



North East & Central Surrey Colts League

Constitution and Playing Rules 2016 Season

Main website: www.surreycoltscricket.co.uk

Play-Cricket website: www.necsc.play-cricket.com

Administration: admin@neccoltscricket.co.uk

NEC Constitution & Playing Rules

North East and Central Surrey Colts League

THE SPIRIT OF THE GAME Included as a preamble by Sir Colin Cowdrey to The Laws of Cricket.

“Cricket is a game that owes much of its unique appeal to the fact that it should be played not only within its laws, but also within the Spirit of the Game. Cricket has no place for the cheat, the foul mouth or for those who deal in verbal abuse and, worst of all, those who fail to show proper respect to the umpire. Any action which is seen to abuse this spirit causes injury to the game itself. The major responsibility for ensuring the spirit of fair play rests with the captains and colts managers.”

****IMPORTANT NOTE CONCERNING MATCHES PLAYED AT OLD WHITGIFTIANS CC. SEE RULE 13. CONDUCT OF MATCHES.**

*****HOW TO REPORT RESULTS. SEE RULE 20. RESULTS.**

CONSTITUTION

1. TITLE

The Leagues shall be called the North, East & Central Surrey Colts League (hereinafter referred to as the League).

2. COMPOSITION

a. The League is open to Colts Sections or Clubs affiliated to a County Association or other similar Associations. The League shall consist of such number of Clubs as its Members shall from time to time decide, and shall be divided into such age groups as agreed.

b. The Management Committee at its absolute discretion will determine the composition of divisions / zones taking account as appropriate of the location of clubs, the performance of particular squads in previous seasons, and the preferences expressed by Clubs to provide as balanced a competition as it can.

3. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

a. The affairs of the League shall be administered by a Management Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) comprising of a Chairman, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer (herein after referred to as Officers) and a number, not normally to exceed five, of Additional Members. There is no requirement for any Committee member to be a representative or member of a Club in the League.

b. The Officers and Additional Members shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. Member clubs may submit nominations for any position on the Committee, such nominations must be proposed and seconded by member clubs, in writing, and sent together with the written consent of the nominee, to the Secretary not less than 2 weeks prior to the date of the AGM.

c. Notwithstanding the above, the Officers may at any time fill any vacancy or co-opt any person to be an Additional Member of the Committee, and also establish such sub-Committees and determine their membership as they deem fit without reference to the Member Clubs.

- **Committee Meetings**

d. The Committee shall meet at regular intervals and at a suitable frequency to ensure the efficient administration of the League. The quorum for a full Management Committee meeting is at least three elected or co-opted Committee Members, one of whom must be an Officer.

4. GENERAL MEETINGS

- **Annual General Meeting**

a. The Annual General Meeting (A.G.M.) shall be held not later than the 31st December each year. The Hon. Secretary shall give not less than 2 weeks' notice in writing of the meeting and the business to be transacted to the Member Clubs. The meeting shall transact the annual business of the League. Member clubs may submit resolutions for consideration at the meeting to the Hon. Secretary, not later than 3 weeks prior to the date of the Meeting.

- **Extraordinary General Meetings**

b. The Committee may call an Extraordinary Meeting of the League and the Hon. Secretary shall give not less than 7 days' notice in writing to the Member Clubs.

c. The Hon. Secretary shall call an Extraordinary General Meeting within 21 days on receipt of notice signed by 5 member clubs detailing the business to be transacted and deposit of £50. Such amount may be refunded if the meeting deems this is equitable. The Hon. Secretary shall give not less than 7 days notice in writing to the Member Clubs.

- **Attendance**

d. General Meetings may be attended by any person interested in Colts Cricket and any attendee may address the meeting.

- **Voting**

e. At General Meetings each Member Club, if present, shall be entitled to one vote. Where proposals to change the rules relate to a specific age range only Member Clubs who have applied to play (or have played in the previous season as appropriate) in that age group may vote. At all times a simple majority of those voting shall be decisive. In the event of a Tied Vote, the Chairman or his nominated Deputy shall have a casting vote.

5. FINANCE

a. The League is empowered to raise funds by levying subscriptions and fines on its member clubs and by raising sponsorship as the Committee sees fit.

b. An income and expenditure account for the year ended 31st October and balance sheet shall be presented each year for acceptance at the A.G.M.

6. DISPUTES

In the event of any dispute, the decision of the Committee shall be final.

7. DISBANDMENT

In the event of the disbandment of the League, all assets remaining after settlement of liabilities shall be distributed at the discretion of the Committee.

LEAGUE RULES AND PLAYING CONDITIONS

8. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

a. Application for membership shall be made annually on the form available from the Treasurer. The Committee may refuse any application. Application for membership will normally only be considered if the Application Form and membership payment is received by the Treasurer by 31st December. No Club shall be

admitted to the League until it has settled its financial commitments in full, both to the League and any other previous organisations on or before 31 December.

b. All member clubs/ground owners must have in place General Public Liability Insurance cover on or before 30th April for the coming season for a minimum sum insured determined by the Committee. The Committee reserve the right to suspend any club not complying with this rule.

9. SUBSCRIPTIONS

Each Team shall be required to pay the Annual Subscription as agreed by the Committee.

10. TROPHIES

At the conclusion of the season's competitions, clubs retain, in perpetuity, any trophy awarded.

11. QUALIFICATION

a. Each Competition shall be open to boys and girls. (A girl or an all-girls team is allowed to participate in any age-group competition one year younger than the girls' official age-group. For example, an 'official' under 12-year old girl/team is allowed to play in an NEC U11 competition.)

b. No player may play for more than one Club in the same season, unless the manager of the original club consents to the player concerned moving Clubs. Any such player transfers are to be notified to the Committee who will make a final ruling in cases where a dispute arises.

c. Players must have played in at least 2 League and/or cup games in League competitions at any age group for which they are eligible in that season to be eligible to play in any Final. Players not fulfilling these criteria may be deemed eligible to play by permission of the Committee.

d. No colt is eligible to play for a club in any league or cup game until that club has a registration form signed by the colt's parent or guardian. The registration form shall as a minimum contain the colt's name, date of birth and contact details.

e. Each club shall make available for inspection such player registration forms, score books, score sheets and documentary proof of players age as the Committee may request to resolve any challenges to their eligibility. Should a club fail to provide such information to the satisfaction of the Committee within 7-days they will be deemed to have played an over age player. The Committee may also apply the penalty for this to any other games in which the player has appeared.

f. Any club may challenge the eligibility of any player from another club. Such challenge must be submitted in writing to the Hon Secretary and be accompanied by a refundable deposit of £25. The challenge should be made within 7 days of the game or exceptionally of the incident giving rise to the challenge.

g. ANY TEAM PLAYING OVER AGE PLAYERS SHALL FORFEIT ALL POINTS FOR THE MATCH IN QUESTION, AND THE MATCH WILL BE AWARDED TO THE OPPOSING SIDE; (club forfeiting the match will be deemed as, 'CONCEDING', and thus will incur an extra 1 point deduction from their total points accumulated.) IF BOTH TEAMS PLAY OVER AGE PLAYER, THEN NO POINTS WILL BE AWARDED FOR THE MATCH IN QUESTION; but both clubs will be deemed as, 'CONCEDING', and thus will incur an extra 1 point deduction from their total points accumulated.)

h. In the event of a club failing to comply with rule 11d or requests under 11e, the League Committee may apply such other penalty as they deem fit including fines and, or expulsion from the League.

i. No player who has played for a County or District Representative side in the season in question (or preceding season) may represent a club in a B team league. Any team playing such a player shall forfeit all points for the match in question and the points will be awarded to the opposing side. If both sides play such players then no points will be awarded.

12. FIXTURE PROGRAMME

- a. All fixtures shall normally be completed on the Scheduled Date as set in the Fixture Card.
- b. Matches may not be rearranged under any circumstances other than under the provisions of clause (c) and (g) below; matches that owing to adverse weather or pitch conditions either do not take place or are abandoned before a result is reached are treated as abandoned matches and the points shared accordingly (see Rule 22).
- c. Should a Team have an exceptional reason to request a change from the Scheduled date as set in the Fixture Card, it must make its request known to the opposition and the Results Secretary, **no later than 21-days prior to the Scheduled Date**. If agreement is reached, the original fixture may be rearranged but must be played on or before 12th August; and the rearranged date automatically becomes set as the new scheduled date, (unless a later date is agreed by the Committee,) and cannot thereafter, be altered, under any circumstances.
- d. Requests for rearrangement should only be made in genuinely exceptional circumstances and in the event of a dispute between Clubs regarding such a request, either Club may seek a ruling from the Committee but must do so in writing to the Chairman at least 14 days prior to the original Scheduled Date for the match. Should any such claim be submitted later than 14 days prior to the Scheduled Date the Committee reserve the right to dismiss the claim without further consideration (See also Rule 22b).
- e. All rearranged fixture dates must be notified to the Results Secretary within 7 days of the Scheduled Date for the original fixture and it is the responsibility of the Home Club to do so and the result on the rearranged date must be notified in compliance with Rule 20.
- f. In order to confirm the venue, start time, whether the game is to be played on an artificial surface, et al, **the Home Club shall contact their opponents no later than 5 days prior to the date of a league fixture, (or cup fixture if date officially scheduled,)** whether this be the original fixture to be played on the Scheduled Date or a rearranged fixture. If contact is not made by the home club within 5-days, **the away club has the right to claim the match**, {and the home club forfeiting the match as 'CONCEDING', and thus incurring a 1 point deduction from the total points accumulated, [4-points awarded to away club in league matches; tie awarded to away club in cup matches.];} subject to committee approval. *(For clarification purposes, rule amended at the NEC AGM, 2013.)*
- (a): **Cup fixtures.** *Other than for the officially scheduled cup fixtures dates, the designated home club shall provide the away club with two dates upon either of which the tie must be played. The away club has the option of selecting its preferred date on which to play; but only from the two offered by the home club. If agreement cannot be reached, the away team forfeits the tie.*
 - **U13, U15, U17**, cup playing rules. Specific rules apply to these competitions. Please visit [Resources](#) for the information.
- g. For B team leagues and such other leagues as the committee may designate only, clubs may agree a different date. The rearranged date must be notified to the Committee as required by a date specified by the committee prior to the start of the league programme. This revised date then becomes the Scheduled Date and may not then be changed except under the terms of rule 12c above. It is hoped that clubs can seek to accommodate each other as necessary with requests for changes, but in the case of a dispute clubs may ask the Committee for a ruling.
- h. At the committee's discretion, a fine could be imposed on any club that withdraws from their competition subsequent to the club's entry being accepted by the League and the relevant competition's fixtures being published, dependent upon seriousness of withdrawal.

13. CONDUCT OF MATCHES, (League & League Cup competitions.)

- a. The M.C.C. Laws of Cricket shall apply to all NEC League and League Cup matches except as stated.
- b. Each match shall consist of each Team playing a maximum of 20 Sixball Overs. (Except Under 15, 13, and 11 straight cricket league - 24 overs.)

c. All Matches should be played on the due day. Weekdays starting at or before 6.00 pm (20-overs.) Saturday and Sundays starting at or before 9.30 am.

d. Any Team failing to arrive within 45 minutes of the start time shall forfeit the match. Any Team not ready to play 30 minutes after the start time shall forfeit the toss. If both sides have a minimum of 8 players by 30 minutes after the start time the games will commence. In the event of a delayed start through lateness, the non-offending Team shall decide the number of overs to be played.

e. In the event of a late start through weather, the number of overs to be played shall be agreed upon by the Colts Managers but must be at least 12 overs per side.

f. Should any match be abandoned after the start, providing the Team batting second has received a minimum of 12 overs, the winners shall be the Team with the higher overall scoring rate runs per over. If equal the result will be a tie.

g. The 5 runs penalty, as included in the Laws of Cricket, will not apply to any League Matches in the N.E.C. Surrey Colts League, except for illegal fielding (which includes striking a helmet on the ground).

h. **CUP MATCHES:** In the event of an NEC League Cup fixture resulting in a tie, (i.e. the scores are level,) please refer to **RULE 21**.

****IMPORTANT NOTICE: THE TOP SQUARE at OLD WHITGIFTIANS CC**

*“With regard to matches taking place during the evening on the TOP SQUARE at OWCC, games can be affected by the low trajectory of the sun interfering with the vision of the batsman. Thus, a local rule has been established because of the uniqueness that the circumstances of vision present, whilst batting at the top square. The rule states that **both team managers may agree prior to the toss, that should the sun be deemed to impair the vision of the batsman; all bowling will be delivered from the Croham Hurst Golf Club end, i.e. furthest from the pavilion. In the absence of any such agreement the MCC Laws of Cricket, in combination with the relevant NEC League’s playing rules, will apply for the duration of the game in question.***

OWCC is ClubMark accredited and is therefore obliged to conduct frequent risk assessments of playing conditions. The above rule has been drafted to satisfy the club's health, safety and duty of care responsibilities as required by ClubMark.”

14. UMPIRES.

a. Each Team will supply an Umpire for League matches who shall be a competent responsible adult. It shall be the sole decision of the Umpires (see note below,) as to whether a match is abandoned, should conditions become dangerous.

- **NOTE:** A decision to continue play can be overruled by either a member of the home club’s ground staff and/or management committee, who have the right to exercise their authority as overseers of the grounds in question.

The Umpires of each match are responsible, not only for the correctness of scores, but also for ensuring the match has been played according to the Rules of the League.

b. Umpires are not permitted to coach or act as captains during a game except at Under 8, Under 9 and Under 10 age groups where the managers may agree to reasonable coaching or acting captaincy; and at Under 11 where consultation is allowed when the batting pair leaves the field at the end of their allotted overs.

15. MATCH BALLS

As provided for under the Playing Conditions, the ball (to be of a reasonable match standard) to be used for League Matches shall be provided by the Home Club and shall be accepted by the Colts Managers and should be handed to the Umpires prior to the toss being made.

16. HELMETS

Helmets complete with faceguards, must be worn in all matches at all times by the batsmen, and by the wicket-keeper when "standing up" to the stumps except at Under 8 where an Incrediball or similar non cricket ball is used.

17. SENIOR COMPETITIONS FOR UNDER 16s, UNDER 15s and UNDER 14s, (all playing non-pairs cricket.)

- a. These competitions are for players under the age of 16, 15 & 14 respectively on 31 August prior to each Season
- b. A full sized ball in good condition shall be used.
- c. No fielder, except the Wicket Keeper and those behind the wicket on the off-side, shall be allowed to field nearer than 8 yards from the wicket measured from the middle stump.
- d. No bowler may bowl more than 5 overs in an innings in a 24 overs a side game, 4 overs in an innings in a 20 overs a side game and pro rata, by agreement of the managers, in games reduced to fewer than 20 overs a side owing to a late start or adverse weather conditions.
- e. One substitute player is allowed, who may, a) only be allowed to field and/or bowl but not keep wicket, and, b) not be allowed to bat.

18. INTERMEDIATE COMPETITIONS FOR UNDER 13s, UNDER 12s & UNDER 11s, (all playing non-pairs cricket.) NOTE: U11s play 'PAIRS' format in the NEC U11 Cup.

- a. These competitions are for players under the age of 13, 12 and 11 respectively on 31 August prior to each Season
- b. The pitch shall be:-
 - 21 yards for Under 13 and Under 12;
 - 20 yards for Under 11.
- c. The match ball will be 4 3/4 oz, and in good condition.
- d. No fielder, except the Wicket Keeper and those behind the wicket on the off-side, shall be allowed to field nearer than 11 yards from the wicket measured from the middle stump.
- e. SEVEN bowlers must be used and no bowler may bowl more than FOUR overs. Batsmen are to retire NOT OUT after scoring 30 runs. Retired Batsmen may return in the order that they retired to continue their innings [until the innings is completed or they are dismissed] when there are no longer two batsmen who have not been dismissed or retired.
- f. Two runs shall be awarded for every Wide or No Ball. No extra ball shall be bowled for any Wides or No Balls bowled, except in the final over of each innings. **The penalty of two extra runs for every Wide or No Ball shall also stand in the final over, plus any other runs scored.** Note: Wides and No Balls are credited as extras. Additional runs are either credited to the batsman; or to the team's batting total as extras. *(For clarification purposes, rule amended at the NEC AGM, 2013.)*
- g. One substitute player is allowed, who may, a) only be allowed to field and/or bowl but not keep wicket, and, b) not be allowed to bat.

19. JUNIOR COMPETITIONS for UNDER 11s, UNDER 10s, UNDER 9s & UNDER 8s, (all playing pairs cricket, including any NEC Cup fixtures.)

- a. These competitions are for players under the age of 11, 10, 9 and 8 respectively on 31 August prior to each Season League Division and Finals and Cup Matches shall be played as "Pairs Cricket".

b. The pitch should be:-

- 20 yards for Under 11s and Under 10s;
- 18 yards for Under 9s;
- 16 yards for Under 8s.

The correct length pitch shall be used whenever practical, but this will not prevent the match from taking place. If the match is played on a 22 yard pitch, the bowlers back foot must be behind the popping crease in the delivery stride.

c. The match ball will be 4 3/4 oz, and in good condition for Under 11, 10 and 9 and an 'Incrediball' or similar for Under 8.

d. The Stumps should be a minimum 25 inches above the ground.

e. Each Team shall comprise of 10 players. However, a Team may use up to 2 substitutes who shall be identified and declared to the opposition at the start of the match. Such substitutes may field and bowl subject that only 10 players are in the field at any time. A substitute shall be considered as a separate player in ascertaining the number of bowlers used. Fielders may be rotated but changes should normally be made every 4 overs with the change of batsmen. Substitutes may not bat except they may replace an injured batsman. A substitute may only replace one injured batsman. If no substitute is available and a batsman is injured another member of the team may replace him but will act as non striker for each ball with the partner facing all the remaining deliveries for that pair.

f. The Batting side shall be divided into pairs. Each pair shall bat 4 overs. Pairs shall change at the end of the 4th, 8th, 12th and 16th over. If a side has only 9 players, the 9th Colt will bat with a runner and only face 2 overs. The offending Team will have a 16 run penalty. The shortfall to be declared before the game commences. Failure to notify the opposition will result in the other side being awarded 4 points. If a side only has 8 players (pairs cricket) there will only be a 12 run penalty and the innings will be only 16 overs.

g. Batsman shall have unlimited lives but each life shall result in 6 runs being deducted from the total. Batsman shall change ends if necessary so that a dismissed batsman never faces the next ball.

h. **SEVEN** bowlers must be used (except at under 8 where the minimum is 5 but it is hoped more will be involved) and no bowler may bowl more than **FOUR** overs.

i. Two runs shall be awarded for every Wide or No Ball. No extra ball shall be bowled for any Wides or No Balls bowled, except in the final over of each innings. **The penalty of two extra runs for every Wide or No Ball shall also stand in the final over, plus any other runs scored.** **Note:** Wides and No Balls are credited as extras. Additional runs are either credited to the batsman; or to the team's batting total as extras. *(For clarification purposes, rule amended at the NEC AGM, 2013.)*

j. Each Team shall commence its innings with a score of 200 runs.

k. No fielder, except the Wicket Keeper and those behind the wicket on the off-side, shall be allowed to field nearer than 11 yards from the wicket measured from the middle stump.

l. The Winning Team shall be the side scoring the higher number of runs after deductions for the fall of wickets.

20. RESULTS

(SEE PAGE 9.)

20. RESULTS

Notification of Results for all League and Cup competitions.

A) League Match Reporting & Results Procedure:

The NEC League requests that all clubs playing in any of the League's competitions, **(other than Cup ties,)** enter their age-group team's summary results to their club's individual, 'Play-Cricket', facility. The following procedure is required to ensure that the, 'Play-Cricket', system records the match outcomes appropriately:

1. RESULT REPORTING. PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY LAY WITH THE WINNING CLUB, AS FOLLOWS:

No later than 48-hrs subsequent to the match conclusion, the **WINNING club** must enter the result of the match, via their club's individual, '**Play-Cricket**', website, as well as the result when winning by virtue of the opposition conceding.

Home clubs to report match abandonments only, (see 3 below.)

At the Committee's discretion, clubs failing to comply with result requirements, will incur a 1-point penalty deduction for each transgression of this rule.

2. DEFEATED CLUB RESPONSIBILITY. CHECKING WINNING CLUB'S REPORTED RESULT, AS FOLLOWS:

At some stage during the 5-days immediately following a match, the **DEFEATED club** should check that the result is entered fully to, 'Play-Cricket', and correctly detailed. Without delay afterward, please [report to the League](#) any difference(s) revealed, **especially if the result is not posted.**

3. ABANDONED MATCHES. PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY LAY WITH THE HOME CLUB, AS FOLLOWS:

The, 'Play-Cricket', reporting process detailed above also applies to abandoned matches, when it is the **HOME club's** responsibility to up-date, 'Play-Cricket', accordingly; and the **AWAY club's** responsibility to check that the abandoned match has been reported appropriately.

At the Committee's discretion, failure to comply will incur a 1 point penalty deduction to the HOME club for each transgression of this rule.

***Optional:** The **WINNING club** has the opportunity of entering the scorecard of both clubs to **Play-Cricket** by the Thursday following the match, if they so wish; but the League's Rule 20., para 'A' above, must be satisfied as a priority. Please liaise with your opponent club, if your club wishes to enter both scorecards.*

4. GUIDE ON 'HOW TO ENTER LEAGUE RESULTS.' Please [click here](#) for a guide compiled in order to help **NEC Colts League member clubs' enter results** to club's individual ECB: 'Play-Cricket' website.

B) Cup Match Reporting & Results Procedure:

Please note that because of the early draw system employed by the League, Cup match results are **NOT** reported via the, 'Play-Cricket', system.

1. RESULT REPORTING, INCLUDING CONCEDED MATCHES: PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY LAY WITH THE WINNING CLUB TO REPORT THE RESULT WITHIN 48-HOURS OF THE TIE'S CONCLUSION.

Cup results are reported via the League's website: www.surreyclotscricket.co.uk Please [click here](#) for Cup result reporting form.

If your club encounters a problem with any match reporting issue, do not hesitate to contact the [NEC League Secretary](#).

LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

22. AWARD OF POINTS.

a. The team scoring the greater number of runs (except in matches abandoned after the start - see Rule 13f) shall win the match and points shall be awarded as follows:-

- WIN - 4 Points
- TIE - 3 Points for Each Team
- LOSS - 0 Points.
- ABANDONED - 2 Points for Each Team
- CONCEDED – 1 Point deducted from the Total Points accumulated by the Team conceding.

b. No points will normally be awarded to either side for matches which are not played for reasons other than adverse weather. Any Team wishing to claim points must do so, in writing to the Secretary, within 5 days of the date of the Scheduled Date for the fixture or where the fixture has been exceptionally rearranged under Rule 12c and d the re-arranged date, and then not later than 15th August. The Committee will decide on the result of the game in question and the award of points. The Committee reserves the right to dismiss claims made under the provisions of Rule 12d and 22b above which are not submitted within the prescribed time scales, without further consideration. In Leagues where Pairs Cricket is played (i.e. u9, u10, u11) any Team deemed to have lost a game under the above provision or which has voluntarily conceded the points for a game without it being played or satisfactorily completed will be deemed to have lost the game by 60 runs; accordingly its opponents will be deemed to have won the game by 60 runs.

c. Should a team concede 4 or more League games in a season, the Committee, without right of appeal, will remove that team from the League and expunge all the said team's results from the relevant competition league table for the season. The only exception to this rule is in a case when, subsequent to a team's removal and the expunging of results, the remaining teams' in the competition in question are left to play an unequal number of games by which to complete the competition. Should this be the case, the Committee, at its sole discretion and again without right of appeal, will decide how best to ensure a fair competition, which may require any expunging of results under the terms of this rule to be reviewed.

- **Clubs that experience a concession which results in out-of-pocket expense, have the right to claim compensation from the conceding club, (within one month,) up to £75 per conceded match.**

23. POSITION IN THE LEAGUE TABLE.

a. The Winner of each division shall be the Team with the highest number of points after the resolution of all matches.

b. If, after the resolution of all matches there are two or more teams with the same number of points, the relative positions will be determined as follows:

(i) In competitions in which Pairs Cricket is played (i.e. U8 to U11)

- The Team having conceded the fewest games under the terms of Rule 22b or otherwise
- The Team with the greater positive difference between runs scored and runs conceded, after taking account of deductions for wickets lost, will be placed in the higher position.
- If still level, the result(s) between the clubs' involved, will determine the higher position. *(Rule amended at the NEC AGM, 2013.)*
- If still level, the Committee will if necessary organise a play-off and the result will be determined in the same way as for Cup matches in Rule 21.

(ii) In all other competitions,

- The Team having conceded the fewest games under the terms of Rule 22b or otherwise
- The Team with most wins (including as awarded as a result of Rule 22b) to be placed in the higher positions.

- If still level the Team with the most ties (not including abandonment's where 2 points awarded to each Team), to be placed in the higher position.
- If still level, the result(s) between the clubs' involved, will determine the higher position. (*Rule amended at the NEC AGM, 2013.*)
- If still level, the Committee will if necessary organise a play-off and the result will be determined in the same way as for Cup matches in Rule 21.

NOTE: The League Committee shall decide upon the venue of any play-off for the right to reach finals day; and said play-offs must be played by Aug 11th of the season in question. If play-off clubs don't conclude their match by the deadline, the **ZONAL winner/finalist** of the competition's other zone is automatically declared winner of the relevant competition.

24. CODE OF CONDUCT

The League expects its member Clubs to ensure that its players, umpires, coaches and supporters maintain the highest standards of behaviour and conduct and to uphold the Spirit of the Game at all times.

- Clubs must welcome players, members and supporters without regard to ethnic origin.
- Umpires must umpire fairly and honestly, without bias or partisanship.
- Players, Club officials and supporters must at all times accept the umpire's decision and not show dissent or react in a provocative, intimidatory or disparaging manner towards an umpire, another player, Club official or spectator.
- No act of violence or threatened violence by a player, Club official, spectator or anyone else will be tolerated.
- Players, Club officials and supporters shall not use crude, abusive or racially motivated comments against other players, officials and supporters.
- Umpires shall not permit players to indulge in sharp practice such as deliberately distracting or obstructing an opponent by word, action or gesture, deliberately damaging the pitch, tampering with the ball or any other action they deem to be unfair.
- Whilst genuine encouragement of the players is welcomed, either by polite verbal support or applause, spectators shall not be permitted to interfere with the running of the game, to actively coach or direct players whilst a game is in progress, to seek to intimidate, influence or criticise the umpires or players of the opposing team or to enter on to the field of play whilst a game is in progress without the permission of the umpires.

25 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES.

- The League has a formal Disciplinary Procedure in place to deal with any alleged offences under the Code of Conduct. A copy of this Disciplinary Procedure shall be provided to each member Club.
- Any alleged incidents must be notified by the aggrieved party in writing to the Chairman of the League within 10 days of the alleged incident occurring.
- The Committee will decide whether the incident warrants further action to be taken, under the terms of the League's disciplinary policy as set out in the Disciplinary Procedure. A copy of the full Disciplinary Procedure may be obtained on application to the Secretary.

26 FINES.

Clubs are expected to assist in the efficient running of the League. Failure to do so in particular cases listed below will be penalised by means of fines, as follows:

- RESULTS:** Consistent failure to comply with Rule 20., will result in the Club concerned being fined £10 for each default.

b. Should the League need to arrange delivery of trophies, etc, to a given Club owing to that Club's failure to attend the function at which such items were distributed then the Club in question will be charged £30.

c. Clubs will be fined £25 for each of the following defaults:

(i) Failure to submit satisfactory Club information and/or Club Profile report for inclusion in any of the League media, by the deadline set by the editor,

(ii) Failure to return an Application for Membership form and subscription cheque for the following season by 31st December or prescribed deadline set by committee. (NB. The League reserves the right to refuse any application received after 31st December or the deadline set by committee; see Rule 8)

(iii) Failure to submit Clubmen of the Year nominations by the prescribed deadline.

d. All fines must be paid by 31st December of the year in which levied. Applications for membership of the League for the coming season will not be considered from Clubs that have incurred fines until such time as all outstanding fines are paid.

NEC League Committee

JANUARY 2016.