

“ROCHDALE ONLINE” ALLIANCE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FOUNDED 1982

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

OFFICERS OF THE LEAGUE

PRESIDENT

Mr John Culshaw
155 Heywood Rd
Castleton
Rochdale
OL11 3BS
Tel: 01706 658701

CHAIRMAN

Mr Jason Croke
130 Fairway
Castleton
Rochdale
OL11 3BZ
Tel: 01706 868704

VICE-CHAIRMAN & INSURANCE OFFICER

Mr Trevor Winn
37 Moorland Ave
Milnrow
Rochdale
OL16 3DZ
Tel: 01706 356077

LEAGUE SECRETARY

Mr Mike Willmore
4 Glen Royd
Rochdale
OL12 7DY
Tel: 01706 350897
Mob: 07793 725952
E-Mail: mikewillmore@me.com

TREASURER

Mr Timothy Buckley
20 Stonehill Rd
Rochdale
OL12 7JJ
Tel: 01706 351103

FIXTURES SECRETARY

Mr Leon Beardmore
43 Rodney St
Castleton
Rochdale
OL11 3DF
Mob: 07716 220753
E-Mail: leonbeardmore@yahoo.co.uk

RESULTS SECRETARY

Mr Andrew Perrin
941 Manchester Road
Rochdale
OL11 2TR
Mob: 07787 127925
E-mail: andrewperrin@hotmail.co.uk

REGISTRATION SECRETARY

Miss Claire Blanthorn
C/O Rochdale Online
847-849 Manchester Rd
Rochdale
OL11 2UY
Work: 01706 523583
Mob: 07790 773103
E-Mail: claire@rochdaleonline.co.uk

REFEREES SECRETARY

Mr Darren Rodgers
13 Clarkson Close
Middleton
M24 1PY
Mob: 07928 405124

**REFEREES
ASSISTANT SECRETARY**

Mr Trevor Mayne
69 Fisherfield
Rochdale
OL12 7QW
Tel: 01706 654677
Mob: 07776 223787

AUDITOR

Mr Gordon Lorimer

LIFE VICE-PRESIDENTS

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

Lancashire Football Association,
The County Ground
Thurston Rd
Leyland
Preston
PR25 2LF
Tel: 01772 624000

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

	Home	Mobile	Work
Mr Cyril Barlow	Tel: 01706 376989		
Mr Leon Beardmore	Tel:	07716 220753	
Miss Claire Blanthorn	Tel:	07790 773103	01706 523583
Mr Tim Buckley	Tel: 01706 351103		
Mr Jason Croke	Tel: 01706 868704		
Mr John Culshaw	Tel: 01706 658701		
Mr Graham Foster	Tel:	07976 763717	
Mr Ian Lawrence	Tel: 01706 882062		
Mr Andrew Perrin	Tel:	07787 127925	
Mr Darren Rodgers	Tel:	07928 405124	
Mr Trevor Mayne	Tel: 01706 654677	07776 223787	
Mr Mike Willmore	Tel: 01706 350897	07793 725952	
Mr Trevor Winn	Tel: 01706 356077	07729 335635	

DATES FOR MANAGEMENT AND CLUBS MEEETINGS

MANAGEMENT

Wednesday 10th August 2011
Wednesday 14th September 2011
Wednesday 12th October 2011
Wednesday 9th November 2011
Wednesday 14th December 2011
Wednesday 11th January 2012
Wednesday 8th February 2012
Wednesday 14th March 2012
Wednesday 11th April 2012
Wednesday 16th May 2012

CLUBS

Thursday 18th August 2011
Thursday 29th September 2011

Thursday 24th November 2011

Thursday 26th January 2012

Thursday 29th March 2012

Thursday 24th May 2012

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 approved by the sanctioning authority.

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, Results Secretary, Referees Secretary and Referees Assistant Secretary and are 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 at least quarterly. 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 or where there may be a conflict of interest. (This shall apply to the procedure of any sub-committee). In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

(D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition, including any not provided for in the Rules. With the exception of Rules 5(i), 6(h), 10(a), 11 and 19, for all breaches of Rule a formal written charge must be issued. The respondent shall be given seven days from the date of notice to reply to the charge and given the opportunity to:-

- (i) Accept or deny the charge
- (ii) Submit in writing a case of mitigation, or
- (iii) Put their case before the Management Committee.

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 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. Any Club failing to do so will be fined a maximum of £50. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional sum within 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding payments are settled.

(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) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

(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 of the playing season and kick off times applicable to the Competitions.

(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. 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 Member Club.

(H) Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given 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. It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any Player signing a registration form for that Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any Player aged 16 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.
- (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 Association Secretary 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 on or before the 30th September – Free of charge
 - (ii) 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.

In the event of a player without a written contract changing his status to that of a contract player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition or with a Club in another Competition his registration as a player without a written contract will automatically be cancelled and declared void. In order to play in the League again either for his original Club or for another Club it will be necessary for him to be re-registered as required by this Rule.

(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 for a team (or teams) ranked 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)(i) Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities.

(ii) The availability of children must be cleared with the Head Teachers.

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

(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 31st 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 date for the commencement of the season in accordance with Football Association Rules. Original fixtures arranged by the (*Fixtures*) Secretary, or at a meeting specially convened for that purpose, to be held no later than 31st August in each season, must not be arranged for a date later than seven days preceding the concluding date.

Once the playing season has commenced, any Member Club or its teams, that has requested a postponement due to religious observance and is found playing in a fixture of any capacity during that time will be charged and dealt with under rule 5D and if found guilty shall be liable to be fined or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the Management Committee.

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.

Each Club shall be permitted to apply for two open dates per season. The application shall be in writing or via e-mail to the League Secretary not less than 35 days prior to the said date and no applications will be considered for dates after the 31st March in each season.

(B) All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board. Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their grounds in a playable condition. All matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee. If

through any fault of the home team a match has to be replayed, the Management Committee shall have power to order the venue to be changed.

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

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. In the case of a revised fixture date, the Clubs must be given by the Competition 5 clear day's notice of the match (unless otherwise mutually agreed).

(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 two 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) 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 have power to 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 a fine.

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. In cases where a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule all points for the match as void. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match.

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 3 substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from 5 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.

(I) Not Applicable

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), the result of each match 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 Results 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 Results 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.

If the fixed penalty exceeds £20 the Club must be charged as detailed in Rule 5(D).

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, being expelled from the Competition during the season or not completing 75% of its fixtures for the season, all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting team shall be expunged from the Competition table.

(D) Not Applicable

REFEREES

13. (A) Registered Referees (and Assistant Referees where approved by the FA or County FA) for all matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the sanctioning 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 Officials 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) Not Applicable

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

(L) Not Applicable

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.

(i) Any Club infringing this Rule after the fixtures have commenced 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).

(ii) Any Club infringing this Rule and not disbanding before the fixtures have commenced 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).

(iii) Any Club infringing this Rule and disbanding before the fixtures have commenced cannot be fined but will be liable for their financial commitments prior to disbanding.

(C) The Membership for the coming season having been decided at a Special General Meeting held for that purpose not earlier than 30th March in each season nor later than 31st May in each season or at the Annual General Meeting held not later than 30th June, the Competition shall have the right, irrespective of other provisions in this Rule, to refuse to permit a Club to withdraw its team(s) in order to join another Competition and may hold the Club to its engagements.

(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 receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.

(i) All parties must have received seven days' notice of the Hearing should they be instructed to attend.

(ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then they should forward a deposit of £25 and indicate such when forwarding the written response.

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, or the accredited delegates present at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting decide otherwise by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast) be expelled from the Competition subject to rule 17(A) or be debarred from membership the following season.

**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 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, as will members of the Management Committee.

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.

ALTERATION TO RULES

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

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 majority of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the sanctioning Football Association twenty-eight days prior to the date of the meeting.

FINANCE

21. (A) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.
- (B) All expenditure in excess of £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

22. (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 at the August Management Meeting prior to the season commencing 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 the event of a team failing to keep its engagement, the Management Committee shall inflict a fine of £20, award the tie to the opponents, subject to the game not being replayed and order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents.
- (F)(i) The Management Committee shall decide when matches are played. For Divisional Competitions, teams will be divided into two groups and play each other on a round robin basis with points being awarded as per League fixtures. The winners and runners-up of each group will progress to the semi-final stages with the winner of group 1 playing the runner-up of group 2 and the winner of group 2 playing the runner-up of group 1. Games played in the group stages will be played as per league fixtures and in the knockout stages ties will 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.

(F)(ii) The Management Committee shall decide when matches are played. For League Competitions, 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) For Divisional and League Cup Competitions, 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 a team (or teams) ranked in higher divisions. 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 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.