secretary within seven days (excluding Sundays) of the match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A Member of the Management Committee who is a

member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

(C) Any dispute occurring between Clubs in the Competition shall be referred for determination by the Management Committee whose decision shall be binding upon all parties subject to Rule 16.

(D) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum of £25. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the enquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

(E) All parties to a protest or complaint must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement when the protest or complaint is being heard and must have received seven days notice of the hearing, together with a copy of the submission. When dealing with a protest or complaint the Management Committee shall take into consideration the possession by the protesting or complaining Club of any information which, if properly used, might have avoided the protest or complaint.

BOARD OF APPEAL

16. Within 14 days of the posting of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee or the Competition, a Club, Official or Player against whom action is taken may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars in duplicate with the Secretary of the Lancashire Football Association, including a fee of £35, for adjudication of a Board of Appeal. The grounds of appeal shall be in accordance with FA Rules. The Board of Appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited and shall decide by whom the costs of the appeal shall be borne. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned. No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an Annual or Special General Meeting unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

EXCLUSION OF CLUBS OR TEAMS MISCONDUCT, CLUBS, OFFICIALS, PLAYERS

17. (A) At the Annual General Meeting, or Special General Meeting called for the purpose, Notice of Motion having been duly circulated on the Agenda, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude any Club or Team from further membership which must be supported by (more than) two thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot.

(B) At the Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by (more than) two-thirds (2/3rds) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

(C) Any official or member of a Club proved guilty of either a breach of Rule, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a player or players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to expulsion or such

penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Clauses (A) and (B) of this Rule.

(D) Any team failing to complete three of its fixtures in any season shall (unless the conditions are beyond their control) be expelled from the Competition subject to rule 17(A)

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

18. (A) If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a Trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the Donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the sanctioning Association may decide.

(B)The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the Cup or Trophy:-

“We _____ and _____, the Chairman and Secretary of _____FC, 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 31st March in each season. 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 return the Cup, Shield or Trophy in an undamaged, clean and polished condition, by the due date will incur a fine of £10 per week until the item is returned.

(C) At the close of each Competition awards shall be made (16 per team) to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

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

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

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

Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £20.

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

All amendments of Rules can only be implemented once approved by the appropriate sanctioning authority.

ALTERATION TO RULES

20. Alterations shall be made to these Rules only at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 19. Any alteration made during the playing season to the Rule relating to the qualification of players shall not take effect until the following season.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary by 31st March in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 21st April and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 30th April. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the Lancashire Football Association not less than twenty-eight days prior to the date of the meeting.

Any alterations or additions decided upon at any meeting shall not become operative until the approval of the Lancashire Football Association issuing sanction shall have been obtained.

RULES BINDING ON CLUBS

21. Each Member Club shall be deemed to have given its assent to the foregoing Rules and agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee subject to Rule 16. Each Member Club must abide by any issued Football Association Code of Conduct.
Each season each team will be issued with and invoiced with League handbooks. The number and cost of which will be determined at the discretion of the Management Committee at the beginning of each season.

FINANCE

22. (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 £200 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 31st May in each year.
(D) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be audited annually by some suitable person(s) who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

CUP COMPETITION RULES

23. (A) All Cup Competitions shall be conducted in accordance with the aforementioned Competition Rules where applicable.

(B) All teams shall be compelled to enter the Cup Competitions as directed by the Management Committee. The entrance fee for each competition shall be £30 per team

(C) The structure of the Cup Competitions either League or Divisional shall be determined by the Management Committee to suit the overall needs of the Competition.

(D) All ties shall be drawn at a Clubs meeting whenever possible. The club drawn first shall be designated as the home team.

(E) In cases where a team fails a fixture, the tie is to be awarded to the opposition and the defaulting club dealt with at the discretion of the management committee.

(F) The Management Committee shall decide when matches are played. All ties are to be completed on the day of the match. If the scores are level at the end of normal time, extra time will be played consisting of two equal periods not exceeding 15 minutes. If at the end of extra time and the scores remain level then the tie shall be decided by the taking of 5 penalties per side. If the scores are still level then to determine the result, penalties will continue, one per team, until one team misses.

(G) In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one team and/or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to award the tie to the opponents and take what other action they may deem necessary. Such action is subject to any disciplinary action taken by the appropriate Affiliated Association.

(H) In cases where a match is abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams and/or their Club members, the Management Committee shall take such action as they consider appropriate. Such action is subject to any disciplinary action taken by the appropriate Affiliated Association.

(I) To be eligible for these Competitions, a player must be registered with a Club in accordance with Rule 8.

(J) A player may only play for one Club in any Cup Competition in this League. In cases where a Club has more than one team, no player can play for a lower ranked team if he has played 10 or more League and Cup games combined for the same team. In addition, once a player has made 4 appearances for a team in a cup competition he will be cup tied to that team in that competition.

(K) To be eligible to play in any Cup Semi-final or Final tie, a player must have played in a minimum of 4 matches for that team. (Except by permission of the Management Committee)

(L) Any team playing an unregistered player or otherwise ineligible player shall be expelled from the Cup Competition, be fined £20 and the tie awarded to their opponents.

(M) Any team who plays in the Competition whilst under a County FA suspension, shall be reported to their County FA and if found guilty of the offence, be expelled from the Competition, may be fined and the tie awarded to their opponents.

(N) In all ties except the final, the fees shall be divided equally between the competing teams.