**MARSWORTH CUP RULES – SEASON 2023-24**

# DEFINITIONS

**1.** (A) In these Rules:

**“Affiliated Association”** means an Association accorded the status of an Affiliated Association under the Rules of the FA

**“AGM”** shall mean the Annual General Meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

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

**“Competition”** means The Marsworth Senior Cup/Marsworth Reserve Cup Competition. **“Competition Match”** means any match played, or to be played, under the jurisdiction of the Competition.

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

**“Contract Player”** means any Player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play under a written contract of employment with a Club.

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

**“Fees Tariff”** means a list of fees approved by the Clubs at a General Meeting, to be levied by the Management Committee for any matters which fees are payable under the Rules in accordance with Schedule ‘A’.

**“Fines Tariff”** means a list of fines approved by the Clubs at a General Meeting, to be levied by the Management Committee for any breach of the Rules in accordance with Schedule ‘A’.

**“Ground”** means any ground on which the Club’s Team(s) plays its Competition Matches.

**“Management Committee”** means in the case of a Competition which is an unincorporated association, the Management Committee elected to manage the running of the Competition, and where the Competition is incorporated, it means the Board of Directors appointed in accordance with the articles of association of that company. **“Match Officials”** means the Referee, the Assistant Referees and any fourth official appointed to a Competition Match.

**“Non Contract Player”** means any Player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play for a Club, but has not entered into a written contract of employment. **“Officer”** means an individual who is appointed, or elected to a position in a Club or Competition, which requires that individual to make day-to-day decisions.

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

**“Player”** means any Contract Player, Non Contract Player, or other Player who plays, or who is eligible to play for a Club.

**“Playing Season”** means the period between the date on which the first competitive fixture in the Competition is played each year, until the date on which the last competitive fixture in the Competition is played.

**“Rules”** means these Rules under which the Competition is administered.

**“Sanctioning Authority”** means the Berks & Bucks FA in which a Club is affiliated.

**“Scholarship”** means a Scholarship as defined in the FA rules

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

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

**“SGM”** means a Special General Meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

**“Team”** means a Team affiliated to a Club, including where a Club provides more than (1) Team in the Competition according to the Rules.

**“Team Sheet”** means a form provided by the Competition on which the names of the Players taking part in a Competition match are listed.

**“The FA”** means The Football Association Limited

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

**“written” or “in writing”** means the representation or reproduction of words, or symbols, or other information in a visible form, by any method, or combination of efforts, whether sent, or supplied in electronic form, or otherwise.

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

**GOVERNANCE RULES**

# COMPETITION NAME, CONSTITUTION

**2.** (A)The Competition, which is an Invitation Cup for teams participating outside the Football Pyramid, shall be known as the Marsworth Senior Cup and the Marsworth Reserve Cup

Competition. The Clubs participating in the Competition shall be members of the Competition. A Club which ceases to exist or ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall therefore automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.

1. This Competition shall consist of not more than fifty (50) Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority. The competition shall consist of not less than six (6) clubs.
2. The geographical area covered by the Competition Membership shall be within a radius of thirty (30) miles of Marsworth Parish Church.

The Marsworth Charity Cup shall be competed for annually by two (2) member clubs to be selected by the Management Committee.

The Rosebery Bowl shall be competed for annually by two (2) member Reserve Club

Teams to be selected by the Management Committee. The holders of the Bowl shall defend it as the Away Team.

1. The administration of the Competition under these Rules shall be carried out by the Competition, acting (save where otherwise specifically mentioned herein) through the Management Committee in accordance with the Rules, Regulations and Policies of the FA.
2. Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including, but not limited to, England Football Accredited and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

1. The Rules are taken from the Standard Code of Rules (the “Standard Code”) determined by The FA from time to time. In the event of any omissions from the Standard Code, then the requirements of the Standard Code shall be deemed to apply to the Competition.

1. All Clubs shall be duly affiliated to an Affiliated Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority and shall have a constitution approved by the Sanctioning Authority. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Sanctioning Authority and the constituent Teams of Clubs shall be grouped into two (2) Sections, Senior and Reserve.

1. **Inclusivity and Non-Discrimination**
   1. This Competition and each Club shall be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Police and any legislative requirements (to include those contained in the Equality Act 2010).
   2. This Competition and each Club shall make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise.
   3. Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation shall be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.
2. Clubs shall comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition, including, but not limited to, Charter Standard and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
3. All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The FA from time to time.
4. At the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING or SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the constitution of the Sections at their discretion.

# CLUB NAME

**3.** Any Club wishing to change its name shall obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority and from the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

# ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

4. (A) Applications by Clubs for admission to these Competitions shall be made in writing to the Secretary and shall be accompanied by an Entry Fee (£25.00 per Team) in accordance with the Fees Tariff, which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

At the discretion of a majority of its 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.

1. A Club shall not participate in any match in this Competition until the Entry Fee has been paid.
2. Clubs shall advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 18th July of its County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming season.Clubs shall advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its Headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

# MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION AND ELECTION

**5.** (A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and a minimum of three (3) members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

The Officers of the Competition shall be: President, Vice President(s), Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Fixture Secretary, Registration Secretary, Referees’ Secretary, Results Secretary, shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. (N.B. Verifiers are not Officers).

1. Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination.

All candidates for election as Officers of the Competition or members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two (2) 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.

1. The Management Committee shall meet as and when required, with no more than three (3) calendar months between each meeting. On receiving a requisition signed by twothirds of the members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Committee.
2. 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.
3. All communications received from Clubs shall be conducted through their nominated Officers. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

# POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

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

(B) Subject to the permission of the Berks & Bucks FA having been obtained, the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each Season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any Club which may have withdrawn during the Season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the Season.

(C)Each Member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee Meetings and have one (1) 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 should only 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 these Rules and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition. Any action by the Competition shall be taken with twenty eight (28) days of the Competition being notified.

With the exception of Rules 6(I), 8(H) and 9 for all breaches of Rule a formal written charge shall be issued to the Club concerned. The Club charged shall be given seven (7) days from the date of notification of the charge to reply. In such reply a Club may:

1. Accept the charge and submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
2. Accept the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or
3. Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
4. Deny the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee.

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

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

When setting any fine, the Competition shall ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

The maximum fine permitted for a breach of a Rule is (£250.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

No Participant under the age of eighteen (18) can be fined.

All breaches of the Laws of the Game, or the Rules and Regulations of The FA shall be dealt with in accordance with FA Rules by the appropriate Association.

1. All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7.

Decisions of the Management Committee shall be notified in writing to those concerned within ten (10) days.

1. Five (5) members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and three (3) members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by any Sub-Committee of the Competition.
2. Any member of the Management Committee who fails to attend two (2) consecutive meetings, may at the Management Committee’s discretion, cease to be a member. 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.
3. A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Failure to comply within seven (7) days of an operating date specified in that order failing to satisfactorily attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition, shall be liable to a fine (not exceeding £50 ) in accordance with the Fines Tariff or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the Management Committee.

1. Subject to a Clubs right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges shall be paid within fourteen (14) days of the date of notification of the decision. Any Club failing to do so shall incur a fine (not exceeding £50.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within a further fourteen (14) days shall result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.
2. A Member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or Competition Match may have any reasonable expenses incurred, refunded by the Competition.
3. The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the AGM or SGM called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Playing Season subject to the provisions of the National League System Regulations or women’s football Pyramid regulations (which shall take precedence if applicable ).
4. The Management Committee may recommend the conferring of Life Membership in recognition of services to the Competition. There shall be a maximum of five (5) Life Members
5. The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.
6. The Competition shall be entitled to publish in the public press or in any other manner deemed appropriate, reports of its proceedings and resolutions, whether the same shall or shall not reflect on the character or conduct of any club, player or official member of spectator who shall be deemed to have assented to such publication

# PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

7. (A) (i) All questions of eligibility, qualifications of Players, or

interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee or a Sub-Committee duly appointed by the Management Committee.

(ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue shall not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the Competition Match.

1. Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must containfull particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) shall be lodged with the Secretary within seven (7) days (excluding Sundays) of the offence. 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 their Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.
2. No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary (£25.00) in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole or in part to the funds of the Competition, in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have the power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making the losing or frivolous protest or complaint, to pay the expenses of the enquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the two (2) parties.
3. All parties to a protest or complaint shall be provide in writing, signed by the Clubs Chairman and Secretary and to be received by the Competition Secretary within fourteen (14) days of the event or decision causing any of these to be submitted.
   1. All parties shall have received seven (7) days notice of the Hearing should they be instructed to attend.
   2. Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should indicate such when forwarding the written response.
4. The Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Management Committee shall direct.
5. Any appeal against a decision of the Management Committee shall be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority within fourteen (14) days of the posting of the written notification of the decision causing the appeal, accompanied by a fee (£50.00) in accordance with the Fees Tariff, which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. A copy of the appeal shall also be sent the Secretary. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority, in such respect the Sanctioning Authority may (but is not obliged to);
   1. invite submissions by the parties involved;
   2. convene a hearing to hear the appeal:
   3. permit new evidence; or
   4. impose deadlines as are appropriate

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

1. No Appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting unless this is on the grounds of unconstitutional conduct.
2. All protests, claims or complaints relating to these Rules shall be heard and determined by the Management Committee, or a Sub-Committee duly appointed by the Management Committee. The Club or Players protesting, appealing, claiming or complaining shall send a copy of such protest, appeal, claim or complaint and deposit a fee (£50.00) in accordance with the Fees Tariff which shall be forfeited in the event of the protest, appeal, claim or complaint not being upheld, and the part not succeeding may, in addition, be ordered to pay the costs at the direction of the Management Committee.

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**8.** (A) The AGM shall be held not later than 30th June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least four (4) members are present

and entitled to vote :-

1. To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding AGM.
2. To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts
3. Election of Clubs to fill Vacancies
4. Constitution of the Competition for Ensuing Season (v) Election of Officers and Management Committee Members. (iv) Appointment of Verifiers of Accounts.
5. Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14)
6. Fix date for the commencement of the Playing Season and kick-off times applicable to the Competition.
7. Fix the date for the end of the Playing Season.

(ix) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an AGM.

1. A copy of the duly verified Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting, together with any proposed Rule changes.
2. A signed copy of the duly verified Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Berks & Bucks FA within fourteen (14) days of its adoption by the AGM.
3. Each Member Club shall be empowered to send one (1) delegate to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one (1) vote only. Fourteen (14) days notice shall be given of any

AGM.

1. 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.
2. All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least fifty (50) percent of the delegates qualified to vote, or the Chairman so decides.
3. No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one (1) Club.
4. Any continuing Club shall be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with Rule shall result in a fine (£25.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
5. Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an Annual General Meeting but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a club

# SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

**9.** Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call a SGM. The Management Committee may call a SGM at any time.

At least seven (7) days notice shall be given of either meeting under this Rule, together with an Agenda of the business to be transacted at such meetings. Each Club shall be empowered to send two (2) delegates to all SGM. Each Club shall be entitled to two (2) vote only as shall members of the Management Committee.

Any Club failing to be represented at a SGM shall be fined (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Officers and Management Committee Members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all

SGM’sbut cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a club

# AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

**10.** Each Club shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the Competition, together with the Application for Membership for the coming Season or upon indicating that the Club intends to complete:-

“We, (A) (name) [ ] of (address) [ ] (Chairman) / (Director) and (B) (name) [ ] of (address) [ ] (Secretary) / (Director) of [ ] Football Club (Limited) have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Marsworth Senior/Marsworth Reserve Cup Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, if elected or accepted into membership, to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7.”

The agreement shall be signed by:

1. Where a Club is an unincorporated Association, the Club Chairman and Secretary; or
2. Where a Club is an incorporated entity, two (2) Directors of the Club.

Any alteration of the Chairman and/or Secretary on the above Agreement shall be notified to the Berks & Bucks County Football Association to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rules shall result in a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

# CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF CLUB

11. **(**A) Any Club intending, or having a provisional intention to withdraw a Team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition shall notify the Secretary in writing by 31st March each season. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

1. The Management Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a Team being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season, including, but not limited to, issuing a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
2. Notwithstanding the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 6(I), in the event of a Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50.00, the Management Committee shall be empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.
3. A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its Teams from the Competition after the Annual General Meeting for the following season. Any Club infringing this rule shall be liable to a fine (not exceeding £50 per Team) as set out in the Fines Tariff and shall also be liable for its share of any call which may be made under Rule 6B.

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

**12.** (A) At the AGM or SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, notice of motion having been duly circulated on the Agenda by direction of the Management Committee, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to: (i) remove a member of the Management Committee from office; (ii) exclude any Club or Team from membership, both of which shall be supported by more than two thirds of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A member of the Management Committee or Club which is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

1. At the AGM or at a SGM called for the purpose, in accordance with the provision of Rule 9, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which shall be supported by more than two-thirds 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.
2. Any Officer or member of a Club proved guilty of either a breach of Rule, other than field offences or of inducing or attempting to induce a Player or Players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Rule 12(A) and/or Rule 12 (B)

# TROPHY

**13.** (A) The Officers of the Competition shall be for all intents and purposes, the legal owners of the Cups, which cannot be won outright.

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

“We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Chairman and Secretary of

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Football Club, members of and representing the Club having been declared winners of the Marsworth Cup and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, will bring it to the AGM for the name of the Club and the season to be engraved on the trophy. (The Trophy to be returned to the club before the start of the following season, with the cost of the engraving being recovered from the Club.)

If the Cup 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. The Cup to be returned to the secretary by 1 February next.

Should the Club fail to enter the Competition for the following season the Cup (along with its accompanying lockable wooden protective cabinet and key), shall be returned in like good order by 31st July of the current year. In the event that the Club ceases to function, the Cup (along with its accompanying lockable wooden protective cabinet and key), shall be returned within seven (7) days of cessation. Failure to return the Cup by the due date(s) shall result in a fine (£50.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff being imposed on the offending Club.

The winners of the Final Tie shall receive The Marsworth Senior/Marsworth Reserve Cup together with awards made to winners and runners-up

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# ALTERATION TO RULES

**14.** Alterations, for which consent has been given by the sanctioning Association, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at a SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. Any alterations made during the Playing Season to these rules shall not take effect until the following Playing Season except in exceptional circumstance where approved by Sanctioning Authority and the FA.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by 28th February in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals from the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 15th March and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 31st March.

The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if (more than) two-thirds of those present and entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations and proposed amendments to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Berks & Bucks Football Association by not later than 14th April.

A copy of the proposed alterations and proposed amendments to be considered at SGM shall be submitted to the Berks & Bucks Football Association by no later than twentyeight (28) days prior to the date of the meeting.

Each member Club shall be deemed to have given its assent to the League Rules and agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee subject to Rule 7. Each member Club shall abide by any issued Football Association Code of Conduct.

The Secretary of each Club shall be responsible for securing three (3) copies of these Rules and shall keep them fully amended.

An outgoing Club Secretary shall ensure that a copy of these Rules is passed to their successor together with all relevant Competition literature. A newly appointed Club Secretary shall, if not furnished with the Competition Rules, advise the Competition Secretary immediately in writing.

Non-possession of the Rules shall not be accepted as a reason for any default.

# FINANCE

**15.** (A) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition shall be lodged.

1. All expenditure in excess of £100.00 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two (2) Officers nominated by the Management Committee.
2. The financial year of the Competition shall end on 31st March.
3. The books, or a verified Balance Sheet, of the Competition shall be prepared and shall be verified annually by some suitable person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.
4. Gate Receipts. In the Final tie the whole of the gate receipts shall be taken by the Competition.

# INSURANCE

**16.** (A) All Clubs shall have valid public liability insurance cover of at least ten (10) million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.

(B) All Clubs shall have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time-to-time. The Players’ Personal Accident cover shall be in place prior to the Club taking part in any Competition match and shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time-to-time by the Sanctioning Association. In instances where The Football Association is the sanctioning Association, the minimum recommended cover shall be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which a Club affiliates. Failure to comply with this Rule 16(A) or Rule 16(B) shall result in a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

# DISSOLUTION

**17.** (A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a SGM by a majority of three (3) quarters of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant Special General Meeting.

1. In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.
2. The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:-
   1. Any surplus assets, save for a Trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or affiliated Association or The Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the Sanctioning Association.
   2. If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a Trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the Donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the Sanctioning Association may decide.

**MATCH RELATED RULES**

# QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

**18.** (A) Contract Players are not permitted in this Competitionwith the exception of those Players who are registered under contract with the same Club who have a Team operating at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System or tiers I-4 of the Women Pyramid system.

It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any Player registered to the club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any Player aged ten (10) and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

In the event of a non contract player changing their status to that of a Contract Player with the same club, or with a club in another competition, their registration as a non contract player will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 18.B.1

(B) A registered playing member of a Club is one who has not in the current season played for another Club in the Competition, has reached their16th birthday,

It shall be a breach of Rule for a Player to play for more than one (1) Club in the Competition in the same season.

Any Player who, in the current season, has played in any of the following Competitions shall not be entitled to play in the Senior or Reserve sections of this Competition in the current season.

* The FA Cup
* The FA Trophy
* The FA Vase
* Berks & Bucks FA Senior Cup
* Any other County FA Senior Cup
* Any League at Step 5 or above of the National League System.

For the Marsworth Reserve Cup, a player shall be a bonafide reserve player, that is, in the last four (4) consecutive matches he has played for the Club he shall not have played for the FIRST TEAM MORE THAN ONCE. If a player plays in the Marsworth Senior Cup during the current season, he is ineligible to play in the Reserve Cup. A Club shall be called upon to prove the qualification of any player challenged by protest under Rule 7 of the Marsworth Football Competitions.

( C ) A player that owes a Football Debt (as defined under the football debt recovery regulations) shall be permitted to register for a club but will be suspended from football activities if the player does not comply with the terms of the Football Debt Recovery Regulations in respect of that Football Debt.

No player shall be eligible for the Semi Final or Final matches until they have taken part in four (4) League or Cup matches during the current season for the Club currently holding their registration with the exception of the goalkeeper, who must have been registered before 1st October of the current season, which is subject to the discretion of the Management Committee

The Competition cannot refuse to register a Player for an unpaid non-footballing debt.

1. In the case of postponed matches, only those Players eligible on the original fixture date are eligible in the rescheduled match. If a match is replayed or rearranged, a Player who was serving a term of suspension on the date of the original match, may be permitted to play provided their suspension has expired by the date of the replayed or rearranged match.
2. A Player that owes a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) to any Club(s) shall be permitted to register and play for a Club in the Competition, save that the Player may be liable to be suspended from playing for that Club should the Player fail to comply with the terms of the Football Debt Recovery Regulations in respect of that Football Debt.
3. A Club shall keep a list of the Players it registers and a record of all matches in which those Players have played for the Club, and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee.
4. A register containing the names of all Players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Club and shall be open to the inspection at all Management Committee meetings or other times mutually arranged.

In the event of a player without a written contract changing their status to that of a contract player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition or with a Club in another Competition their registration as a player without a written contract shall automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 18(A)(i).

Registration are valid for one (1) Playing Season only.

(H)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 (1) Club, priority of registration shall decide for which Club the player shall be registered. The Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

1. It shall be a breach of Rule for a club to submit a signed registration form or submit a registration through WGS for registration that the player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.
2. (i) The Management Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any player subject to the provisions of Rule 18.
   1. The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player or may fine any player (not exceeding £20.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff, at their discretion who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 16).
   2. The Management Committee shall have power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 16) subject to the right of appeal to the FA or the relevant County Football Association. Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a participant from being involved in this Competition. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the player is registered or intending to be registered with.
   3. For a player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18(H)(iii) but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion shall be considered to be under a probationary period of twelve (12) months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition would be empowered to consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

(Note: Action under Rule 18(H) (iii) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute and shall in any case be subject to an Appeal to the Football Association. All decisions shall include the period of restriction. For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the competition into disrepute can only be considered where the player has received in excess of one-hundred and twelve (112) days’ suspension, or ten (10) matches in match based discipline, in a period of two (2) years or less from the date of the first offence.)

1. Any Team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players shall forfeit the match and shall be fined a sum (not exceeding £50.00) for each player concerned as set out in the Fines Tariff, or otherwise be dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee. In a match where both teams are found guilty of playing ineligible players, the match shall be declared null and void with the match result expunged.
2. (The following Clause applies to Competitions involving players in full-time secondary education):-

(i) Priority shall be given at all times to school and school organisations activities. (ii) The availability of children shall be cleared with the Head Teachers (except for Sunday Leagues).

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

# CLUB COLOURS

**19.** (A) Every Club shall register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 18th July, who shall decide as to their suitability.

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

Goalkeepers shall wear colours which distinguish them from all other Players and the Match Officials.

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

Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours, as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents the colours in which they shall play (including the colour of the goalkeeper’s jersey), at least five (5) days before the Competition Match.

If, in the opinion of the Referee, two (2) Clubs have the same or similar colours in the semi-final or final, both teams shall change. If the change of colours remains the same, the Management Committee shall decide.

Shirts shall be uniquely numbered, failing which a fine (£10.00) shall be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Numbering on shorts is optional

In the Final of the Competition, if the colours are similar, both Clubs shall change. In the event of Clubs not agreeing upon the colours to be worn by their respective Teams, the Management Committee, or in an emergency, the Member in Charge shall decide.

Each Player shall wear the numbered shirt as specified on the Team Sheet.

The Secretary of the Competition may request shirts to be submitted to him 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.

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

**20.** (A) All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association board.

Clubs shall take all reasonable precautions to keep their grounds in a playable condition, and if the occasion arises, either Club shall contact the ADFL allocated pitch inspector no later than three (3) hours before the advertised kick-off time who will decide as to the fitness of play. Only a referee or League Officer of the Aylesbury & District Football League may cancel a Cup match or decide as to the fitness of the pitch except where a third party such as a Local Authority has overriding authority on pitch use. All Competition Matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee. If through any fault of the Home team a Competition Match has to be replayed, the Management Committee shall have the 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 Competition Matches and to order the Club concerned to play its Competition Matches on another ground.

Football Turf pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition providing they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA’s Register of Football Turf Pitches. All Football Turf Pitches used shall be tested (by a FIFA accredited test institute) every three (3) years and the results passed to The FA. The FA shall give a decision on the suitability for use and add the pitch to the Register.

The Home Club is also responsible for advising Participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements in accordance with Rule 20(C).

Within the Regional NLS Feeder Leagues all Competition Matches shall have a duration of ninety (90) minutes consisting of two (2) equal periods of forty-five (45) minutes. In the event of scores being level at full-time, extra time of thirty (30) minutes, fifteen (15) minutes each half shall be played. If the scores are still level after extra time the match shall be decided by the taking of penalty kicks in accordance with International Board Procedures.

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

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

Competition Matches scheduled to be played on the ground of a Club which normally plays League matches without floodlights, the following times of kick off shall be fixed at the AGM and shall be adhered to:

September & October 2.00pm November, December, January & February 1.30pm February to end of season 2.00pm Midweek evening matches kick off at 6.30pm at the latest.

Competition Matches scheduled to be played on the ground of a Club who normally play matches under floodlights, may be played either partly or wholly under floodlighting conditions, kicking off in the case of Saturday matches at 3.00pm or 3.15pm, or in the case of midweek matches, at 7.30pm or 7.45pm.

Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time shall be subject to a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff. The referee shall wait for up to half an hour after the appointed kick off time for the arrival of a club before deciding the match shall not take place.

The Home Team shall provide goal nets, corner flags and at least two (2) footballs fit for play at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to kick-off and the Referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Each club shall on the day of the match fill in an official Team Sheet before the match which shall be available for exchanging, along with a copy of the WGS squad list, with the opposition and the referee for inspection, to later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to kick-off.

1. Except by permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches shall be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches shall be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of the Fixtures Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

In the case of a revised fixture date, the Clubs shall be given by the Competition five (5) clear days notice of the match (unless otherwise mutually agreed).

1. The Secretary of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the Ground, team colours, colour of goalkeeper’s kit and time of kick-off to the Match Officials and an Officer of the opposing Club at least three (3) clear days prior to the playing of the match.

Failure to do so shall result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff for each party not notified. If not so provided, the Away Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition Secretary.

In the event a club is engaged in a more senior match, the Secretary of that Club shall give at least ten (10) days’ notice to their opponents and to the Fixture Secretary and five (5) days’ notice for any subsequent date. In the event of further rearrangements of matches being necessary, clubs shall obtain dates on which release can be granted from the Fixture Secretary before agreeing dates.

All Clubs shall be responsible for notifying their respective League Fixture Secretaries of the approved Cup dates for the season, all draw details as soon as they are furnished and shall advise their League of any postponed match.

If a match as originally drawn is postponed on two (2) occasions, the Management Committee may order the match to be played on the opposing Clubs ground.

1. A minimum of seven (7) Players shall constitute a Team for a Competition Match. In the event of a Club playing in any match with less than eleven (11) Players they maybe fined (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff for each missing Player.
2. (i)In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement, the Management Committee shall have the power to inflict a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them, except awarding of goals. Notwithstanding the foregoing the Management Committee shall have power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted in the circumstances.

(ii)Any Club with more than one (1) Team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence: - First Team, Reserve Team, A Team. Clubs in breach of this requirement shall incur a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff, or otherwise dealt with by the Management Committee.

(iii)Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a fixture has been postponed for any reason shall, without delay, give notice to the Fixture Secretary, the Referees Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials. Any Club failing to comply shall incur a fine (not exceeding ten (£10)) as set out in the Fines Tariff or shall be dealt with by the Management Committee who may inflict any penalty it may deem suitable.

The Fixture Secretary shall arrange all fixtures and shall have power to decide upon Venues as circumstances require.

* 1. In the event of a Competition 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 (2) Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Fixture Secretary within two (2) days the Management Committee shall have power to order the Competition Match to be played on a named date, or on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and the Clubs involved agree, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand.
  2. The Home Club shall notify their opponents and the Match Officials of any postponement, by voice or telephone call only, as soon as practicably possible, but, no later than three (3) hours prior to the scheduled kick-off. After this time sole responsibility whether the pitch is fit to play the match shall rest with the appointed Referee.

Failing to comply, the Home Club shall be fined (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff and be solely responsible for the payment of the Match Officials as per Rule 23(E).

Should exceptional circumstances prevail; a submission by the Home Club shall be reviewed by the Management Committee.

* 1. The Management Committee shall review all abandoned matches 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 is satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one (1) Team or its Club member, or members, they shall be empowered to award the game to its opponents. In cases where a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of either Teams, or their Club members, the Management Committee shall Rule the match as void. No fines(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match.
  2. The Management Committee shall review any match that has taken place where either or both Teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by the Association or Affiliated Association. In each case the Team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible Players in accordance with Rule 19(E) above. Where both Teams were under suspension the game shall be declared null and void.

1. A Club shall not postpone a match unless the circumstances are exceptional, details and evidence shall be given in writing, in duplicate, to the Competition Secretary. The Secretary shall forward one (1) copy to the opponents. Illness, injury or failure to register sufficient players shall not be deemed as a reasonable excuse.
   1. Club postponing or scratching a fixture shall be referred to the Management Committee who shall have the power to award the match to the Club’s opponents and shall fine the Club a sum (not exceeding £20.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff and may order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents, or otherwise dealt with at the Management Committee’s discretion.

Clubs who are suspended through default with the Management Committee or County Football Association shall have all unplayed matches considered void and the tie awarded to the opponents.

In the event of inclement weather and a game being postponed after an inspection by the Local Authority, the appointed Referee or a Referee called in to inspect on behalf of the Competition, the procedure set out in Rule 20E (iii) shall apply.

1. A Team may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use five (5) substitute Players in any Competition Match who may be selected from five (5) players.
   1. player who has been substituted himself becomes a substitute and may replace another at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football. This means that a Team may make unlimited substitutions in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

The Referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes at least ten (10) minutes prior to the commencement of the match and a Player not so named may not take part in the match.

A Player who has been selected, appointed, or named as substitute before the start of a 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 Rule18 of this Competition.

1. The half-time interval shall be of ten (10) minutes duration, but it shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes, other than with the consent of the Referee.
2. In all matches in this Competition, correctly completed Team Sheets, on forms provided, shall be given to the Referee and exchanged with opponents at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to kick-off, including names of substitutes. Any club failing to do so shall be fined £10 as per Fines Tariff.

Any subsequent alteration to the Team Sheet shall be notified to the Referee and opponents prior to kick-off and the Club shall give written explanation of the reasons for the alterations to the Secretary of the Competition within three (3) days of the match. The nominated substitutes shall not be altered after the kick-off.

The names of players shall correspond to the shirt numbers on the Team Sheet.

1. In each match the competing Clubs shall identify to the Referee a Team Captain, who has a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of their Team mates. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
2. Each Team shall keep and maintain a satisfactory First Aid Kit, as determined by the Management Committee, and shall be present for use on match days. Failure to do so shall incur a fine (£5.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff.

Each Team shall have a qualified First Aider present at each game. Failure to do so shall incur a fine (£10.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff. A copy of a valid First Aid Certificate shall be sent to the Secretary. Failure to do so shall incur a fine (£10.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff.

# REPORTING RESULTS

**21.** (A) The Competition must receive by 6p.m. the following day, excluding Sundays, the match the result loaded on the Full Time system in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the Team Players

(in block letters) the team goal scorers and also the Referee markings required by Rule 23, or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this rule shall incur a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

1. Each Club shall telephone or send by electronic message to the Competition not later than 5.30 p.m. the correct result of the game (Saturdays only). All results of evening matches shall be sent by electronic message to the Competition immediately after the match and no later than 9.00 p.m. Failure to do so shall incur a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
2. Clubs failing to submit a Result Card or failing to complete the Card shall incur a fine (not exceeding £10.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff.

Result Cards received between eight (8) and twenty-one (21) days late shall be fined (£30.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff and may result in the Club being expelled from the Competition. Should a Club default in this manner on more than two occasions in any one season, that Club shall be reported to the Management Committee. When requested, a Club shall submit a duplicate Result Card within seven (7) days of notification. Failure to comply shall be reported to the Management Committee for additional fines (not exceeding £5.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff or penalties as may be determined.

The Management Committee shall have power to take such action they deem suitable against a Club that submits an incomplete or incorrect form including a fine (not exceeding £5.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff.

(D)The Home Cub shall submit the result, postponement, cancellation of the match to the Competition Secretary immediately after the match has concluded.

# DETERMINING CUP WINNERS

1. (A) All matches played under the auspices of the Competition shall be conducted on a knock-out basis. The Semi-Finalists from the previous season shall be exempt from any preliminary round.
   1. Eligibility for entry into the Senior or Reserve Sections shall be decided by the Management Committee based upon each Club’s League status at the beginning of the season.

Should a Club have more than one (1) Team in any one (1) Section of the Competition, then any Player having played for one (1) Team can not play for the Club’s other Team in this Competition. Any Player having played for their Club in the Senior Section during the current season, shall not play for their Club in the Reserve Section.

* 1. The Competition shall normally play its matches on Saturdays.

Any Club having floodlighting facilities and drawn at Home may arrange a mid-week fixture with their opponents, providing they fulfil all of the following:

* + 1. They intimate such to their opponents within seven (7) days of receipt of the fixture details from the Competition Secretary.
    2. They acquire the approval of their opponents and the Competition Secretary and appointed Match Officials.
    3. The fixture is played prior to the due date.
    4. They advise the Competition Secretary of the agreed date to stage the fixture.

If the Home Club is unable to comply with the aforementioned and is also unable to fulfil the fixture on the allocated date, they shall forfeit the match and Rule 11 shall come into force (with the exception of circumstances that are beyond their control).

* 1. The Management Committee may divide competing Clubs into Sections or may exempt Clubs if they consider it advisable. All byes shall be given in the Preliminary Round.
  2. The Management Committee shall make and publish the draw for each round. The Club that is first drawn shall be considered the Home Club and shall have Home ground advantage in all rounds up to the Semi-Final ties. The Management Committee may order a match to be played on the ground of the second drawn Club, or on a neutral ground, if the ground of the Home Club is unfit for any reason, or the Management Committee considers it to be advisable.

* 1. All matches shall be completed on the day.
  2. The winners of the Final Tie of the Marsworth Senior Cup shall receive the Marsworth Senior Cup together with sixteen (16) individual awards to players. The runners-up shall receive sixteen (16) individual awards to players.

The winners of the Final of the Marsworth Reserve Cup shall receive the Marsworth Reserve Cup together with fourteen (14) individual awards to players. The runners-up shall receive the Runners Up trophy and fourteen (14) individual awards to players.

**MATCH OFFICIALS**

1. (A) Registered Referees (and Assistant Referees where approved by The FA County FA) for all Competition Matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Association.
   1. In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed Referee the appointed Senior Assistant Referee shall take charge and a substitute Assistant Referee appointed by the competing Teams. In cases where there is no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that Competition Match, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee. Individuals under the age of sixteen (16) shall not participate either as a Referee or Assistant Referee in any Competition Match.

A Referee who is a late arrival shall take over the game, but shall not restart it.

* 1. The Management Committee shall appoint registered Referees, if available, as Assistant

Referees to any Competition Match from and including the Semi-finals. Where Assistant

Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee with a flag. Failure to do so shall result in a fine (£10.00) in the accordance with the Fines Tariff being imposed on the defaulting Team.

If it is the mutual wish of both Clubs for Assistant Referees to be appointed to a tie, application shall be made to the Referees Secretary. If the request is agreed to, the fees of the Referee shall be paid by the Home or first named Club and the fees of the Assistant Referees shall be shared between the two participating Clubs.

* 1. The appointed Referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and their 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 shall be accepted unless the ground is declared fit for play.
  2. Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the sanctioning AssociationMatch Officials appointed under this Rule shall be entitled to the following match fees which are inclusive of expenses: -

Referees: £50.00 Senior Section

£50.00 Reserve Section

Registered Referees appointed by the Management Committee as Assistant Referees: £30..00.

The AWAY Club shall offer to pay the Officials their fees in the officials changing room fifteen (15) minutes before the match. Failure to comply shall result in a fine as set out in the Fines Tariff. If a Club fails to pay the appointed Officials, they shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £25.00 as set out in the Fees Tariff.

In the Final tie a trophy may be presented in lieu of fees.

* 1. In the event of a Competition Match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to their full fee, unless the Competition Match has been called of by the Management Committee*.* Where a Competition Match is not played owing to one (1) Club being in default, that Club shall pay the Match Officials their full fee, if the Match Officials reasonably attend at the ground. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
  2. A Referee not keeping their 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.

Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The Football Association, award marks to the Referee for each Competition Match and the name of the Referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

* 1. Any Club marking a Referee sixty (60) marks or less, a written report shall be submitted to the Referees’ Secretary within three (3) days of the match. Failure to comply shall result in a fine of (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
  2. The Competition shall keep a record of the markings on the form provided and by the prescribed date each season, shall submit a summary to the County Football Association.
  3. The Referee shall submit a report Form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the match, the number of Players in each Team and the time of kick-off, names of Players cautioned and/or dismissed and any misconduct reported to a County FA to the Referees Secretary, within two (2) days of the match, by first-class post (Sunday excluded).
  4. Referees and Assistant Referees shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.
  5. Referees and Assistant Referees shall have undertaken a Respect briefing, offered by the FA/County FA or League.

**25.** A copy of the rules shall be emailed to all clubs and will be published on the Competition Website. Clubs shall be required to acknowledge receipt of the rules or revisions issued to them. Failure to acknowledge shall incur a fine as set out in the Fines tariff.

# CHILD PROTECTION

1. Any act, statement, conduct or other matter which harms a child or children, or poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children, shall constitute behavior which is improper and brings the game into disrepute.
2. In these Regulations the expression “Offence” shall mean any one or more of the offences contained in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and any other criminal offence which reasonably causes The Association to believe that the person accused of the offence poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children.
3. Upon receipt by The Association of:
   1. notification that an individual has been charged with an Offence; or
   2. notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the

Police, Social Services or any other authority relating to an Offence; or 3.3 any other information which causes The Association reasonably to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children then The Association shall have the power to order that the individual be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.

1. In reaching its determination as to whether an order under Regulation 3 should be made The Association shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:
   1. whether a child is or children are or may be at risk of harm;
   2. whether the matters are of a serious nature;
   3. whether an order is necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by The Association or any other authority or body to proceed unimpeded.
2. The period of an order referred to in 3 above shall not be capable of lasting beyond the date upon which any charge under The Rules of The Association or any Offence is decided or brought to an end.
3. Where an order is imposed on an individual under Regulation 3 above, The Association shall bring and conclude any proceedings under the Rules of The Association against the person relating to the matters as soon as reasonably practicable.
4. Where a person is convicted, or is made the subject of a caution in respect of an Offence, that shall constitute a breach of the Rules of The Association and The Association shall have the power to order the suspension of the person from all or any specific football activity for such a period (including indefinitely) and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
5. For the purposes of these Regulations, The Association shall act through its Council or any Committee or Sub-Committee thereof, including the Board.
6. Notification in writing of an order referred to above shall be given to the person concerned and/or any Club with which he is association as soon as reasonably practicable.
7. The applicable standard of proof shall be the civil standard, of the balance of probability. The more serious the allegation taking into account the nature of the misconduct alleged and the context of the case the greater the burden of evidence required to find the matter proved. Save that for charges pursuant to The Football Association's Child Protection Policy, where the welfare and protection of children shall be paramount and the test shall be whether more likely than not.

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| FEES TARIFF | | | | | |  |
| RULE NUMBER | | | DESCRIPTION | | MAXIMUM FEE | |
| 4 (A) | | | CLUB ENTRY FEE | | £25.00 | |
| 7 (C) & 7 (H) | | | PROTEST | | £50.00 | |
| 7 (F) | | | APPEAL FEE | | £50.00 | |
| 23 (E) | | | REFEREE FEES | | £50.00 Senior Section  £50.00 Reserve Section | |
| 23 (E) | | | ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES | | £30.00 | |
|  | FINES TARIFF | | | |  | |
|  | RULE NUMBER | DESCRIPTION | | MAXIMUM FINE | | |
|  | 2 (G) | FAILURE TO AFFILIATE | | £25.00 | | |
|  | 2 (I) | FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES | | £10.00 | | |
|  | 3 | FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME | | £25.00 | | |
|  | 4 (C) | FAILURE TO PROVIDE AFFILIATION NUMBER/DETAILS FORM | | £10.00 | | |
|  | 5(E) | COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS | | £25.00 | | |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 6 (H) | FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE | Up to £50 |
| 6 (I) | FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME | £50.00 |
| 8 (H) | FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM | £50.00 |
| 9 | FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM | £50.00 |
| 10 | FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN  AGREEMENT OR TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO  SIGNATORIES | £10.00 |
| 11(A) | FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE | £50.00 |
| 11 (B) | FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES | £50.00 |
| 11(D) | WITHDRAWL OF TEAM OR TEAMS AFTER THE AGM | £50.00 |
| 13 (A) | FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY | £25.00 |
| 16(A) | FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE | £20.00 |
| 16(B) | FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE | £20.00 |
| 18(B) | FAILURE TO SUBMIT A LIST OF PLAYERS BY THE LAST DAY OF AUGUST | £10.00 |
| 18(B) | SUBMITTING REGISTRATION FORMS WITHOUT SAE | £50.00 |
| 18 (K) | PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER OR UNREGISTERED PLAYER | £50.00 |
| 18 (I) | FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES | £10.00 |
| 18 (J) (ii) | PLAYER FOUND GUILTY OF REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES | £20.00 |
| 19 | DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS | £10.00 |
| 19 | FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS | £10.00 |
| 20(A) | DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT | £10.00 |
| 20 (A) | LATE KICK-OFF | £10.00 |
| 20 (B) | FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED | £50.00 |
| 20 (C) | FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE | £50.00 |
| 20 (D) | PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS | £20.00 for each missing player |
| 20 (E) (i)  20 (E) (ii) | FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE | £50.00 |
| 20 (E) (v) | FAILURE TO NOTIFY POSTPONEMENT | £20.00 |
| 20 (G) | FAILURE TO PLAY A FIXTURE | £50.00 |
| 20 (H) | NO CAPTAIN’S ARMBAND | £10.00 |
| 20(J) | FAILURE TO SUBMIT TEAM SHEET CORRECTLY | £10,00 |
| 20(L) | FAILURE TO HAVE A QUALIFIED FIRST AIDER OR PROVIDE CERTIFICATE | £10.00 |
| 21 (B) | LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION FORM | £10.00 |

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| 21 (C) | FAILURE TO SEND RESULT CARD | £10.00 |
| 21(C) | FAILURE TO SEND RESULT CARD BETWEEN 8 AND 21 DAYS | £50.00 |
| 21© | SUBMISSION OF AN INCORRECT OR INCOMPLETE RESULT SHEET | £5.00 |
| 22 (F) | FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS RULE | £20.00 |
| 23 (C) | FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE | £10.00 |
| 23 (E) | FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS’ FEES AND EXPENSES CORRECTLY | Up to £25 |
| 23 (F) | FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED | £20.00 |
| 23 (G) | FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE’S MARK | £10.00 |
| 23 (H) | FAILURE TO SUBMIT LETTER | £10.00 |

**Marsworth Football Competition**

**Reserve Cup**

1. **MANAGEMENT**

The Marsworth Competition Reserve Cup shall be under the management of the Committee of the Marsworth Football Competitions, the rules of which (with the necessary substitutions) shall apply to the Reserves Cup Competition with the exception of rules 2, 8 and 10(p)

1. **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION**

The annual subscription shall be £25 payable before 30 September each year.

1. **CONDUCT OF THE COMPETITION**

At least 6 clubs shall enter the Competition, which shall be conducted on a “knock-out” principle. The semi-finalists of the previous season shall be exempt from any preliminary round. The draw for each round shall be made by the Management Committee and shall be published.

1. **QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS**

A player shall be a bona fide reserve player, that is, in the last 4 consecutive matches he has played for the club he shall not have played for the First team more than once. If a player plays in the Marsworth Senior Cup during the current season, he is ineligible to play in the Reserve Cup. A club shall be called upon to prove the qualification of any player challenged by protest under rule 18 of the Marsworth Football Competitions.

No player shall be eligible for the Semi Final or Final matches until they have taken part in four (4) League or Cup matches during the current season for the Club currently holding their registration with the exception of the goalkeeper, who must have been registered before 1st October of the current season, which is subject to the discretion of the Management Committee

**5.FINAL TIE**

The Final Tie shall be played on a neutral ground as arranged by the Management Committee.

1. **TROPHY, LEGAL OWNERS, CONDITION OF TAKING OVER, AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED, AWARDS.**

Winners of the Final Tie shall receive the Marsworth Reserve Cup together with sixteen individual awards to players. The Runners-up will receive sixteen individual awards to players. The Club presented with the Marsworth Cup shall sign an agreement upon receipt.