

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

RULES

1. NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

1.1 This Competition shall be designated The Surridge Gloucestershire County Football League and shall consist of no more than 20 Clubs who shall be Full Member Clubs.

1.2 All such Member Clubs must be affiliated to the Gloucestershire Football Association Limited and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on Form "D" to the Gloucestershire Football Association Limited.

1.2.1 The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be Clubs having grounds or Headquarters within the County of Gloucestershire and in those parts of the City of Bristol which were in the boundary of that City in 1908.

1.3 Clubs who are members of a Competition affiliated to the Gloucestershire Football Association Limited, but whose parent County is other than the Gloucestershire Football Association Limited, may apply for Membership providing they are affiliated to the Gloucestershire Football Association Limited at the commencement of the season prior to the date of application and meet all the requirements of the County League as specified in the rules.

1.3.1 This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Gloucestershire Football Association Limited and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions not exceeding twenty in number.

1.3.2 Subject to the prior written approval by the Council of the Gloucestershire Football Association Limited, the Management Committee and Member Clubs shall determine the number of divisions the Competition shall run, not exceeding two, or contain more than twenty members each. Rule 12.5 shall only apply to the First Division.

1.4 First Teams or Senior Reserve Teams of clubs within the National League System that are members of the Competition at or above Step 4, may apply through the pyramid system for promotion or relegation as per Rule 12.5

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

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

2. ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTIONS, DEPOSITS

2.1 The Annual Subscription shall be payable on or before 30th June each year. (See Fees Tariff). Clubs failing to comply will automatically incur a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

2.2 Each Club shall, within 14 days of election, pay a Deposit in accordance with the Fees Tariff of which shall be returnable to Clubs on leaving the Competition, providing they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all orders of the Management Committee.

2.3 A Club may not participate in this Competition until the Annual Subscription and Deposit have been paid.

2.4 Clubs must advise the Secretary annually in writing and by the 31st July its Gloucestershire Football Association Limited affiliation number. Failure to do so will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Clubs must advise the League Secretary in writing, or on a prescribed form, of details of its Headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition.

3. OFFICERS

3.1 The Officers of the Gloucestershire County Football League (hereafter referred to as "the Competition") shall be:- Patron, President, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, General Secretary, Assistant General Secretary, Fixture Secretary, Referees Appointment Secretary, Registration Secretary, Chairman of Development Committee. These positions shall be subject to election by ballot at Annual General Meeting.

3.2 The Officers shall be entitled to attend all General Meetings and Management Committee Meetings and be entitled to vote. A person who has served as a County League Officer for at least 21 years (either continuous or in aggregate) shall become a Life Member of the County League and shall receive a memento to mark the occasion.

4. MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

4.1 The Competition shall be governed - in accordance with the Rules & Regulations of the Football Association - by a Management Committee. This shall comprise:-

4.2 The Officers as designated in 3.

4.2.1 Four Nominees from the Clubs in Membership of the Competition, each of whom must be an Accredited Representative of such a Club.

All participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The Association from time to time

4.3 Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination. All other candidates for election as Officers of the Competition or as Members of the Management Committee shall be nominated in writing, signed by Club Secretaries of two Member Clubs, not later than 28th February of each year. Names of nominated candidates for election shall be circulated with notice of 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.

4.4 The Management Committee shall meet, quarterly/as often as necessary on dates as published in the Competition Handbook, to deal with business as it arises. On receiving a requisition signed by two thirds of the Members of the Management Committee, the Competition General Secretary shall convene a Meeting of that Committee.

4.4.1 League Meetings of the Competition shall be held, on dates as published in Competition Handbook, comprising:-

4.4.2) The Management Committee.

4.4.3) All Member Clubs.

4.5 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.

4.5.1 All correspondence received from clubs must be conducted through their nominated Officer.

5. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

5.1 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

5.2 The Management Committee shall be empowered to make the following appointments:-

5.2.1 The Competition Representative to Gloucestershire Football Association.

5.2.2 A Doorkeeper, to maintain a Register of all attendees to General Meetings.

5.2.3 A Team Manager to organise the Competition Representative squad as required. This position will be offered to the Team Manager of the Club finishing highest in the Competition in the previous season & still in Membership of the Competition. The person appointed will be free to appoint such assistance as is considered necessary.

5.3 Subject to the permission of the Gloucestershire Football Association Limited having been obtained, the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each season. The proceeds may 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 the deficiency at the end of the season. (See Rule 6.5)

5.4 Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee Meetings and be entitled to one vote thereat. 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 principle shall apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).

5.4.1 In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

5.5 The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition, including any not provided for in the Rules.

Except where these Rules provide for the imposition of a set penalty any Club, Official or Player alleged to be in breach of a Competition Rule must be formally charged in writing and given the opportunity to present their case before the Management Committee. All breaches of the Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance with FA Rules by the appropriate Association. With the exception of Clubs playing at Step 7 of the Football Pyramid and the FA Women's Premier League, the maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Competition rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Competition must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

5.5.1 All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16.

5.5.2 Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to all concerned within 14 days.

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

5.7 The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have the power to fill in an acting capacity, any vacancies that may occur amongst their numbers.

5.8 A Club failing to comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee, or failing to satisfactorily attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition, shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the Management Committee.

5.9 All fines and charges shall be paid within 14 days of the date of posting of the written notification. Any club failing to do so will be fined a maximum of £50. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional sum within 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding payments are settled.

5.10 A member of the Management Committee appointed by this Competition to attend a meeting or a match, may have any travelling expenses incurred, refunded by the Competition.

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

5.12 A Club failing to be represented at a League Meeting shall be fined for the first offence, for the second offence and for each subsequent offence in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Failing to be represented at three consecutive meetings without satisfactory reasons being given, shall be further dealt with as the Management Committee may determine.

5.13 No participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

5.14 The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may/shall be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile

No person will be allowed to represent more than one club at a meeting

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 30th June each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted, providing there are at least ten Members present who are entitled to vote.

1. To receive and confirm the minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
2. To consider any business arising therefrom.
3. To Receive and adopted the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of a Accounts.
4. Election of Clubs to fill vacancies (as recommended by the Management Committee.)
5. Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing season.
6. Election of Officers and Management Committee.
7. Appointment of Auditors.
8. Alteration to Rules, if any (of which notice has been given).
9. Fix date of commencement of the season and kick off times applicable to the Competition
10. Other business of which due notice shall be given and accepted, as being relevant to the Annual General Meeting.

6.2 A copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least seven days prior to the meeting and to the Gloucestershire Football Association Limited.

6.3 A signed copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Gloucestershire Football Association Limited within fourteen days of its adoption by the Annual General Meeting.

6.4 Each Full Member Club shall be entitled to send two delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Not less than seven days notice shall be given of any meeting.

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

6.6 All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards, unless a ballot is demanded by at least one third of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.

6.7 No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Full Member Club.

6.8 Any continuing member Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting without satisfactory reason shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

6.10 Voting on any motion proposed and seconded at the Annual General Meeting, shall be carried by a simple majority of those members present and entitled to vote in favour of the motion.

7. AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

The Chairman and the Secretary of each Club shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the Competition, together with the Application for Membership for the coming season, or upon indicating that the Club intends to compete.

"We. [a].....of.....[Chairman]

And. [b].....of.....[Secretary]
of.....Football Club have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Gloucestershire County Football League and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club to if elected or accepted into membership, conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16.

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

(Note the spaces are intended for the inclusion of the signatures and addresses of Officers and Members).

8. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

8.1 Players contracted to a Club, as defined in the Football Association Rules, may play for that Club in this Competition. A contract player may only play for the club that holds his contract.

8.1.1 Whilst serving in any branch of Her Majesty's Regular Forces, a player must first obtain the consent of his commanding officer before signing a registration form to play for a club.

8.2 A registered playing member of a Club is one who being in all other respects eligible has:
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8.2.1 Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by an Officer of the club and who has been registered with the Registration Secretary, (by telephone or e-mail) four hours prior to the start of the match.

8.2.2 The completed registration form must then be sent to the Registration Secretary within four days. Clubs failing to comply will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

8.3 7 days prior to the commencement of the playing season, irrespectively whether playing or not each club must lodge with the Registration Secretary at least 11 completed Registration Forms. Clubs failing to comply will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

8.4 A team shall not include more than 3 players who have taken part in 8 or more games in a more Senior Competition during the current season, unless a period of 21 days have elapsed since they played. Written permission of the Management Committee is required.

For purpose of this Competition, more Senior Competitions are Leagues at Step 5/6, or above the National League System.

8.5 A player having taken part in matches for any Club affiliated to any County Football Association shall not be allowed to join, be transferred to, or sign for a Club in the Competition without first proving to the officials of the intended Club that the player has discharged all reasonable financial liabilities to the previous Club or Clubs, and a Club official may not accept such player's signature without first ascertaining whether such claims have been discharged to the satisfaction of the Club, or Clubs, for which the player last played.

8.5.1 A Club Official may not accept such player's signature without first ascertaining whether such claims have been discharged, to the satisfaction of the Club or Clubs for which the player last played.

8.6 Registration Forms may be obtained from the Competition Registration Secretary a book of 20 Forms in accordance with the Fees Tariff.

8.6.1 The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes.

8.6.2 In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club, the date of the registration shall decide which Club the player shall be registered. The Registration Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

8.7 It shall be a breach of the Rule for a player to:

8.7.1 Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same season without being transferred.

8.7.2 Having signed for one Club in the Competition, sign for another Club in the Competition in that season, except for the purpose of a transfer.

8.7.3 Submit a signed Registration Form for registration, that the player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

8.8 The Management Committee shall have power to accept the registration of any player.

8.8.1 The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player or may fine any player, except those under 18 years of age, at their discretion who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities. (Subject to Rule 16).

8.8.2 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 conduct, which may deter a participant from being involved in this Competition. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the player is registered with.

(Note: Action under Clause (8.8.2) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any case be subject to an Appeal to the Football Association.) For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the competition into disrepute can only be considered where the player has received in excess of 112 days' suspension, or 10 matches in match based discipline, in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.

8.9 Subject to The Football Association Rules dealing with players without a written contract when a player desires a transfer, the Club the player wishes to transfer to shall submit a transfer form to the (*Registrations*) Secretary accompanied by a fee of (*See Fees Tariff.*) Such transfer shall be referred by the (*Registrations*) Secretary to the Club for which the player is registered. Should this Club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the (*Registrations*) Secretary and to the player concerned within seven days of receipt of the transfer form? Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within seven days, the (*Registrations*) Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date after receipt of such transfer.

8.9.1 Transfer forms shall be available from the Competition Registration Secretary or the Website who will charge the requesting Club for each Transfer Form supplied. (See Fees Tariff).

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

8.10 A player may not be Registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after March 31st in each season, except by special permission of the Management Committee.

8.11 A Club shall keep a list of players it has Registered and a record of the games in which they have played and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee.

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

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

8.13 A player shall not be eligible to play for a team in any special Championship, promotion or relegation deciding match, (As specified in Rule 12) unless the player has played 15 games for that team in this Competition in the current season.

8.13.1 A player suspended by any County Association for whatever reason, shall have his Registration temporarily withdrawn from this Competition during the period of such suspension.

8.13.2 Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players, shall have the points gained during the match, deducted from its total and shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff for each player played and or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

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

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

(The following Clause applies to Competitions involving payers in full time secondary education).

8.14 Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations.

8.14.1 The availability of children must be cleared at all times with Head Teachers (Except Sunday Leagues).

8.14.2 To play in an open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16.

9. CLUB COLOURS — CLUB NAME

9.1 On or before a date specified by the League each year, every club shall notify the Competition Secretary, in writing, of details of their first choice colours (shirts shorts and socks) and such detail shall be printed in the handbook published by the League for the ensuing playing season. The colours registered by each Club shall be worn during the following season when playing at home. Shirts shall be numbered 1 - 17 such that the numbers can be clearly identified by officials and spectators. Striped, hooped or otherwise patterned shirts shall have numbers affixed to contrasting patches or numbers in a contrasting colour with bold outline. No changes to the first choice colours shall be permitted without the consent of the Management Committee.

9.2 When the registered colours of shirts shorts and socks of two competing clubs are alike or similar the visiting Club shall change the relevant item to a colour that does not clash with the corresponding item of the home Club. Neck and cuff trim colours on shirts shall not be regarded as a basic colour for the purpose of this Rule. Any team not having a change of colours, or delaying the kick-off by not having a change, shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

9.2.1 Subject to the foregoing a Club may, if they wish, wear colours not registered with the Competition for away matches. It is the responsibility of the visiting Club, if they do not play in their registered colours, to notify the home team and check that the colours do not clash.

9.2.2 The goalkeeper shall play in kit clearly distinguishable from the colours of the shirts worn by all other outfield players in the match and the Match Officials.

9.2.3 No club shall be permitted to register or play in shirts the colour of which is likely to cause confusion with the outfits worn by the Match Officials (i.e. black or dark blue).

9.2.4 The players' shirts must be clearly numbered in accordance with the list handed to the referee before a match and there must be no change of numbers during the match except for changes of goalkeeper or permitted by the match referee because of blood injury. Any players playing in an un-numbered shirt, the Club shall be fined for each offence in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

9.3 Any Club wishing to change its name and/or colours must seek permission from its affiliated County Association and from the Management Committee.

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

10.1 The Annual General Meeting shall determine the commencement of the season in accordance with Football Association Rules. Original fixtures arranged by the Fixture Secretary or at a meeting specially convened for that purpose, to be held immediately after the Annual General Meeting, must not be arranged for a date later than 7 days preceding the concluding date determined by the Annual General Meeting.

10.1.1 The amended list must be handed to the Fixture Secretary at the conclusion of the meeting.

10.1.2 A Club due to play at home August/September & May but whose ground is not available, shall play the match on its opponents ground as its home fixture and shall pay the fees and expenses of the match officials.

10.2 All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board.

10.2.1 Clubs must take reasonable precaution to keep their grounds in a playable condition. All matches must be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee. If through any fault of the home team a match has to be replayed, the Management Committee shall have the power to order the venue to be changed.

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

10.2.3 All matches shall have a duration of 90 minutes (45 minutes each way) unless a shorter time not less than 80 minutes (40 minutes each way) is mutually agreed by the two captains in consultation with the referee prior the commencement of the match and in any advent shall be of equal halves.

10.2.4 The times of the kick-off shall be fixed by the Annual General Meeting. Any club failing to commence at the appointed time shall be fined a sum not exceeding £10 or be otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine.

August, September, October, March, April,	3-00 pm.
November, December, January, February,	2.00 pm.
Midweek Kick-off	6.15 & 6.30 pm

All clubs with floodlights may kick-off at 3.00pm on Saturdays and 7.30 pm for midweek games, or at a time mutually agreed

10.2.5 Kick-off times for Bank Holiday fixtures, shall be mutually agreed and confirmed with the Fixture Secretary.

10.2.6 Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time, shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff for each 10 minutes, or part thereof.

10.2.7 Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition and advise the captain of the offending team[s] of his intention to do so.

10.2.8 The home team must provide at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. Any Club failing to comply with this Rule, shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Goal nets must be used in all matches in this Competition.

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

10.4 The Secretary of the Home club must give notice by Telephone, Fax Email or in Writing, the full particulars of the location and access to the ground and time of kick-off, to the Match Officials and the Secretary of the opposing Club, at least 5 clear days prior to the playing of the match. Any Club failing to comply to this Rule, shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. *(The away club shall seek and acknowledge receipt of such particulars).*

10.5 Any Club having two or more players selected to represent the Gloucestershire FA, G.F.A. Youth and Gloucestershire County Football League shall be permitted, if it so wishes, to cancel the County League fixture on the date the County League match is being played. Such cancellations must be made within 48 hours of receipt of notice of players being selected.

10.6 Every Club shall play its best qualified team or teams in all matches in the Competition.

10.6.1 In the event of a Club playing in any match with less than eleven players, there shall be a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff for each player missing. A minimum of 7 players will constitute a team for a Competition match.

10.7 All matches shall be played on home and away principle and the Management Committee shall determine how the fixtures shall be arranged. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement, the Management Committee shall have the power to inflict a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff and deduct 3 points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the match in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any receipted expenses incurred by the opponents, (*Not including food*) or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals.

Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent's ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

10.7.1 Any Club with more than one team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence: - First Team, Reserve Team, and A Team. Clubs in breach of this requirement shall be fined a sum not exceeding (See Fines Tariff) or otherwise dealt with by the Management Committee.

10.7.2 Scheduled Saturday fixtures must not be re-arranged without the permission of the Fixture Secretary. Clubs with open dates on Saturday may be instructed to play any outstanding Competition fixtures on such date. A minimum of six days notice will be given in respect of any such re-arrangements.

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

10.7.4 Notice of postponement of any match must be given without delay — [by personal service, telephone, telemessage, and facsimile] by the postponing Club. Such notice of a Club being unable to fulfil any match must be given 48 hours prior to the match by the Club, to the League Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials. The opposing club shall then check with the Secretary of the club postponing and with the Competition Secretary. Any Club failing to comply shall be fined (See Fines Tariff) and be further dealt with by the Management Committee who may inflict any penalty it may deem suitable.

10.7.5 In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the (*Fixtures*) Secretary within 3 working days, the Management Committee shall have power to order the match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date. Providing gate money is taken and retained the visiting Club shall receive their actual standard class rail or bus fares or the equivalent for 18 persons, or car allowance at 32p per mile for transporting 18 persons, or hire charge of a coach (receipt to be submitted)., The residue (if any) to be equally divided between the two Clubs after deducting the cost of advertising, printing, posting, police and match officials charges. The home Club shall take the whole of the proceeds of the second match.

10.7.6 The Management Committee shall review all matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one team or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the match to the opponent. In cases where a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams and their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule all points for the match as void. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match.

10.8 Substitute players a club at its discretion may use three substitute players at any time in a match. Substitutes can only be made when play is stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission. When a Club is making a substitution it shall use the boards supplied by the Competition to show the number of the player to be substituted and the number of the substitute player. A maximum of five substitutes may be nominated and they must be included on the official team sheet handed to the Referee in accordance with Rule 10.8.3. A substitute may not be used to replace a player who has been suspended from the match by the Match Officials.

10.8.1 If a player does not take part in the match for which he is nominated as a substitute he shall be deemed as not having played for the Club in that match. If a named substitute is not a registered player with the Club for the Competition and does **not** take part in the match, the offending Club may be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

10.8.3 Each Club must hand copies of the Official Forms listing all players taking part in the match including nominated substitutes, with the appropriate shirt numbers, to the Referee and a representative of their opponents in the presents of the Referee, at least 30 minutes before the stipulated time of the kick-off. Any Club failing to comply shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

10.8.4 Any club altering its team selection or numbering after team sheets have been exchanged will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. A player who is named on the team sheet exchanged under rule 10.8.3 may be replaced without fine if he is injured warming up after exchange of the team sheet. Any subsequent changes must be notified to the referee and to a representative of the opponents before the kick-off.

10.9 The half-time interval shall be 10 minutes duration but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half-time interval may only be altered with the consent of the Referee.

10.10 All Clubs must meet the minimum standards of ground facilities as specified in the regulations of the Competition, unless written dispensation is given to the contrary. Any Club unable to comply with any parts of these regulations must give the reasons in writing to the Competition Secretary.

10.10.1 The ground and facilities of prospective new Member Clubs must conform to all requirements specified in the Competition Regulations. Any Club failing to meet these requirements by the 30th April will not be considered for membership in the coming season.

10.10.2 A fee will be charged to any new prospective member clubs for inspection of the ground and facilities of that club in accordance with the Fees Tariff.

10.10.3 All Member Clubs shall at least 7 days prior to their first home match each season; send to the Competition Secretary a declaration in writing that their facilities are unchanged. Any Club, whose ground, including facilities fails to comply with the regulations, will be barred from playing on that ground until all defects have been rectified and shall pay a fee along with the committee members travelling expenses for each inspection in accordance with the Fees Tariff.

11. REPORTING RESULTS

11.1 Each Club shall submit the fully completed match result form to the Competition Registration Secretary within four days of the match. When a club considers that the Referee has discharged his duties incompetently and awards a mark of sixty or less, a detailed report must be sent to the Competition Referees Secretary within four days of the match. Clubs in default of any provision of the Rule will be subject to a fine for each offence in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

11.2 The Home Club shall telephone the result of each match to the General Secretary by 5.30pm on a Saturday.

The home club shall also telephone the result of all other matches immediately the match is completed. (*E.g. Evening matches & GFA Cup matches*) The Away club shall also telephone the result of the match when playing against opponents from other Leagues. (*E.g. GFA Cup matches*)

The result shall include the attendance, the goalscorer(s), the times of goals scored, and Clubs in default shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

11.3 Any Club submitting an incomplete match result form or incorrect information shall be fined. (See Fines Tariff).

12. DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

12.1 Team ranking within the Competition shall be decided by points, with 3 points to be awarded for a win and 1 point for a drawn match. The team gaining the highest number of points at the conclusion of the season shall be adjudged the winners. Matches shall not be played for double points.

12.2 In the event of two or more teams being equal on points, team rankings may be decided in any one or more of the following ways:-

Goal Difference

Goals Scored

In the event of two or more teams being equal on points, goal difference and goals scored for the Championship, Runners-up, or Relegation positions at the close of the season, then a deciding match shall be played under conditions arranged by the Management Committee.

12.3 In the event of a team withdrawing during the playing season, its record shall be expunged and the Club shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

12.4 In the event of a team not completing all of its fixtures for the season, all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting team shall be expunged from the Competition table.

12.5 Where a promotion and relegation link exists between the Gloucestershire County Football League, The Hellenic Football League and The Toolstation Western Football League Competitions, the Champion Club of the Gloucestershire County Football League, providing they meet the appropriate grading criteria, will be eligible to make application to The Hellenic Football League and / or The Toolstation Western Football League Competition at their Annual General Meeting.

12.5.1 Should the Champion Club of the Gloucestershire County Football League not wish for promotion or, alternatively, does not have the necessary grading criteria, then the runners-up will be eligible under the same conditions.

12.5.2 At the end of each season and depending on geographical location of clubs gaining promotion to or being relegated from The Hellenic Football League and/or The Toolstation Western Football League it may be necessary for the Competition either, (a) to accept a Club from The Hellenic Football League and/or The Toolstation Western Football League or, have a club transferred from the same Competition.

12.5.3 The bottom 2 Clubs in the Gloucestershire County Football League Competition will be relegated. Each relegated Club will be allocated either to the Premier Division of the Bristol Premier Combination, or the Premier Division 1 of the Bristol & Suburban League, or Division 1 of the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League, recommended as the most appropriate, by a joint Liaison Committee of the three Leagues.

12.6 Where a promotion and relegation link exists between the Gloucestershire County League and the Bristol Premier Combination, the Bristol & Suburban League and the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League Competitions, the Champion Club of either the Premier Division of the Bristol Premier Combination or the Premier Division 1 of the Bristol & Suburban League, along with the Champion Club of the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League and providing they meet the appropriate grading criteria and they are the first team of the Club, or a Senior Reserve team of a Club, as defined in Rule 1.4 will be eligible to make application to the Gloucestershire County League Competition at their Annual General Meeting.

12.6.1 Should the Champion Club of the aforementioned Competitions not wish promotion, or alternatively do not have the necessary grading criteria, then the Runners-up Club will be eligible under the same conditions.

12.6.2 In the event of the Champion Club of both the Bristol Premier Combination and the Bristol & Suburban League Competitions being eligible wish promotion and meet the grading criteria of the Gloucestershire County Football League, then the Management Committee will consider recommendations from the Competitions and decide which Club is to be recommended to the Annual General Meeting for promotion.

12.7 In the event of there being no eligible Club wishing promotion, or not having the necessary grading criteria from any of the Competitions, this will reduce the number of Clubs to be relegated from the Gloucestershire County Football League Competition.

12.7.1 If only two Clubs are eligible or wish promotion then the bottom two Clubs in the Gloucestershire County Football League Competition will be relegated. If only one Club is eligible and wishes promotion, only the bottom Club in the Gloucestershire County Football League Competition will be relegated. Where a clubs First Team, with a Reserve Team which is already playing in the Gloucestershire County Football League are relegated from Step 4 of the National League System, then the Reserve Team will be automatically relegated within the Pyramid System to the Bristol Premier Combination, Bristol Suburban League, or the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League.

12.7.2 If no Clubs are eligible or wish promotion, no Clubs will be relegated from the Gloucestershire County Football League Competition.

12.7.3 In the event of a Gloucestershire County Football League Competition Club not being placed in the bottom two Clubs at the end of the season and wishing to resign from the Competition at the end of the season, or having been excluded under Rule 17 then only one Club will be relegated at the end of the season.

12.7.4 In the event of a Gloucestershire County Football League Competition Club opting to be relegated or being relegated under Rule 12. such Club or Clubs will replace the Club or Clubs otherwise due for relegation.

12.7.5 Any vacancies occurring in the Competition which are not covered by promotion and relegation link with the Feeder Leagues and outside of the Pyramid System will be decided by the Management Committee, who will make recommendations to the Annual General Meeting of the Competition.

12.7.6 Subject to the full provisions of this Rule having been met the recommended membership of the Competition for the forthcoming season to be submitted to the Annual General Meeting, based on the recommendations of the Management Committee at the meeting held for the purpose not earlier than the 30th April and not later than the 30th May each season.

13. REFEREES

13.1 Registered Referees and Assistant Referees (where approved by the FA or the County FA) shall be appointed for all matches in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the sanctioning Association. Match Officials appointed from the same area should travel together. The Referee should be responsible for the travelling arrangements.

13.2 In the event of non-appearance of the appointed Referee, the appointed Senior Assistant Referee shall take charge and a substitute Assistant Referee appointed by the competing teams. Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee. Failure to do so will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff being imposed on the defaulting Club.

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

13.3.1 In the event of adverse ground conditions the Home Club shall contact the appointed Referee to attend the ground and decide as to the fitness of the ground. When the appointed Referee is unable to attend or unavailable, then the Home Club shall call a Gloucestershire County Football League Referee or Referee (Level 4 or 5 or above), not being a member of that club, to make a decision. If the match is not played then the Referee shall report in writing via the home club his reasons. The home club shall forward the report to the Registration Secretary within 4 days. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff.

13.3.2 Where a match is postponed it shall be the duty of the Home Club to notify the Competition General Secretary, Fixture Secretary, Referees Secretary, Match Officials and the Visiting Club of the postponement. Match Officials shall only be entitled to travelling expenses actually incurred, prior to receiving the notification.

13.4 Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be entitled to charge fees and expenses reviewed and agreed annually and printed in the Competition Handbook.

13.4.1 The Home Club shall pay the Match Officials their fee and expenses before or immediately after the match and the Officials must sign for the sum received on the Official Report Form, the Home Club failing to comply will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. The expenses paid to Match Officials shall be notified to the Registration Secretary and accumulated at the end of the season. The total sum then shall be shared equally between the Clubs in the Competition.

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

13.6 A Referee not keeping his engagement and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to his non-appearance, may be reported to the Association in which he or she is registered.

13.7 Each Club shall in a manner prescribed from time to time by the Football Association, award marks to the Referee for each match and the name of the Referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition Registration Secretary on the prescribed form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine, or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine. (See Fines Tariff)

13.7.1 The Competition shall keep records of markings and on, the Form provided by the prescribed date each season, shall submit a summary to the Football Association / County Football Association Limited.

13.8 Referees shall submit a report form, supplied by the Competition, giving the results of each match, the number of players in each team and the time of kick-off, to the Registration Secretary within 4 days of the match.

13.9 All Match Officials must report to the ground at least 60 minutes before the official time of kick-off.

13.10 Referees shall be supplied each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.

14. CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

14.1 After the 31st December in a current season, a Club intending, or having provisional intentions to withdraw a team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition, must notify the secretary in writing by the 31st March each season, or be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

14.2 All Clubs wishing to remain in membership of the Competition for the following season, must confirm their intentions to do so in writing, and forwarded to the Secretary by the 31st March.

14.3 A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw its team from the Competition after the Annual General Meeting for the following season. Any Club infringing this Rule shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff per team and shall also be liable for its share of any call, which may be made under Rule 5.3.

14.3.1 The Membership for the coming season having been decided at a Special General Meeting for that purpose not later than the 15th May or at the Annual General Meeting held not later than the 30th June, the Competition shall have the right, irrespective of other provisions in this Rule to refuse to permit a Club to withdraw its team(s) in order to join another competition and may hold the club to its engagements

14.3.2 This Rule shall not apply to Clubs applying for promotion or Relegation under the National League System and Rule 12.

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

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

15. PROTESTS AND APPEALS

15.1 All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players, or interpretation of the Rules, shall be referred to the Management Committee.

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

15.3 Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints [which must contain full particulars of the ground upon which they are founded] must be lodged in duplicate with the General Secretary within 5 days of the match [excluding Sundays] or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

15.4 Any dispute occurring between Clubs in the League shall be referred for determination of the Management Committee whose decision shall be binding upon all parties subject to Rule 16.

15.5 No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have forwarded a deposit with the General Secretary in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining Club or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club, or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the enquiry or to order that the costs be shared by the parties.

15.6 All parties to a protest or complaint must be afforded an opportunity of making a statement when the protest or complaint is being heard and must have received 7 days notice of the hearing, together with a copy of the submission. When dealing with a protest or complaint the Management Committee shall take into consideration the possession by the protesting or complaining Club of any information which if properly used might have avoided the protest or complaint.

16. BOARD OF APPEAL

16.1 Within 14 days of the posting of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee or the Competition, a Club, Official, or player against whom action has been taken, may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars in duplicate with the Company Secretary of the Gloucestershire Football Association Limited, including a fee, (See Fees Tariff). for adjudication of a board of appeal. The grounds for appeal shall be in accordance with FA Rules. The board of appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited and shall decide by whom costs of the appeal shall be borne. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned. — (No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an Annual or Special General Meeting unless this is on the ground of Unconstitutional Conduct).

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

17.1 At the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting called for the purpose. Notice of motion having being duly circulated on the Agenda, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude any Club or Team from further membership. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot.

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

17.3 Any official or member proved guilty of either a breach of misconduct other than field offences, or of including or attempting to induce a player or players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to expulsion or such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide and their Club shall be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Clause 17.1 and 17.2 of this Rule.

17.4 Clubs who have been advised in writing of the work required to meet the conditions laid down in Rule 10.10 and who fail to complete such work within the time specified by the Management Committee, will not be considered for membership of the Competition for the coming season.

TROPHIES:- LEGAL OWNERS, CONDITIONS OF TAKING OVER AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED AWARDS

18.1 A Competition Cup or Trophy shall be vested in the Association sanctioning the Competition as trustees. If a Competition be discontinued for any cause, the Cup or trophy shall be returned to the Donor, if the conditions attached to it so provide, or otherwise dealt with as the Association may decide.

18.1.1 At the close of the Competition awards shall be made to the winners and runners-up. The winning Club and the runners-up may be allowed to purchase through the Secretary, additional awards in respect of players who have played 50% or more of the Club's games in the Competition.

18.1.2 The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the Cup or Trophy.

"We.....and B....., the Chairman and Secretary ofA.F.C. Members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of the Gloucestershire County League Trophy and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the said Club, jointly and severally agree to return the Trophy to the Competition Secretary, on or before the 31st March.

If the Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value, or the cost of its thorough repair."

19. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

19.1 On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the membership, the General Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting.

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

19.2.2 At least 14 days notice shall be given of either meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting. Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Not less than 14 days notice shall be given of any Meeting.

19.2.3 Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without a satisfactory reason being given, shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

20. ALTERATIONS TO RULES

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

20.2 Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting, shall be submitted to the Secretary by 1st March each year. The proposals, together by any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 31st March and any amendments thereto, shall be submitted to the General Secretary by the 30th April. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to the Clubs with notice of the Annual General Meeting. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried by a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.

20.3 A copy of the proposed alteration to Rules to be considered at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the Gloucestershire Football Association Limited by the 30th April each year, prior to the date of the meeting.

20.4 Any alterations and additions decided upon at any meeting shall not become operative until approval of the sanctioning Association shall have been obtained.

21. RULES BINDING CLUBS

21.1 Each Member Club shall be deemed to have given its assent to the foregoing Rules and agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee subject to Rule 16. Each Member Club must abide by any issued Football Association Code of Conduct, as printed in the Gloucestershire Football Association Limited handbook.

22. FINANCE

22.1 The Management Committee shall determine with which Bank or other financial institute the funds of the Competition shall be lodged.

22.2 All expenditure in excess of £250.00 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two officers nominated by the Management Committee.

22.3 The Financial Year of the Competition shall end on 31st March each year.

22.4 The books, or certified balance sheet of the Competition, shall be prepared and shall be audited annually by some suitable person(s), who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

23. CHILD PROTECTION

23.1 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 behaviour which is improper and brings the game into disrepute.

23.2 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.

23.3 Upon receipt by The Association of:

23.3.1 notification that an individual has been charged with an Offence; or

23.3.2 notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the Police, Social Services or any other authority relating to an Offence

23.3.3 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.

23.4 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:

23.4.1 whether a child is or children are or may be at risk of harm;

23.4.2 whether the matters are of a serious nature;

23.4.3 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.

23.5 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.

23.6 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.

23.7 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.

23.8 For the purposes of these Regulations, The Association shall act through its Council or any committee or sub-committee thereof, including the Board.

23.9 Notification in writing of an order referred to above shall be given to the person concerned and/or any club with which he is associated as soon as reasonably practicable.

23.10 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 Child Protection Policy, where the welfare and protection of children shall be paramount and the test shall be whether more likely than not.

24. HOSPITALITY

24. Visiting Players, officials and Match Officials must be provided with a drink of tea or coffee (or cold drink if acceptable to the visitors) at half time. For non compliance Clubs will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY FOOTBALL LEAGUE
STANDING ORDERS**

(Rules of debate at all meetings of the Gloucestershire County Football League)

1. All speakers shall address the Chairman and not any other person present and must speak on a subject relevant to the issue being discussed. The Chairman shall decide the question of relevance.
2. A motion or amendment, once seconded, shall not be altered or withdrawn without the consent of those present. If an amendment is carried it becomes the substantive motion and the mover of such amendment shall have the right to reply in the event of a further proposed amendment.
3. No person shall be permitted to move or second more than one amendment to any motion.
4. At the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting only people who are standing on their feet will be permitted to address the meeting.
5. Officers of the Management Committee may not represent any club, or vote against any motions submitted by the Management Committee at an AGM or SGM of the League, but may abstain from voting.