

**RULES  
OF  
THE ARTHURIAN LEAGUE**

**Revised July 2008**

### **1. Title**

- (a) The Competition shall be called "The Arthurian League", and shall comprise a number of divisions.
- (b) The objects of the League are to foster and maintain friendship amongst the competing Clubs and to provide opportunities for competitive football.
- (c) All Members of the League are expected to extend high standards of conduct, sportsmanship and hospitality on and off the field of play, to their opponents, referees, assistant referees and officers of the League.  
From time to time the minimum standards expected will be defined by the League Management Committee and advised to Clubs at the AGM, or via League Management Committee meeting minutes. Where such advice has been given, teams or Clubs found to be in breach will be liable to be fined by the League Management Committee.
- (d) The Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Amateur Football Alliance.
- (e) Member Clubs shall be required to affiliate to the Amateur Football Alliance. Their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on the Form "D" to the Amateur Football Alliance

### **2. Membership**

- (a) Entry shall be by invitation and open to all past and present members of The Arthur Dunn Cup Competition and other Old Boy Clubs approved by the Management Committee and subsequently approved by a two-thirds majority of those members present and voting at the Annual General Meeting provided that two-thirds of the Clubs comprising the League shall be present members of The Arthur Dunn Cup Competition. Application from new clubs to join the League must be made in writing to the Hon. Secretary not later than 31<sup>st</sup> January in each year.
- (b) Clubs already in membership desiring to enter additional teams in the League should make application in writing to the Hon. Secretary not later than 31<sup>st</sup> March in each year; such application shall require the approval of the Management Committee of the League and with this approval such teams may be elected by a two-thirds majority of those members present and voting at the Annual General Meeting.
- (c) Subscriptions and entrance fees for new clubs shall be determined at each Annual General Meeting and shall be payable on or before 1<sup>st</sup> October in each year.  
Clubs shall not be eligible to participate in this Competition after 1<sup>st</sup> October until their annual subscription has been paid.
- (d) Each Club must advise annually to the League's Hon. Secretary by 1<sup>st</sup> August its annual Amateur Football Alliance affiliation number for the forthcoming season. Each Club must advise the League's Hon. Secretary on the prescribed form, of details of its home ground(s), officers, and any other information required by the Competition.

### **3. Officers**

- (a) The Officers of the League shall consist of the President, Life Vice-Presidents, Vice Presidents, Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Representative Team Secretary, Hon. Referees' Secretary, Hon. Match Secretary, Hon. Disciplinary Secretary, Hon. Dinner Secretary, Hon. Assistant Secretary, Hon. Registrations Secretary, Hon. Press Secretary, Hon. Results Secretary, and the League's appointed representatives to the AFA Council.

At any given time one person may hold more than one of these posts simultaneously, but in this case they shall only be entitled to one vote.

- (b) Officers of the League shall serve for not longer than the following periods:

President	5 years
Chairman	3 years
Hon. Secretary	5 years
Hon. Treasurer	5 years
Hon. Match Secretary	4 years
Hon. Disciplinary Secretary	3 years
Hon. Referees Secretaries	4 years
Hon. Representative Team Secretary	3 years
Hon. Registrations Secretary	5 years
Hon. Press Secretary	5 years
Hon. Results Secretary	5 years

- (c) The election of Vice-Presidents shall be made annually at the A.G.M. upon the nomination of the Management Committee.

### **4. Management**

The League shall be governed in accordance with the Rules, Regulations, and Bye-Laws of the Football Association by a Management Committee consisting of the Officers of the League and eight club representatives. Six shall form a quorum of which at least two shall be officers. The Management Committee shall have the power to appoint Sub-Committees: all decisions of such Sub-Committees to be submitted to the Management Committee for approval. The Management Committee shall have power to co-opt. The Management Committee shall meet at least once every calendar month during the season.

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

### **5. Power of the Management Committee**

- (a) 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.

- (b) 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.
- (c) Any matters not provided for in the rules shall be decided by the Management Committee whose decision shall be accepted as final by all clubs and players taking part in the competition.
- (d) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal to the Amateur Football Alliance in accordance with Rule 16.
- (e) Notification to Clubs of decisions of the Management Committee, and fines levied shall be by means of the minutes the Management Committee meetings.
- (f) A Club having failed to comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee, or failing satisfactorily to attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition, shall be liable to be fined or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the Management

Committee.

(g) All fines not paid within 14 days of notification shall be doubled unless an appeal or protest is lodged within this period.

(h) No participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

#### **6. Annual General Meeting**

(a) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than the 15th July in each year at which meeting the Officers, eight Club representatives and the Hon. Auditor shall be elected.

(b) An Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 14 days prior to the meeting. A duly audited balance sheet for the year ending 30th April shall be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

(c) All Clubs must be represented at the Annual General Meeting, Clubs may send more than one representative but only one may vote.

(d) At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least 15 Members are present and entitled to vote:

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

(ii) To consider any business arising therefrom.

(iii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.

(iv) Election of new Clubs (as recommended by the Management Committee).

(v) Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing season.

(vi) Election of Officers and Management Committee.

(vii) Appointment of Auditors.

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

(ix) Fix the date for the commencement and conclusion of the playing season.

(x) Fix the level of subscriptions, standard fines, and punishments as recommended by the Management Committee.

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

#### **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, upon indicating that the Club intends to compete.

We \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (Chairman) and \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (Secretary) of the \_\_\_\_\_ Football Club have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Arthurian League Competition 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 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 Amateur Football Alliance and to the Secretary of the Competition. (*Note: The spaces above are intended for the inclusion of the signatures and addresses of officers and members.*)

#### **8. Qualification of Players**

(a) All players shall be past or present students of the school to which the Club is attached.

(b) Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules, are not permitted to play in this Competition.

No player registered with a F.A. Premier League or Football League Academy will be permitted to play in this Competition. A player registered with a Centre of Excellence may only play in this Competition subject to the Regulations of the Programme for Excellence.

(c) In all matches in which it competes, each Club shall play its strongest team in its 1<sup>st</sup> XI, its second strongest team in its 2<sup>nd</sup> XI and so on.

(d)(i) All players competing in matches under the jurisdiction of the League must be registered playing members of a Club.

(ii) Before the start of the season each Club must send a list of all its players including those playing in veterans or friendly match teams to the League's Hon. Registration Secretary. The information required, for each player, is: full name, address, and date of birth.

Additional players may be registered on the day of a match, provided that full information is received by the Hon. Registration Secretary within two working days after the match.

(iii) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes.

(iv) The Management Committee shall have power to accept the registration of any eligible player. The Management Committee shall have power to refuse or cancel the registration of any player found guilty of undesirable conduct and to disqualify the player in question from participating in all games in the Competition. (Subject to Rule 16)

*Note: Action under clause (iv) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct on the field of play until the matter has been dealt with by the Amateur Football Alliance, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute.)*

(e) Clubs must keep a record of teams selected and those actually played for production to the Management Committee as required.

(f) A register containing the names of all players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Hon. 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.

(g)(i) Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players shall have the points gained in the match deducted from its total and may be fined and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

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

(iii) The Management Committee in exceptional circumstances 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.

(h) A player having taken part in matches for any Club affiliated to any County Football Association shall not be allowed to join a Club in the Competition without proving to the officials of the intended club that the player has discharged all reasonable financial liabilities to the previous Club or Clubs.

(i) *To prevent possible confusion there is no rule 8(i).*

(j) To play in competitions organised by the League a player must have reached the age of 16 years.

#### **9. Club Colours**

(a) All Clubs shall register their colours with the League Secretary. In the event of any two Clubs having the same or similar colours, the home team shall change. Goalkeepers must wear colours that distinguish them from other players and the referee.

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

Players' shirts in all teams shall be uniquely numbered.

Advertising on Club strips (outside of normal manufacturer's motifs) is allowable provided approval has been obtained from both the Amateur Football Alliance and the Management Committee.

#### **10. Arrangement of Fixtures and Organisation of Matches**

(a) The Annual Fixture Meeting shall be held not later than 31st July in each year. (Clubs absent from the Annual Fixture Meeting without notification shall be liable to a fine).

(b) The arrangement of fixtures, and the re-arrangement of postponed matches, shall be the responsibility of the Hon. Match Secretary of the League.

(c) Times of kick-off shall be fixed by the Hon. Match Secretary and published annually in the League Handbook.

The dates of commencement and conclusion for the ensuing season shall be determined by the A.G.M.

- (d) All matches shall be played in accordance with the laws of the game laid down by the Football Association, and on grounds whose quality, standard and location must be approved by the Management Committee and the Annual General Meeting. Clubs must take reasonable precautions to maintain their grounds in playable condition.
- (e) In the event of a Club being short of players, or home pitches due to bad weather, it must postpone the fixture of its lowest team in preference to that of a higher team. Any Club failing to comply will be liable to a fine and forfeiture of points by one or more of its teams.
- (f)(i) In the event of a postponement of a match in the Premier Division or Division One or the Junior League Cup for any reason apart from the unfitness of the pitch due to bad weather, notice must be given to the opponents, referee, Hon. Match Secretary and the Hon. Referees' Secretary. The offending Club, in the case of Premier Division and Division One fixtures will have 3 points deducted from the playing record of the relevant team and a fine to be determined by the Management Committee will be levied. If rearrangement is not possible, 3 points will be awarded to their opponents with no change in goal difference. If the game is a Junior League Cup fixture, the offending team will be eliminated from the competition.
- (ii) In the event of a postponement of a match in Divisions Two, Three, Four or Five for any reason apart from the unfitness of the pitch due to bad weather, notice must be given to the opponents, referee, Hon. Match Secretary and the Hon. Referees' Secretary. If such notice is provided by 6 pm on the Tuesday preceding the game, the offending Club will be liable to a fine to be determined by the Management Committee. If rearrangement is not possible, 3 points will be awarded to their opponents with no change in goal difference. If a Club provides such notice on more than two occasions during a season, 3 points will be deducted from the playing record of the relevant team in respect of each of the third and any subsequent offence. If such notice is provided after 6 pm on the Tuesday preceding the game, the offending Club will have 3 points deducted from the playing record of the relevant team and a fine to be determined by the Management Committee will be levied. If rearrangement is not possible, 3 points will be awarded to their opponents with no change in goal difference.
- (iii) On weekends so directed by the Hon. Match Secretary or whenever the Hon. Match Secretary so directs, the following Rule applies: In the event of the named home team's pitch being unplayable, the game must be played at the named away team's ground. In the event of the game then being postponed other than due to there being no pitch available for the game at the named away team's ground, the offending Club will have 3 points deducted from the playing record of the relevant team and a fine to be determined by the Management Committee will be levied. If rearrangement is not possible 3 points will be awarded to their opponents with no change in goal difference. If the game is a Junior League Cup fixture, the offending team will be eliminated from the competition. If there are no pitches available at the named away team's ground, the game can be rearranged by the Hon. Match Secretary. If the venue of the game is switched to the ground of the initially named away team, the initially named away team become the home side for the purposes of Rule 13 (referees).
- (g) For all games the duration of play shall be 90 minutes but the referee shall have the discretion to reduce this time to a minimum of 60 minutes. Except where the referee agrees otherwise the normal half-time interval for all Arthurian League and Cup matches will be five minutes.
- (h) The referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches. Referees must report to the Hon. Referees' Secretary all grounds which are not in a safe playing condition, late starts, short teams and abandoned games. An Official of the Club concerned should be informed by the referee that a report is to be made.
- (i) A team starting without a full side, arriving late, or delaying the start of a match shall be liable to a fine, to be determined by the Management Committee. Failure on the part of any team to fulfil its fixtures will render it liable to suspension during the current season; such decision to be the responsibility of the Management Committee.
- (j) The Management Committee shall have the power to confirm the result of an abandoned game, or order that the game be replayed, and the Hon. Match Secretary shall have the authority to order the venue of that or any other match within his jurisdiction to be changed.
- (k) A team may nominate and use up to three substitute players in any match, except to replace player(s) who have been suspended from the game by the referee. Substitution(s) can be made only when play has been stopped for any reason and the referee has given permission. The substitute player(s) must be nominated to the referee prior to the commencement of the game.

#### **11. Results**

- (a) Results of all home League and Cup matches must be telephoned to the League's Hon. Press Secretary by 10 p.m. on the day on which the match is played. When playing away in a Cup match, against opponents who are not also members of the Arthurian League, the result must also be telephoned to the League's Hon. Press Secretary as above, in addition to any other telephoned advice that may be necessary to the competition organisers. It is also necessary to advise the Hon. Press Secretary and the Hon. Match Secretary, in the same timescale, if a Cup tie is postponed or abandoned. Any Club failing to comply with the above rule will be liable to a fine determined by the League Management Committee.
- (b) The results of all Premier and First Division matches shall be telephoned, by the Home Club, to both Hayters Sports Agency 020 8808 3300 (by 6.00pm) and the League's Hon. Press Secretary (also by 6.00pm) on the day of the match. Any Club failing to do so shall be liable to a fine determined by the League Management Committee.
- (c) Each Club must also submit details of results in a format prescribed by the League, including referees marks, hospitality and facilities marks, and any other information required by the League, to the Hon. Results Secretary to arrive not later than three days following the match. Clubs failing to comply shall be fined by the Management Committee.

#### **12. Points to decide the Championship**

- (a) The Competition shall be decided by points. Three points shall be awarded for a win and one point for a draw. The team gaining the highest number of points at the completion of the Competition shall be adjudged the winner. No match shall be played for double points. Should two or more teams gain an equal number of points, the highest team shall be the one with the largest goal difference or, if still unresolved, that with the most "goals for".
- (b) The League shall consist of six Divisions: Premier, First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth. Only First XI teams can qualify to participate in the Premier and First Divisions. All teams in all Divisions shall play each other twice in each season on a home and away basis. Two teams shall be promoted and relegated between all Divisions at the end of each season, except between the First and Second Divisions. Between these two Divisions there will be a maximum of one team promoted and relegated when, having finished in the top three of a season's Second Division competition, a First XI accepts an invitation from the League Management Committee to be promoted for the next season. In this case the lowest finishing team from the First Division will be relegated to the Second Division for next season's competition. In the event that more than one First XI finishes in the top three places of the Second Division in the same season, it is only the highest placed First XI that would be considered for the opportunity of promotion.
- (c) Notwithstanding Rule 12(b), the constitution of the League may be varied in exceptional circumstances by a two-thirds majority of those members present and voting at a General Meeting.
- (d) Any Team not completing its full League programme is liable to a fine or possible deduction of points from its League record for the season, as determined by the League Management Committee.

#### **13. Referees**

- (a) Referees for all League, Arthurian League Junior Cup, and League Representative Matches shall be appointed by the Hon. Referees' Secretary in a manner approved by the sanctioning Association.
- (b) In the event of non-appearance of the appointed Referee, the game shall not rank as a League fixture unless a mutually acceptable substitute referee can be arranged for the whole match. Any substitute referee has all the powers, status and authority of a registered Referee. Clubs must have a whistle available at all home games.
- (c) When no official referee is appointed by the League, the home side shall provide someone to undertake the referee's duties and he shall be paid the customary fee. He shall have full powers as in Rule 13(b). The match shall be played with the referee provided by the home side (who shall not play in the game) and shall rank as a League fixture or Junior League Cup tie. If no referee is found, the Hon. Match Secretary to have sole discretion as to whether the match is rearranged or points awarded to the away side with no change in goal difference in the case

of a league match, or the tie awarded to the away side in a Junior League Cup match.

(d) The referee's fee shall be determined by the A.F.A., and should be paid by the Home Club before the game. (Referees' fees are normally inclusive of travelling expenses.)

(e) In event of a match not being played, and the referee not being notified, he shall be paid his normal fee if he has made the journey.

(f) Upon Clubs being notified by the Hon. Referee's Secretary of the referee(s) (and assistant referees, if any) to officiate at their match(es), the home club must confirm match details to them at least 7 days before the game is due to be played. If a home Club has been unable to make contact with the appointed referee(s) (and assistant referees, if any) by Tuesday preceding the weekend the games are due to be played, the Hon. Referees' Secretary is to be informed immediately.

(g) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed by the Football Association, award marks to the referee for each match and supply the name of the Referee and the marks awarded to the Hon. Results Secretary. In cases where the mark awarded is less than 50, the report must be accompanied by a brief report indicating the reason(s) for the low marking. See Appendix 'A' for marking guidance.

#### **14. Withdrawal of Clubs or Teams**

(a) Notice of resignation of a Club or withdrawal of a team for the forthcoming season must be made in writing to the Hon. Secretary not later than 30th April preceding the Annual General Meeting.

(b) 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.

#### **15. Protests and Appeals**

(a)(i) All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee.

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

(b) All protests, complaints and claims by Clubs must be forwarded in duplicate to the Hon. League Secretary within 14 days of the relevant circumstances and shall be determined by the Management Committee.

(c) Decisions of the Management Committee shall be subject to appeals to a League Appeals Committee, consisting of the President plus two others who may be Vice-Presidents or Management Committee Members who were not party to the decision which is the subject of the appeal. Such appeal to be made in writing and lodged personally or by recorded delivery to the Honorary Secretary within 14 days of the date of notification of the original decision, and to be accompanied by a deposit of £20, the disposal of which shall be at the discretion of the League Appeals Committee.

#### **16. Appeals**

Appeals against a decision of the League Management Committee or of an Appeal Committee constituted under Rule 15(c) may be made to The Amateur Football Alliance Limited in accordance with Rule 12 of the Alliance.

#### **17. Suspension of Clubs / Teams**

(a) The Management Committee has the power to suspend a Club or any of its teams until the end of the current season if it is of the opinion that the continuance of that club or team in the Competition is detrimental to the best interests of the Competition. For such a decision to be operative, a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at a Management Committee meeting would apply. In such cases the playing record of the suspended club or team would be deleted. Any club will be given the opportunity of attending the Management Committee meeting if such action is contemplated. The continued membership of the club and/or team in question would be reviewed at the Annual General Meeting.

(b) If in the opinion of the two-thirds of the members present and voting at the Annual General Meeting, a Club or team is considered for any reason unsuitable for membership, such Club or team shall be excluded from the League provided written notification of any proposed exclusion is given to all clubs at least fourteen days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

#### **18. Trophies**

(a) The President, the Chairman and Hon. Treasurer for the time being shall be and are hereby expressly appointed for all intents and purposes, trustees and legal owners of the trophies and all property, including the funds, and shall deal with same according to the instructions of the League Management Committee. The trophies cannot be won outright by any Club.

(b) Trophy holders must return trophies for engraving by a date to be advised by the League Management Committee. Winners of trophies must send a representative to the Annual Dinner to collect the trophy.

(c) The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of each of the trophies: "We \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Football Club, members of and representing the said Club, having been declared winners of

\_\_\_\_\_ and the trophy having been delivered to us by the said League, do hereby on behalf of the said Club jointly and severally agree to return the same to the League's Hon. Secretary on request, in accordance with the Rules of the League, and if the said trophy is lost or damaged while in our care we agree to refund to the League the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair.

#### **19. Special General Meetings**

A Special General Meeting may be convened at any time by order of the Management Committee or upon requisition in writing signed by the Hon. Secretaries of not less than six Clubs. Not less than 14 days notice of such General Meeting shall be given to each club, the meeting to be held within 21 days of the receipt of any such requisition which shall state the resolution to be placed before the meeting. (Clubs absent from such meetings without notification shall be liable to a fine.)

#### **20. Alteration of Rules**

These rules shall not be altered except by the League in General Meeting and then only by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting. Notification of any proposed alteration or addition shall be given by the Hon. Secretary in his notice convening the meeting. Clubs wishing to propose any changes to the League's rules or constitution must provide written notification of their proposal to the League's Hon. Secretary before 31 January preceding the AGM at which they wish Clubs to debate and vote upon the change. This will allow due time for consideration by potentially affected Clubs. It will also allow adequate time for drafting suitable rules/rule changes which need to be circulated to member Clubs in advance of the AGM.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the Amateur Football Alliance 21 days prior to the date of the meeting.

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

#### **21. Rules binding on Clubs**

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 set out in the Handbook of the Amateur Football Alliance.

## **22. Finance**

- (a) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.
- (b) All expenditure in excess of £ 500 shall be approved by the Management Committee.
- (c) The financial year of the Competition will end on April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- (d) The accounts or a certified balance sheet shall be prepared and shall be audited annually by some suitable person(s) who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

## **23. League Representative Matches**

Teams to represent the League shall be selected by the Hon. Representative Team Secretary.

## **24. Club Administration**

- (a) Every Club should adopt a set of rules, available to the Management Committee upon request, by which the Club is governed. Clubs must hold an Annual General Meeting and should appoint a Committee to administer the affairs of the Club. All clubs should hold committee meetings during the season.
- (b) Every Club must nominate a member of its Committee to be its Hon. Secretary, who shall be responsible for all communications with the League through the Hon. League Secretary.
- (c) Club Officials should co-operate with the League officials on all occasions to ensure the smooth running of the League administration. All League circulars and non-routine communications from the Officers of the League should be submitted to the Club Committee and if a reply is required it must be sent within 14 days of receipt.
- (d) All fines not paid within 14 days of notification shall be doubled unless an appeal or protest is lodged within this period.
- (e) Every Club must nominate a member of its committee to be its Hon. Match Secretary.
- (f) Subject to any agreed arrangements to the contrary, clubs must accept full responsibility for the ground, contacting the referee and refreshments for every home game, and in particular where such games are played on their opponents' ground, or on a neutral ground. Home teams are also required to provide either oranges or suitable half-time refreshments for the Match Officials and their opponents.
- (g) Clubs responsible for administrative failure which causes inconvenience to another member club, to a referee, or to the Management Committee, shall be liable to a fine, to be determined by the Management Committee. In addition, the offending club shall be liable to reimburse the innocent party with its reasonable expenses arising out of the failure.
- (h) All Clubs are required to provide first-aid facilities at their home ground(s), to ensure that all team captains, and Club officials are made aware of the location and opening hours of the nearest hospital with casualty unit, and, if possible, to display a notice conveying such information in their Clubhouse and/or changing rooms. The Management Committee shall determine the minimum and essential items of first-aid equipment to be provided and shall reserve the right to impose a fine on any Club which fails to comply with this Rule.
- (i) Clubs wishing to change their home ground need to obtain the League Management Committee's approval in advance of any change. In all cases written notification of an intention to make such a change should be lodged with the League's Hon. Secretary, by the deadlines given below, depending upon the distance between the existing and proposed ground. The written notification will include a map showing the new location and give details of the arrangements for changing facilities, provision of post match hospitality, etc., and a commentary as to why the change is sought. Depending upon the availability of Referees on the League list in the new area, it may also be necessary for the applicant Club to provide details to prospective opponents as to how they expect to arrange for referees for their matches
  - (i) Where the change is local, say within five miles of the existing location, such changes may be approved by the League Management Committee, on behalf of the Member Clubs. The written notice of the intention to change should be lodged with the League's Hon. Secretary, before March 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - (ii) For changes involving a relocation in excess of five miles from their existing location, Clubs are required to provide the written notice before January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year in which they wish to change ground. Whilst the League Management Committee will assess the request it will normally only make a recommendation for approval at the A.G.M. Clubs are normally only expected to make such changes during a close season. If a permanent change of home venue becomes necessary during a season, the League Management Committee must be advised in writing at the earliest opportunity, and interim sanction to change ground for the remainder of the season be requested. Any such interim sanction granted, will not automatically extend beyond the season in which it is granted. The normal process must then be followed to continue at the new venue for the next season.

## **25. League Management Committee's powers in matters of Discipline**

All matters relating to discipline regarding the actions of players, teams and clubs, and any punishments or sanctions relating thereto shall be administered by the Amateur Football Alliance.

The League Management Committee will take a broad overview of discipline, to ensure the appropriate standards of behaviour are maintained in Arthurian League matches.

Clubs reaching Stages 1, 2 or 3 on the Amateur Football Alliance's Disciplinary Scales may be required to appear before the League's Disciplinary Sub-Committee.

## **26. Junior Cup Competition**

- (a) The Competition shall be called the Arthurian League Junior Cup Competition.
- (b)(i) Entry shall be by annual invitation and open to teams of all Clubs competing in the Arthurian League except those in the Premier and First Divisions.
- (ii) Each team taking part in the Competition shall pay an entrance fee which shall be determined at each Annual General Meeting.
- (c) The Competition shall be subject to the same rules as govern the League Competition where the context so permits, except so far as they are altered or modified by the following rules and the A.F.A. requirement that if as a result of misconduct the A.F.A. decides as a punitive measure to exclude for a period of time a club or team from any or all A.F.A. cup competitions, then A.F.A. affiliated competitions shall follow suit. The attention of Clubs is particularly drawn to League rules 8(a), 8(b), 8(e) and 10(e) covering the eligibility of players and the selection of teams.
- (d)(i) All teams in Division Two shall be exempt until the First Round.
- (ii) Teams in Divisions Three, Four, and Five shall play qualifying rounds. Any byes shall go to the two teams relegated from Division Two the previous season and to the top teams in Division Three; byes to be awarded to the highest teams on the basis of the League tables at the end of the previous season.
- (iii) The qualifying rounds, the first round, and subsequent rounds, shall be drawn by lot; the team drawn first shall have choice of venue.
- (e)(i) If at the end of a tie the scores are level, extra time shall be played; the duration of this time shall be at the discretion of the referee, subject to a maximum of fifteen minutes each way. If the scores remain level, the tie shall be decided by penalties.
- (ii) In ties resolved by penalties, each team shall initially take five penalties each in alternate sequence. If the score remains level the result will be determined on a sudden death basis. No player may take a second penalty kick until all players have taken one penalty kick each.
- (f) The Final will be played on a neutral ground determined by the Management Committee.
- (g) Substitutes can be used in the Junior League Cup in accordance with the provisions of Rule 10(k)

**The Arthurian League adheres to and supports The FA's Child Protection Policies.**

**APPENDIX A- Marking of Referees(Rule 13(g))**

It is the responsibility of both teams to give the name and an assessment of all Referees for both home and away matches. The assessment must be recorded when reporting the result to the web-site.

The system for marking Referees is based on a FA instruction and is used by the AFA and other County FAs when considering referees for promotion. Clubs should award one overall mark out of 100 to all referees. When awarding a mark the following points should be assessed.

**Guide to Marking**

The mark awarded by a club must be based on the referee's overall performance. It is most important that the mark is awarded fairly and not based upon isolated incidents or previous games. The referee's performance should be determined by the table below which should act as a guide for the overall mark which should fall within the mark range for each standard of performance.

<b>Mark Range</b>	<b>Comment</b>
91-100	The Referee was extremely accurate in decision making and very successfully controlled the game using management and communication skills to create an environment of fair play, adding real value to the game.
81-90	The Referee was very accurate in decision making, successfully controlled the game using management and communication skills to create an environment of fair play.
71-80	The Referee was accurate in decision making and controlled the game well, communicating with the players, making a positive contribution towards fair play.
61-70	The Referee was reasonably accurate in decision making, controlled the game quite well and communicated with players, establishing a reasonable degree of fair play.
51-60	The Referee had some shortcomings in the level of accuracy of decision making and control, with only limited success in communicating with the players resulting in variable fair play.
50 and below	The Referee had significant shortcomings in the level of accuracy of decision making and control with poor communication with the players which resulted in low levels of fair play.

**Notes**

- Using a scale of up to 100 allows greater flexibility for the clubs to distinguish between different refereeing performances more accurately.
- A mark within each mark range can be given to reflect the Referee's performance e.g. a mark of 79 indicates a somewhat better performance than a mark of 71.
- A mark between 71 and 80 represents the standard of refereeing expected.

When a mark of 50 or less is awarded, an explanation must be provided to the League or competition by completing the appropriate box on the marking form. **It must include comments which could help improve the Referee's future performances.** Even where a Referee has significant shortcomings there will be some positive aspects which should be given credit; extremely low marks (below 20) should be very rare.

## How to Decide on the Referee's Mark

The following questions focus on the key areas of a Referee's performance. They are intended as an "aide memoire" are not necessarily comprehensive and need not be answered individually. It is, however, worth considering them before committing yourself to a mark for the Referee.

### CONTROL AND DECISION MAKING

- How well did the Referee control the game?
- Were the players' actions recognised correctly?
- Were the Laws applied correctly?
- Were all incidents dealt with efficiently/effectively?
- Were all the appropriate sanctions applied correctly?
- Was the Referee always within reasonable distance of incidents?
- Was the Referee well positioned to make critical decisions, especially in and around the penalty area?
- Did the Referee understand the players' positional intentions and keep out of the way accordingly?
- Did the Referee demonstrate alertness and concentration throughout the game?
- Did the Referee apply the use of the advantage to suit the mood and temperature of the game?
- Was the Referee aware of the players' attitude to advantage?
- Did the Referee use the Assistant Referees effectively?
- Did the officials work as a team, and did the Referee lead and manage them to the benefit of the game?

### COMMUNICATION AND PLAYER MANAGEMENT

- How well did the Referee communicate with the players during the game?
- Did the Referee's level of involvement/profile suit this particular game?
- Did the Referee understand the players' problems on the day – e.g. difficult ground/weather conditions?
- Did the Referee respond to the changing pattern of play/mood of players?
- Did the Referee demonstrate empathy for the game, allowing it to develop in accordance with the tempo of the game?
- Was the Referee pro-active in controlling the game?
- Was the Referee's authority asserted firmly without being officious?
- Was the Referee confident and quick thinking?
- Did the Referee appear unflustered and unhurried when making critical decisions?
- Did the Referee permit undue questioning of decisions?
- Did the Referee deal effectively with players crowding around after decisions/incidents?
- Was effective player management in evidence?
- Was the Referee's body language confident and open at all times?
- Did the pace of the game, crowd or player pressure affect the Referee negatively?

### Final Thoughts

- Always try to be objective when marking. You may not obtain the most objective view by marking immediately after the game.
- Judge performance over the whole game. Do not be too influenced by one particular incident.
- Do not mark the Referee down unfairly because your team was unlucky and lost the game or some disciplinary action was taken against your players.

### APPENDIX B - Annual Subscriptions for the Season 2008 - 2009

For the 1<sup>st</sup> Team of each Club : **£60**

For each additional Team : **£35**

For each Team entered in the  
**Junior Cup Competition** : **£15**

For entry into the  
**Derrick Moore Veterans Cup** : **£50**

Secretarial Levy per Club : **£25**

In addition, at the time of paying their annual subscriptions Clubs will also be charged, according to the number of teams entered in the main League competition, for a number of tickets for the League's Annual Dinner to ensure the League can fulfil its obligations to pay an advance deposit and commit to paying the venue for an agreed minimum number of places at the event.

Clubs with 1 team will be required to pay for 2 tickets  
Clubs with 2 teams will be required to pay for 3 tickets  
Clubs with 3 teams will be required to pay for 3 tickets  
Clubs with 4 teams will be required to pay for 4 tickets