

RULES OF 2010 / 11 season

THE BLYTH & WANSBECK SUNDAY FOOTBALL LEAGUE NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

1. This competition shall be called the Blyth & Wansbeck Sunday Football League and shall be known as the Synergy Blyth and Wansbeck Sunday League and shall consist of not more than sixty-four (64) clubs who shall be either Full Member Clubs or Associated Member Clubs. All clubs in their first season in this League shall be Associate Member Clubs.

All such Member Clubs must be affiliated to Northumberland Football Association through the League by 30th April and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on the form 'D' to the Northumberland Football Association. Clubs failing to do so will be fined £10.

1a. This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to Northumberland Football Association and the constituent teams of the Member Clubs may be grouped into divisions each not exceeding sixteen (16) in number and whose grounds are situated within a radius of fifteen (15) miles of Blyth Post Office. The league will operate on two (2) clubs relegated from the Premier, first and second divisions (if applicable) and two (2) clubs promoted from the first, second and third divisions (if applicable) respectively. Although when a balance is required in a higher division, the club or clubs next to the already promoted clubs will be promoted to balance the divisions correctly. The two (2) clubs at the bottom of the last division shall apply for re-election to the Secretary in writing.

1b. The League shall meet on the second Monday of each month or at any other time at the discretion of the General League Secretary. Not more than three (3) members of each club may be in attendance at the

meetings. Clubs failing to attend monthly meetings shall be fined £10 for the first offence and £20 for each subsequent offence. Any club missing two (2) meetings will be requested to appear before the Management Committee.

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTIONS.

2. Applications by clubs for admission to the Blyth & Wansbeck Sunday Football League must be made in writing to the General League Secretary. Applications by clubs already competing in another league will only be considered if that club has given appropriate notice of its intention to resign and fulfilled all its obligations to the said league. Such club will then be considered for membership in a division compatible to the standard they were playing at in the league from which they have resigned.

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

2a. League subscriptions shall be £55 inclusive of all cup fees and shall be paid on or before the date of the Annual General Meeting plus a security fee of £30 returnable at the next Annual General Meeting to all clubs completing their fixtures and having discharged all liabilities to the League. New clubs will pay an entrance fee of £10. The Northumberland Football Association affiliation fee is to be paid at the Management Committee's request.

2b. Each Club to accept a minimum of £5 worth of monthly draw tickets, Management Committee members £1 worth. Each club to sell a domino card per month and donate £4 per month to league funds. Any club who attends monthly meetings and does not pay for their

tickets and domino card will be fined £5 and be reported to the Management Committee. All deficits to be paid at the next monthly meeting.

2c. Those clubs wishing to resign from the league must do so IN WRITING to the General League Secretary before the May meeting, otherwise all League / Cup fees for the ensuing season are due to the League and the club may be fined a maximum of £100. If a club resigns during the season, no player of that team will be allowed to sign for any other club in the League until all financial commitments have been settled with the League.

OFFICERS.

3. A President shall be elected and remain in office for a period of three (3) years, after which re-election must take place. The League may also elect up to five (5) honorary vice-presidents who shall remain in post until otherwise agreed.

3a. The Officers of the Blyth & Wansbeck Sunday Football League shall be General League Secretary, Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer. The League Officers, elected annually at the Annual General Meeting shall constitute an emergency committee to deal with any urgent business arising between monthly meetings.

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION.

4a. The League shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Football Association, by a Management Committee comprised of the Officers and up to ten (10) members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. Two referees representatives shall be co-opted to the Committee. Representatives from

Cramlington and Ashington RA may attend Meetings in a non-voting capacity.

4b. Retiring Officers and Management Committee members shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination. All other candidates for election as Officers or Members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the General League Secretary in writing, and signed by two (2) current members of the League no later than twenty one (21), days prior to the Annual General Meeting. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. Resignations of Officers and Committee members should be received prior to 1st May.

4c. Except where otherwise mentioned all correspondence shall be addressed to the General League Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the League and keep a record of its proceedings.

4d. All communications received from clubs must be conducted through their nominated Officers.

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

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

5a. Each Member of The Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee Meetings and have one vote thereat, but no Member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such Member or to the Club so represented. (This shall apply to the procedure of any sub-committee.) In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

5b. The Management Committee shall have the powers to, apply act upon and enforce the Rules of the League and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the League, including any not provided in the Rules. Except where the Rules provide for the imposition of a set penalty any Club, Official (limited to Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer or Player alleged to be in breach of a League Rule must be formally charged in writing and given the opportunity to present their case before The Management Committee. Financial penalties can only be imposed if included within the set penalties for breach of Competition Rules. All breaches of the Laws of the Game, Rule and Regulations of the Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance to FA Rules by the appropriate association.

5c. All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal to the Board of Appeal in accordance with rule 16.

5d. Five (5) members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee and three (3) members constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of any sub-committee of the League.

5e. The Management Committee as it may deem necessary, shall have the power to fill any vacancy in an acting capacity, which may occur amongst their number.

5f. The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the League between, the Annual General or Special General Meeting called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the League season.

5g. Any Club Officials or individuals who do not reply to correspondence from the General League Secretary within seven days WILL be fined £10.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6. The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than the third Monday of June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted, provided that at least two thirds of the members are present and entitled to vote.

To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.

To consider any business arising there-from.

To receive the reports of all League Officials.

To receive and adopt the Annual report, Balance sheet and Statement of Accounts.

Election of Clubs to fill vacancies (as recommended by the Management Committee.)

Constitution of the League for the ensuing season.

Election of Officers and Management Committee.

Appointment of Auditors.

Alteration of Rules, if any (of which notice has been given.)

Fix the date of the commencement and conclusion of the playing season.

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

6a. A copy of the duly audited Balance sheet & Statement of Accounts shall be forwarded to each Club on the date of the Annual General Meeting.

6b. A signed copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Northumberland Football Association within fourteen (14) days of its adoption at the Annual General Meeting.

6c. Each Member Club shall be empowered to send three (3) delegates to the Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Not less than 7 days notice shall be given of any meeting.

6d. Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the League during the season or who are not continuing Membership shall be entitled to attend but shall only vote on matters relating to the season being concluded.

6e. No individual shall be allowed to vote for more than one Member Club.

6f. Any continuing Member club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting shall be fined £20.

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

7. The Chairman and secretary of each Club shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the League, together with the Application for Membership for the coming season, or upon indicating that that Club intends to compete. (Note, where the Chairman and Secretary are the same person, then another duly appointed Officer of the Club must be a second signatory.)

“We A___(name).....of (address)
.....(Chairman)

And B___(name).....of (address)
.....(Secretary)

of theFootball Club have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Blyth & Wansbeck Sunday Football League and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club to, 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 League, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16.

Any alterations of the Chairman and/or Secretary on the above agreement must be notified to the Northumberland Football Association to which the Club is affiliated, and to the General League Secretary of the Blyth & Wansbeck Sunday Football League.

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS.

8. Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules, are not permitted in this League.

8a. Players will be eligible to play in this League who have duly completed and registered their registration/transfer forms with the League Registration Secretary By 7pm on Friday prior to the game
Any Club found guilty of playing an ineligible player(s) will be fined a minimum of £25 and WILL have three (3) points deducted from their records. The Club not in default WILL be awarded the three (3) points and match.

8b. Member/Associate Clubs will be limited to register a maximum of twenty five (25) players at any one time. Players must register each season.

8c. A player who transfers from a club to another for a third time in any one season must give written reasons to the League Management Committee and will not be allowed to transfer until sanction is given.

8d. Any player who terminates his registration from a Club for any reason other than to transfer, must officially register with his new club. The New club to ensure previous registration has been cancelled. Previous club to complete cancellation form prior to new registration being accepted.

8e. No player will be allowed to register with a Club after 31st March each year.

8f. The League Registration Secretary will circulate all transfers monthly to all Clubs.

8g. Registered players who change their address Must notify their Club Secretary and the League Registration Secretary.

8h. Clubs shall be given fifty (50) player's registration forms and six (6) player's transfer forms at the start of the season.

Teams will be charged after 31st March by the treasurer for those forms used in excess of 25 for registration and 2 for transfers at a cost of 50p per registration form and £3 per transfer form.

8i. Clubs submitting incomplete registration/transfer/cancellation forms shall be fined £2 per form. Incomplete forms will be returned to the Club and the player in question will be deemed as not being registered until the completed form has been returned to the registration secretary.

8j. i. The Management Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any player.

ii. The Management Committee shall have the power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player and may fine any player except those under 18 years of age at their discretion proved guilty of registration irregularities. Subject to Rule 16.

8k. The Management Committee shall have the power 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 this clause 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.)

8l. No Club in the League shall be allowed to approach any player who has played in a League/Cup game for any other Club in the League during the season, without the sanction of the Committee of the Club for whom such player played. Any Club shall be entitled to appeal to the Management Committee of the League where such

sanction is withheld, and the Management Committee of the League shall have the power to grant or withhold same. Any player shall be entitled to apply to his Club for an open transfer at any time, and in case the Committee of the Club refuse to grant the same, he shall be entitled to appeal to the Management Committee of the League, who shall have the power to grant or refuse the same. Registrations are valid for one season only.

8m. Players from a Club resigning from the League during a season who have played 4 or more games for that club shall not be allowed to play for any team in a lower division than they were in for the remainder of that season except by permission of the Management Committee.

8n. 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 for 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 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 the rules.

CLUB COLOURS, CLUB NAME.

9. Every Club must register the colour of its Shirts, Shorts and Socks with the League on or before the date of the A.G.M. A second colour of strip shall also be notified.

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

9a. No player including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear Black or very dark shirts. If in the opinion of the referee, two clubs have the same or similar colours, the HOME team shall make the change. Any team not having a change of colours or delaying the kick-off by not having a change shall be fined ten pounds (£10).

The General League Secretary may request shirts to be submitted if complaints are received as to lack of distinguishing colours, and the Management Committee may refuse to permit any shirts or shorts as they think fit. Shirts must be numbered. Clubs failing to have shirts numbered will be fined £10 per game. Clubs wearing strips not indicated to the league secretary as per the handbook will be fined £10 on each occasion.

9b. Any Club wishing to change its name and or colours must seek permission from its affiliated County Association and from the League Management Committee. Clubs failing to do so shall be fined £10 on each occasion.

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

10. The Annual General Meeting shall determine the commencement and conclusion of the season, which shall be in accordance with Football Association Rules. Original fixtures arranged by the Fixture Secretary, or at a meeting specially convened for that purpose, must not be arranged for a date later than seven (7) days preceding the concluding date determined by the Annual General Meeting.

All fixtures shall be arranged by the Fixture Secretary, (including any mid-week fixtures.) or with his agreement. A minimum of 8 days notice shall be given of all fixtures except if both teams are in agreement

10a. All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of The Game as determined by the International Football Association Board.

Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their grounds in a playable condition. 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.

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

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

The Management Committee shall fix all kick-off times. Normal Sunday Fixtures shall commence at 10-30am, and mid-week fixtures at a time fixed by the Management Committee. The half-time interval shall be five (5) minutes. Any club failing to commence at the appointed time shall be fined £5 for the first offence and £10 for any subsequent offence.

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

The home team must present at least one match ball to the referee at least ten (10) minutes prior to the commencement of the game for examination. Goal nets must be used and at least four (4) corner posts at least five (5) feet in height shall be provided.

All field-of-play markings must be clearly marked to the referee's satisfaction.

Failure to comply with any of these will result in the Club being fined £5 for the first offence and £10 for any subsequent offence. The referee must report any such breaches to the General League Secretary. In circumstances where the game is postponed, defaulting club shall be fined £25, have 3 points deducted and the game awarded to the non-defaulting team.

10b. The home Club shall provide suitable changing accommodation for the visiting Club and Referee as near to the ground as possible.

10c. Except by permission of the Management Committee all matches must be played on the date originally fixed.

No Club shall be allowed to postpone any match unless it is engaged in an English Football Association or County Football Association cup competition. No club shall be allowed to request consecutive weeks off and will only be allowed a maximum of three games off per season. Clubs so engaged must give one weeks notice to the Fixture Secretary and the opposing club originally fixtured.

Postponement or change in the venue for any other reason than above must have the approval of the Fixture Secretary.

Requests for the postponement of fixtured matches for any reason other than above must be made twenty-one (21) days in advance in writing to the League Secretary.

Defaulting Clubs Will have three (3) points deducted from their League records, be fined a minimum of £25 and the game shall be awarded to the non-defaulting team.

10d. The home Club official must communicate with the appointed referee and visiting Club official at least four (4) days prior to the date of the match, stating kick-off time, colours etc. The visiting Club must acknowledge such communication.

Clubs failing to comply with this rule shall be fined £5 for the first instance, and not less than £10 for any subsequent offence.

Any Club unable to contact the referee or opposing Club official to confirm the appointment **must** inform the Referee Secretary as soon as possible. Failure to do so resulting in the match having to be postponed, the Club shall be fined a minimum of £25, have three points deducted and the game will be awarded to the non-defaulting team.

Matches will be played on a home and away basis, although if both clubs agree both fixtures can be played at the same ground.

10e. Any Club having a minimum of seven (7) players one of whom must act as a goalkeeper, cannot refuse to commence playing a game. (Football Association Rule.)

The Management Committee will deal with any team, commencing a game with less than eleven (11) players.

Any Club causing a match to be abandoned/postponed because they have fewer than seven (7) players, may at the discretion of the Management Committee be fined £25 for the first offence and no more than £50 for each subsequent offence and have three points deducted in each case.

The non-defaulting team shall be awarded three points and the match.

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 the 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 the match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams or their club member(s), the management Committee shall rule all points for the match as void, no fine(s) can be applied by the management Committee for an abandoned match.

10f. A maximum of three (3) substitutes may be used at any time by each Club from up to five (5) nominated to the referee prior to the commencement of the game.

The substitutes will only be allowed on the field of play in accordance with The Laws of The Game.

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

REPORTING RESULTS.

11. The Records Officer must receive by the Thursday morning following a Sunday fixture and within four (4) days following a mid-week fixture, the result sheet of each League or Cup match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and the surname of each team player (in block letters), completed by the respective club secretaries, the goal scorers, the substitutes who played and the name of the referee and mark allocated by each club in accordance with Northumberland Football Association guidelines. The opposing club secretary must initial the man of the match award. Substitutes not having been ticked as playing or not, shall be deemed as having not played for qualification purposes only.

Each club shall be responsible for their own result sheet, which must be handed to the referee 10 minutes before kick off and collected after the game.

Incorrectly completed result sheets will result in the club being fined £5 for the first offence and £10 for each subsequent offence.

11a. When no result sheet is received within five (5) weeks of a match, the defaulting club shall be fined an additional £10 and a further £10 per five (5) week period until the sheet is submitted.

11b. The home Club Secretary must also ring in the result of ALL matches played to the Press Officer giving all relevant details as requested between 12.30-14.30 on the afternoon of the match on Sundays and before 21.00 on mid-week games. All Clubs involved in any cup

competition not within the League structure (home or away) the secretary shall ring the result to the press officer as indicated previous. All postponed and abandoned games must also be reported to the press officer.

Failure to comply with any of the above will incur a fine of £5 for the first offence and £10 for each subsequent offence.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP.

12. Team rankings within the League will be decided by points.

Three (3) points to be awarded for a win and one (1) point for a drawn match. The teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective Divisions shall be adjudged the winners. Matches must not be played for double points.

In the event of two or more teams being equal on points team rankings will be decided by the following.

Deciding match(es) played to a conclusion- extra time and kicks to be taken from the penalty mark in accordance with the prescribed rules.

Goal difference will not count except to determine second place.

12a. Automatic promotion and relegation shall be applied for the first two and last two teams in each division except as provided hereunder, subject to the provision of Rule 1a.

Should one or more teams withdraw from any Division after the fixtures have commenced an equal number of

teams to those withdrawing shall not automatically be relegated.

Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of a season may be filled in the following way at the discretion of the Management Committee.

Additional promotion of the next ranked team(s) from the Division below.

The last two (2) teams in the lowest Division shall retire, but be eligible for re-election. Such Clubs must apply in writing to the General League Secretary fourteen (14) days prior to the Annual General Meeting, stating their intention.

12b. In all cases where a Club has failed to complete its fixture during the season, the record of all matches played by such Club shall be deleted from the League Table if more than two (2) matches remained to be played. If a club has only one (1) or two (2) matches un-played points will be awarded as follows.

If a Club was not in default lost or drew the first match, the point's value of the League for a draw shall be awarded to such club.

If a Club which was not in default won the first match, the point's value of the League for a win shall be awarded to such club.

If a Club, which was in default, has not played either match, the point's value of the League for a win shall be awarded to such club.

REFEREES.

13. Referees registered with the League, shall be appointed to fixtures by the Referee's Secretary. The home Club shall pay a fee of £16 plus travelling expenses at 25p per mile to the referee. Assistant referees will be provided where possible at the discretion of the

Management Committee and will receive a fee of £8 plus travelling expenses of 25p per mile subject to the limits laid down by Northumberland Football Association.

Match officials shall receive full fee and expenses for attendance at un-played matches unless postponed by the referee due to adverse weather conditions, in which case half fee and full travelling expenses shall be paid. In the event of a match not being played owing to one Club being in default then that Club shall be ordered to pay the referee full fee and expenses if in attendance. Each Club shall be responsible for the paying of half of the above total expenses. The home club secretary shall be responsible for ensuring the referee receives his expenses etc.

Appointed officials who do not receive their fee and expenses should contact the General League Secretary, in order that action can be taken against the offending Club.

ALL REFEREES AND ASSISTANTS TO WEAR ALL BLACK UNIFORM.

13a. A referee who suspends or abandons a match for any reason, must submit a report to the General League Secretary stating reasons and length of match played within 4 days of the date of the game.

13b. Referees on receiving their appointments from the Referee's Secretary must acknowledge same. If unable to officiate at a game to which appointed that official should notify the Referee's Secretary at least two (2) days prior to the date of the match. In the case of sudden illness the official should make every attempt to contact the Referee's Secretary as soon as possible.

13c. Appointed officials who do not receive any communication from the home Club confirming the fixture, venue etc. within 4 days of the date of the fixture should check with the Referee's Secretary to ensure the match is still on. Any Club Failing to confirm fixture with appointed official, will be fined £5 for the first offence and £10 for each subsequent offence.

13d. In the event of the appointed referee not being present at a League match, a substitute may be appointed to officiate with the mutual agreement of both Club secretaries. If the appointed referee arrives late he shall take over the match.

If either club has a qualified referee available to officiate, then the match must be played. Where a qualified referee is not available and mutual agreement cannot be reached then the game shall be postponed. No club will be allowed to claim expenses from the League in this case.

Suspended players are not allowed to officiate in any capacity in any match.

13e. A referee not keeping his engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to his non-attendance, may have his name removed from the list of referees and the fact reported to the Association with which he/she is registered.

13f. 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 League on the prescribed form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this rule shall be liable to a fine of £5 for the first offence and £10 for each subsequent offence. Referees marks to be awarded after he/she has signed the prescribed form. Failure to do so will result in the Club being fined £5 for each offence.

Any mark of five (5) or less must be accompanied by a letter to the General League Secretary by the Club so marking, stating reasons. Failure to submit such report shall result in the Club being fined £5 for each offence.

13g. Referee to be supplied free of charge each season with a copy of the League rules.

**CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR
WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB.**

14. A Club intending to withdraw from the League on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the League must notify the General League Secretary in writing by the May meeting each season or be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds (£100).

14a. A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw from the League after the Annual General Meeting for the following season. Any Club infringing this rule shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds (£100).

14b. The membership for the coming season having been decided at a Special General Meeting held for that purpose or at the Annual General Meeting held not later than the third week in June, the League shall have the right, irrespective of other provisions in this Rule to refuse to permit a club to withdraw in order to join another League and may hold this Club to its engagements.

14c. In the event of a member Club who is an unincorporated association withdrawing and/or disbanding it shall be immediately liable to discharge all its financial and other obligations to the league.

In the event that any such obligation remains undischarged after a period of fourteen (14) days, then, such obligation shall be met by 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 League, which may apply to Northumberland Football Association for a suspension order.

PROTESTS AND APPEALS.

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

15a. All protests and complaints (Which must include full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged in writing in duplicate to the General League Secretary within seven (7) days of the match or occurrence to which they refer. 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.

15b. Any dispute occurring between Clubs in the League shall be referred for determination by the Management Committee whose decision shall be binding upon all parties subject to Rule 16.

15c. Any complaint or protest not upheld by the Management Committee, will result in the complaining / protesting Club being billed £10.

15d. All parties to a protest or complaint must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement when the protest or complaint is being heard and must receive seven (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 any information, which if properly used, might have avoided the protest or complaint.

BOARD OF APPEAL.

16. Within fourteen (14) days of the posting of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee or the League, a Club, Official or Player against whom action is taken may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars in duplicate with the Secretary of the Northumberland Football Association, including any fee as prescribed by the Association for adjudication of a Board of Appeal. The grounds for appeal shall be in accordance with the FA Rules. The Board of Appeal may order the fee to be forfeited and shall decide by whom the costs of the appeal shall be borne. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned.

EXCLUSION OF CLUBS, MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICIALS AND PLAYERS.

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

17a. At the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the League any Club whose conduct has in

their opinion, been undesirable upon a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast. 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.

17b. Any official or member of a Club proved guilty of either misconduct, (other than field offences), or of inducing or attempting to induce a player or players of another Club in the League to join them shall be liable to expulsion or such penalty as a General Meeting of Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Clauses 17 and 17a. of this Rule.

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

18. The League Cups, of which the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary shall to all intents and purposes the legal owners in trust for the Blyth & Wansbeck Sunday Football League, shall never be won outright, and should be held annually, subject to an agreement being signed by the Secretary and Chairman of the winning Club for the safe keeping and return of the Cup. The cup must be handed to the League Officials at the February meeting. The League shall pay the year's premium for insurance of the cups for fire, theft or burglary, unless clubs who win the competition already have alternative arrangement secured with their own insurers. Any damage to the trophies, while in the possession of the Club, will be paid for. A set of eighteen trophies shall be presented to the winners and runners –up of the divisions. Clubs requiring extra medals/ trophies for those players who have played in one third of the League fixtures must pay for them.

Clubs winning cups/trophies shall pay the cost of cleaning same at the end of the season.

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

We.....and, the chairman and Secretary ofFC, members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of.....Cup or Trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the League, do hereby on behalf of the Club do jointly and severally agree to return the Cup or Trophy to the General League Secretary on or before the League meeting in February. If the Cup or Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund the League the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair.

Any club in breach of this rule will be fined £20.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS.

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

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

At least fourteen (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 members club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all Special general meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.

Any continuing member club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory_

reason being given shall be fined twenty pounds (£20).
Officers and Management Committee Members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all Special General Meetings.

ALTERATION TO RULES.

20. Notice of any alterations to League or Cup competition rules to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the General League Secretary in writing signed by two member Clubs or officials at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting.

Proposals shall be circulated to member clubs with the agenda.

A proposal to change a rule shall be carried if a two-thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.

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

RULES BINDING CLUBS.

Each member Club shall be deemed to have given its assent to the foregoing Rules and agree 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.

FINANCE

22. The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the League will be lodged.

22a. The financial year of the League shall end on 31st May.

22b. The books or a certified sheet of the League shall be prepared and shall be audited by some suitable persons who shall be appointed at the annual General Meeting.

DISCIPLINE

23. All Clubs fined by the League must pay in full to the League Treasurer at the next meeting. If these fines are still not paid within the said period notice will be sent for the information of the Secretary of the Northumberland Football Association in order that they may deal with the issue.

All other financial transactions, to be dealt with by the treasurer and within fourteen (14) days.

CHALLENGE CUP RULES.

24. The competitions are governed by the general rules of the Northumberland Football Association, National Sunday League Competition and the Blyth & Wansbeck Sunday Football League. All Clubs in active membership with the League must join in the competitions. No Club shall be allowed to postpone a cup match unless engaged in an English / County Association Competition.

24a. Players eligible to play in cup competitions are those who have been duly registered with their Clubs by 7pm on Friday prior to the game, and no player shall be allowed to play for more than one competing Club and only those who have played two (2) fixtured competitive games for their club prior to the date set for the first semi-final shall be eligible to play in the semi-final and final. In the event of a team resigning from the League, any player having played in around against that team, these games not to count in the aforementioned criteria. In exceptional circumstances, goalkeepers who do not meet these criteria MAY be granted permission to play by the Management Committee, provided written application is made to the General League Secretary.

**24b. The individual League (Division) Cups will be
Premier Division- S.A. Randolph Cup
Division One- Saints Shield
Division Two- Eric Anderson Memorial Trophy.**

A player who has played in any round of any of the League Divisions competitions, then transfers to another team in the League shall not be eligible to play in any rounds of the other divisional competitions.

24c. In all Cup Competitions, in every round, including the Final, if after ninety (90) minutes, the scores are level, two periods of fifteen (15) minutes each way extra time shall be played. (See N.F.A. Rules regarding loss of adequate playing light.)

If the scores are still level the winners shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the Penalty mark in accordance with the procedure adopted by the International Football Association Board.

The half time interval shall be five (5) minutes, which only the referee may alter at his discretion.

24d. Semi-final ties to be played on the basis of the first club drawn at home.

24e. All players playing in the semi-final and final ties shall personally sign the result sheet to check eligibility. Each Club to submit its own result sheet.

24f. The Management Committee shall arrange to fix the ground for the Final and all proceeds will be the responsibility of the League, as the League will meet all expenses. Final ties to kick-off at a time decided by the Management Committee.

24g. In the event of a colour clash the first drawn team will change.

24h. All finalists to be responsible for 35 match programmes at a cost determined by the Management Committee, which should be paid for before the final. Each finalist also to provide suitable match ball for the final. The League will provide a match ball also.

24i. All finalist will if funds permit, receive a set of eighteen (18) trophies. A plaque or trophy will be presented to the secretaries and managers of the two finalists only if he is not a registered player of his club.

24j. Any Club who has a minimum of seven players, one of whom must act as a goalkeeper, cannot refuse to pay a game on the grounds of being under-strength. The Management Committee shall deal with any Club starting a game with less than eleven (11) players. In the event of any Club causing a match to be abandoned/postponed because they have fewer than seven (7) players, that club may at the discretion of the Management Committee be fined £25 for the first offence and no more than £50 for each subsequent offence. The defaulting club shall be removed from the competition.

24k. Any Club playing an ineligible player in any round of the League Cup competitions shall be fined a minimum of £25 and shall be removed from the competition. The Management Committee shall have the discretion to have any game replayed. No club shall obtain a direct bye into a cup final.

24l. Each Club may play three (3) substitutes from five (5) nominated to the referee in accordance with the Laws of The Game.

24m. A maximum of nine (9) Club members shall be allowed in the dug-outs at cup finals.

24n. In the event of the Home Club's ground being engaged on the date of any rounds, the game shall be played on their opponents ground.

24o. Cup Final programmes; All semi-finalists to submit all relevant details of their team for entry in the Final programme to the Records Officer by Mail or email no later than 4 days before their respective Semi-final. Failure to do so will result in the Club being fined £10.

GEORGE DAVISON MEMORIAL TROPHY / J.D. MARNOCK CUP.

25. The George Davison Memorial Cup shall be contested by all teams in the League.

Those teams competing in the J.D. Marnock Cup shall be those teams who are defeated in the first and second rounds of the George Davison Memorial Trophy.

A player who has played in any round of the George Davison Memorial Trophy / J D Marnock Cup, then transfers or joins another Club in the League, shall not be eligible to play in any further round of either competition._

25a. Any club found guilty of any default in the preliminary or first round of the George Davison Cup Competition, shall be ineligible to compete in the J.D.Marnock Cup Competition. Any Club playing an ineligible player in any round of either competition shall be fined a minimum of £25 and shall be removed from the competition. The Management Committee shall have the discretion to have any game replayed.

No club shall obtain a direct bye into a cup final.

25b. All teams in the league shall contest the Alan Davison Challenge Cup Competition.

Games will be played on a knock-out basis as per general cup competition rules. The first club drawn to be deemed as the home team. If the game ends in a draw after 90 minutes, extra time of 15 minutes each way will be played. If at the end of this the scores are equal the game shall be decided on the taking of penalties as per international FA rules.

REFEREES

25c. All rounds of cup competitions shall be appointed registered referees. Assistant referees shall be appointed to all semi-final games fixtured. Referees fees and expenses shall be £16 plus 25p per mile travelling. Assistant referees shall receive a fee of £8 and 25p per mile travelling expenses. in accordance with Northumberland Football Association guidelines. A substitute referee may be nominated by mutual agreement between both Club secretaries (must be qualified). If the appointed referee attends the match he / she will take over the match. If no qualified referee attends, the match must be postponed and the matter reported to the Fixture Secretary. Each Club shall be responsible for the paying of half of the above total expenses. The home club secretary shall be responsible for ensuring the referee receives his expenses etc.

FAIR PLAY COMPETITION RULES.

26. Each Club begins the season with 250 points.

26a. Points are deducted as follows:

Cautions – five (5) points

Dismissals- ten (10) points

26b. Referees to state all bookings and or dismissals on the results sheet provided, but this is not mandatory.

26c. The Club(s) who completes the season with the most points shall be declared the winners.

26d. In the event of tie(s) the club with the most man-of –the –match awards per individual player shall receive the trophy and the sponsor's prize shall be divided accordingly.

26e. Should a clubs or players appeal against points deducted be successful, the points to be reinstated. If a club resigns from the League teams who have played this club and received caution/ dismissals will have their points reinstated.

26f. Any Club down to 150 points shall appear before the Management Committee and shall be fined £1 per point lost below 150 points. If a Club reaches 100 points or less they shall be placed on probation for the following season and may be expelled from the League at the end of the following season. All players will be monitored for persistent misconduct.

GENERAL.

27. Any Club requiring confirmation of eligibility of players shall write to the Records Officer enclosing a stamped, self addressed, envelope for reply, or by email. Telephone requests will not be accepted.

28. A trophy shall be awarded to a player from each division whom the Management Committee contend is most suitable and which shall be known as Player of the Year Trophy. League games only to count for this award.

29. A trophy shall be awarded to the Secretary of a club from each division whom the Management Committee shall select and shall be known as the Secretary of the Year Award.

30. A trophy shall be awarded to the player in each division scoring the highest number of goal. League games only to count.

31. Each Club must produce a copy of their current insurance policy, covering injury to players during all games within the League. A copy of the policy is to be handed to the League Treasurer before 1st July each year or on renewal.

Clubs will not be allowed to play without insurance as above. Any club causing a game to be postponed due to not producing/having insurance cover shall be fined £25 the game shall be awarded to the opponents and three points deducted from league records if a league match.

32. Any Club causing a game to be postponed due to being suspended by Northumberland Football Association

for lack of administration shall be fined £25, have 3 points deducted from their league records and the game will be awarded to the opposing club.

33. When League representative matches are arranged, the team shall be selected by a person or persons nominated by the Management Committee. Players and respective Club secretaries shall be informed by letter of this selection, failure to reply as requested shall result in the Club being fined £10 for lack of correspondence.

34. It is advisable for all Clubs to provide first aid equipment at games and to have qualified first aid personnel in attendance.

35. Any phone calls to Management members must be made before 9pm. Any Clubs telephoning between 9pm and 9am will result in that Club being fined £5. Emergency calls between these times will be accepted (on mobile numbers only) if deemed so by the Management Committee.

36. The League Management Committee shall have at their discretion the overall power to deal with any contingency not covered in the aforementioned list of Rules.