

AFC AGM 2018

Rule Changes Proposed by the Executive Committee

Rule No.	Rule Change Proposed changes in <i>red, bold underlined italics.</i> Proposed deletions struck through	Reason for Change
1	<p>1. Nomenclature and Constitution</p> <p>1 a: This League shall be designated the “Amateur Football Combination” and shall consist of Clubs who shall be full member Clubs or associate member Clubs. The object of the League is to foster and provide competitive football for Clubs in membership.</p> <p>1 b: All such Clubs must be affiliated the Amateur Football Alliance or a County Football Association and their names and particulars shall be <i>entered on Whole Game System</i> returned annually by the appointed date on the Form “D” to the Amateur Football Alliance. The area covered by the League Membership shall be the Home Counties.</p>	<p>To update affiliation rules, now required on Whole Game rather than annually on Form D.</p>
	<p>1 f: No more than one team from any Club shall participate in one division <i>except for the lowest two divisions in the each of the north and the south sections of the league</i></p>	<p>To allow stronger/larger clubs to play more than one team in the lowest two divisions (north and south)</p>
2	<p>2. Admission to the League, Annual Subscription and Annual Dinner</p> <p>2 a: Clubs wishing to become associate members shall apply to the Secretary. The Amenities Committee <i>Officer</i> shall have the power to grant associate membership to any Club at any time.</p>	<p>(* see end of list of proposals)</p>
	<p>2 b: Non-member Clubs and associate member Clubs wishing to become full member Clubs of the League must be proposed and seconded in writing by two full member Clubs <i>or by one member club and the Executive Committee</i> and must be approved by the Executive Committee. Election into membership will be by a majority vote at an AGM. Applications to join the League must be made in writing to the Secretary not later than 31st March each year. New Clubs shall serve a minimum of a one year probationary period. After not less than one year their probationary membership shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee which shall decide whether to recommend to the AGM that the Club be confirmed as a full member Club of the League. If then recommended for admission a Club may</p>	<p>To allow the Executive Committee to be the proposer or seconder of any new Applicant Club</p>

	<p>be admitted to full membership of the League. A Non-member Club or associate member Club applying for membership must be represented at the AGM that considers its application. Such Clubs may not vote at that AGM. The teams of a new member Club shall be placed within divisions as determined by the AGM.</p>	
	<p>2 e: Annual Subscriptions shall be paid by 31st October or such later date as the Executive Committee may set. A fine may be levied by the Executive Committee if payment is not made by the due date. The Executive Committee may require a deposit to be paid by or on behalf of clubs on such terms and for such period as it may think fit for the purpose of securing the payment of League fines. A Club shall not participate in the League if it is in default of its Annual Subscription or deposit. 2 f: Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 30th June 31st August of all its county affiliation numbers for the forthcoming season, failing which they shall be fined. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, details of its Grounds, Officers and any other information required by the League.</p>	<p>To put back the date by which clubs must confirm their County affiliation numbers.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>3. Officers The Officers of the League shall be the President, two Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary (Discipline), Committee Chairmen, Amenities Officer, Results Secretary, League Match Secretaries, Minutes Secretary, Publications Secretary, Referees' Secretaries/Assistant Secretaries and Representative Team Manager. They shall be elected annually at the AGM.</p>	<p>1. To update the designated League Officers to reflect the changes proposed to rules 4 and 5 (* see end of list of proposals)</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>4. Management, Nomination, Election 4a (i) The League shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association by an Executive Committee elected at the AGM. The Executive Committee shall comprise the President, Immediate Past President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary (Communications), Treasurer, Committee Chairmen for the Development and Communications, Finance, Fixtures, Referees, Rules Revision, Spirit of Football, Club Representatives and Club Support Committees, Minutes Secretary, Referees' Secretary, Representatives to</p>	<p>1. To reduce the size of the Executive Committee from 31 to 16 members, moving some members to League sub-Committees. 2. To remove the Chairman of the Representative Team Committee and the Chairman of the Dinner Committee from the Executive Committee. 3. To create a new Club Representative Committee for up to 12 club</p>

	<p>the Amateur Football Alliance Council, and up to twelve <u>one</u> Representatives of full member Clubs and a maximum of six <u>four</u> Vice-Presidents or Past Presidents <u>not including any Vice Presidents elected to other positions on the Executive Committee</u> .</p> <p><u>(ii) Others shall be elected at the AGM including new Vice-Presidents up to ten further representatives of full member clubs and representatives of League Committees not otherwise on the Executive Committee</u></p> <p><u>(iii)</u> All participants shall abide by the Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by the Association from time to time.</p>	<p>representatives to identify and relay club concerns to the Executive Committee through two members elected at the AGM onto the Executive Committee.</p> <p>4. To create a new Club Support Committee to befriend, advise and support clubs in difficulty before league disciplinary measures become necessary including a panel of experienced League Members such as Vice-Presidents, the Committee Chairman being elected to the Executive Committee.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>4 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 Executive Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two Clubs, not later than 30th April <u>31st May</u> in each year, or by nomination by the Executive Committee without a seconder. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the AGM.</p>	<p>To allow one extra month for nomination of Executive Officers until the end of May</p>
	<p>4 c: The Executive Committee <u>and other League Committees</u> shall meet as often as is necessary to deal with business as it arises. Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the Members of the Executive Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Committee.</p> <p>4 d: Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the League and keep a record of its proceedings.</p> <p>4 e: All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their nominated Officers.</p> <p>4 f: New Vice-Presidents shall be elected at the AGM. Such election shall be based upon their contributions to the League and its predecessors over a number of years.</p>	<p>To confirm that League sub-committees will meet as often as needed</p>

	<p>4 g: The Executive Committee shall elect <u>from amongst its number</u> League representatives to the Council of the Amateur Football Alliance. The number shall be determined by the Amateur Football Alliance.</p>	<p>To confirm that the Executive committee will nominate League representatives onto the AFA Council from amongst its own number</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>5. Powers of Management 5 a: The Executive Committee shall appoint sub-Committees (known as Committees) that shall have the power to make decisions. The minutes of all such Committees shall be reported to the <u>Secretary of the</u> Executive Committee <u>within 14 days of their meetings. The Executive Committee shall approve the size, quorums meeting dates and terms of reference of all Committees and standardised agendas including apologies, persons present, approval of minutes of previous meetings, action points, items for discussion, date of next meeting and any other business</u> The designation of Committees shall normally include: Emergency, Finance, Development <u>and Communications</u>, Amenities, Referees, Fixtures, Spirit of Football, Discipline, Communications, Rules Revision, Representative Team, <u>Club Representatives, Club Support</u> and Dinner.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To reflect the revised structure of the Executive Committee set out in the amendments to rules 3 and 4a plus terms of reference and best practice by League sub-Committees 2. To delete reference to the Discipline Committee which no longer exists
	<p>5 e: 40 <u>50%</u> of the Members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.</p>	<p>To identify a quorum of the Executive Committee as half its maximum membership</p>
	<p>5 k: The Emergency Committee shall consist of the Chairman, Secretary, Vice-Chairman and the Chairman of the Discipline and Fixtures <u>and Rules</u> Committees.</p>	<p>To delete reference to the Discipline Committee which no longer exists</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>8. Qualification of Players 8 a: (i) Contract players, <u>or players who have played for any other Club participating at FA steps 1-6 earlier during that season, as defined by FA Rules</u>, are not permitted in the League. <u>(ii) It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any player registered to the Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any player who has since the age of 10 played football outside of England including Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland.</u> (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.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To prevent clubs from loading teams with semi-professional players for important end of season games. 2. To implement the FA requirement that clubs apply for an International Transfer Certificate for any of their players who have played football outside of England since the age of 10.
	<p>8 b: A registered playing member of a Club is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:-</p>	

	<p>(i) <i>Been entered on Full Time by the club as a club member</i> Signed a fully and correctly completed League registration form in ink, countersigned by an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered on Full Time prior to playing</p> <p>(ii) Signed a fully and correctly completed League registration form in ink on a match day prior to playing, countersigned by an Officer of the Club and <i>Been</i> entered on Full Time within 48 hours subsequent to the match. Each Club shall have at least 11 players per team registered by the 1st September. A fine may be levied by the Executive Committee if a Club fails to provide its correctly completed player registration form by the due date.</p>	<p>To reflect the on-line registration system now in operation</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>10. Playing Season, Conditions of Play, Times of Kick Off, Postponements, Substitutes</p> <p>10 a: Clubs should start their programmes as early as possible. All teams in the Premier, Senior and Intermediate Divisions must have started league games by a date to be determined by the Fixtures Committee unless otherwise involved in Cup fixtures or requesting “no fixture” (see 10 g). All other teams must have started league games by the last Saturday in September. Every Saturday in the season shall be considered as available for League matches, unless otherwise agreed by the Fixtures Committee. The League Match Secretary may require matches to be played during April and May in midweek and on Sundays to ensure completion of the League programme. No Club shall be compelled to play on a Public Holiday. <i>All games shall kick off at 2:00 pm on Saturdays unless otherwise agreed between the two clubs and pre-notified to the match official(s)</i></p> <p>Fixtures arranged by League Match Secretaries shall not be re-arranged by Clubs without the permission of the League Match Secretary.</p> <p>10 b: All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board.</p> <p>Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their grounds in a playable condition. The Amenities Committee <i>Officer</i> shall have power to decide whether a pitch and/or facilities are suitable for matches in the League and to order the Club concerned to play its fixtures on another ground. If through the fault of the home team a match has to be replayed, the Fixtures Committee shall have power to order the venue to be changed.</p> <p>10 e: A Club shall play its strongest team as its first team, second strongest as its second team and so on. Clubs must operate selection policies that ensure there is</p>	<p>To adopt a standard kick off time across the season subject to any alternative agreement reached between the two clubs and notified to the match officials.</p> <p>(* see end of list of proposals)</p>

<p>completely free movement of players between teams throughout the Club based on playing strengths. Clubs must be able to demonstrate compliance with this rule if required to do so by the Fixtures Committee. Any Club infringing this rule may be liable to a fine, a deduction of points or to any other sanctions which the Fixtures Committee considers appropriate. <u>Where in any season a team wins a division whilst another team from the same Club playing in the immediate division above gains one point per game played, or less, the winning trophy shall be withheld, subject only to the appeal procedure under rules 5c-d, 15 and 16.</u></p> <p>10 h: A Club may request that “no fixture” be allocated to a team where there is good cause on a particular Saturday during the season. Such requests must be made to the relevant League Match Secretary at least four weeks 21 days in advance of the date concerned, who will then decide at his discretion whether to agree to such a request. A team is limited to one two such requests s per season. When a side has been granted “no fixture” the Club concerned must ensure that its remaining lower sides are not “over-strength”. This rule only applies to league fixtures.</p> <p>10 i: Notice of postponement of any match must be given without delay to the opposing club and by both Clubs to the Referees’ Secretary, the match officials and the Appropriate Results Secretary. Both Clubs must ensure that the postponement is confirmed. It is not sufficient for Clubs to simply leave a message and assume that it will be collected. Should the opposing Club Fixtures Secretary be unavailable, contact must be made with the opposing Club’s Honorary Secretary, Emergency contact, and/or any other relevant Club Officer. Both Clubs must inform the appropriate League Match Secretary of any postponed or abandoned matches no later than 7 9-00 7 9 pm on the day of the match, as well as reporting to the Results Secretary in the usual manner (SMS text to FT). Any Club involved in a drawn, postponed or abandoned cup tie must advise the appropriate League Match Secretary no later than 7 9 7 9 pm on the same day. Any Club failing to comply with these requirements shall be dealt by the Fixtures Committee who may impose any penalty deemed suitable.</p>	<p>To fix the criteria for league trophies being automatically withheld as where a team wins its division and the next higher team in its club attains one point per game played or fewer.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To increase the maximum number of ‘no fixture’ requests from one to two games per team per season.2. To reduce the notice for making such requests from 28 to 21 days. <p>To bring the time for reporting drawn, postponed or abandoned matches or cup ties to the Match Secretary in line with the time for reporting results by SMS under rule 11b - by 7:00 pm</p>
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	<p><u>10 l: In all League matches temporary dismissals (sin bins) will be imposed by referees for all cautions for dissent in accordance with the guidelines issued under the FA Pilot scheme.</u> <u>[Rule 10l will then become rule 10m]</u></p>	To introduce sin bins as part of the FA's Pilot scheme to control dissent during season 2018/2019 and allow League participants to assess its effectiveness.
11	<p>11. Reporting Results 11 a: Each Club must submit details of results in a format prescribed by the League, including referees' marks, hospitality marks, Spirit of Football marks and any other information required by the League, to arrive not later than 96 hours following the end of the match. Clubs failing to do so shall be liable to be fined by the Fixtures Committee. 11 b: Each Club must submit all match results by SMS text message to the FA Full-Time system, by 7.00pm on a Saturday, or within 2 hours of the completion of a match played on any other day. Clubs failing to do so shall be liable to be fined by the Fixtures Committee.</p>	<p>To apply automatic fines for failure to submit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • full details of results to the League within 96 hours of the completion of match • text messages to Full Time by 7pm on Saturdays or within 2 hours of games
18	<p>18: Trophy: Legal Owner, Conditions of Taking Over, Agreement to be Signed, Awards 18 c: Trophy holders must return the Trophy or Cup to the engravers by 31st March <u>or such earlier date as may be set by the Executive Committee.</u> This date shall be set at the AGM. Clubs who breach this Rule shall be fined an amount not less than £5 per day per trophy.</p>	To allow the Executive Committee to require trophies to be returned earlier than 31 st March
25	<p>25. Representative Matches 25 a: The Representative Team Committee shall arrange and be responsible for representative matches. 25 b: Any player selected to represent the League or the Amateur Football Alliance may not play for his Club on the date of any such match without the consent of the Representative Team Committee. <u>Any club selecting a player for a game played on the same day as a Representative Match in which he has been selected shall be fined by the Representative Team Committee</u></p>	To allow the League to fine clubs selecting players to play on the same day as they have been selected to play for the League Representative Team
26	<p>26. Standards of Amenities 26 a: All Clubs must register their grounds for approval by the Amenities Committee <u>Officer</u> and must notify subsequent changes to the Amenities Committee <u>Officer</u> for approval before use. The requirements from home sides for accommodation, playing facilities and</p>	(* see end of list of proposals)

	<p>hospitality are as follows:</p> <p>(c) Hospitality and Refreshments:</p> <p>(i) The Home team shall provide at least a cup of tea and a cake or biscuit without charge to the visiting players and match officials at or near to the match venue after the match. In the event of failure to comply with these requirements the Amenities Committee <u>Officer</u> shall have power to impose a fine.</p>			
App 1	Standard Fines and Charges			<p>(* see end of list of proposals)</p> <p>To ensure that Representative Team players play for the Representative team when selected rather than their own club</p>
	Rule	Details	Fine (£)	
	<u>25b</u>	<u>Club selecting a player to play for a club after he has been selected to play for the Representative Team</u>	<u>£50</u>	

* These changes will replace the Amenities Committee by an Amenities Officer who is not a member of the Executive Committee. Changes are proposed to rules 2a, 3, 10b, 26a, 26c(i) and Appendix 1.