

# London Legal League – Rules – July 2010

## 1. Nomenclature and Constitution

**1 a:** This League shall be designated the “London Legal League” and shall consist of no more than forty Clubs who shall be full member or associate member Clubs.

The objective of the League shall be to foster and provide competitive football for Solicitors and their staff within the Greater London area and to promote social events in connection therewith.

**1 b:** Full membership of the League shall be confined to clubs representing:-

- i) A firm of solicitors
- ii) Two firms of solicitors
- iii) The staff of the legal department of a local government, commercial, industrial or other organisation – the work of which department is in the charge of a practising solicitor or solicitors.
- iv) The members of one of the four Inns of the Court.

**1 c:** Associate Membership of the League may be granted at an Annual General Meeting to any club outside the definitions contained in 1b, and may include Clubs representing three or more firms of Solicitors. Associate Member clubs shall have the same rights, privileges and obligations as Full Member Clubs except as provided for in these rules.

Associate Member clubs shall automatically resign prior to each Annual General Meeting and shall be required to apply for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.

**1 d:** Every club shall be known by the name and names of the firm, firms or organisation which it represents or a derivation thereof which shall first have been approved by at the Annual General Meeting.

**1 e:** All such Clubs must be affiliated to the Amateur Football Alliance and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on the Form “D” to the Amateur Football Alliance. The area covered by the League Membership shall be the Home Counties.

**1 f:** The League shall apply annually for sanction to the Amateur Football Alliance and the constituent teams of Clubs shall be grouped in divisions.

## 2. Admission to the League, Annual Subscription

**2 a:** Applications by New Clubs for admission to this Competition must be made in writing to the Secretary and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee of £500 per club which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

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

Non-member Clubs wishing to become members of the League must be proposed and seconded by two Clubs. Election into membership will be by a majority vote at an AGM. Applications to join the League must be made in writing to the Secretary not later than 31<sup>st</sup> May each year.

A Non-member Club applying for membership must be represented at the AGM that considers its application. Such Clubs may not vote at this AGM.

A new member Club shall be placed within a division as determined by the AGM.

**2 b:** The Annual Subscription and due payment date shall be set by the AGM. A Club shall not participate in the League if it is in default of its Annual Subscription or in arrears of payment of fines.

**2 c:** Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 30<sup>th</sup> June of all its county affiliation numbers for the forthcoming season, failing which they shall be fined. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, details of its Officers and any other information required by the League.

### **3. Officers**

3: The Officers of the Competition shall be the President, Past Presidents, Life Members, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Fixture Secretary, Results/Registration Secretary, Referees Secretary, Representative Team Manager, Divisional Representatives (one per division) and Representatives to the Amateur Football Alliance.

### **4. Management, Nomination, Election**

**4 a:** The League shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association by a Management Committee elected at the AGM. The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the League with the exception of the Past Presidents and Vice Presidents.

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

**4 b:** All Officers, subject to Rule 4c, shall automatically retire at the AGM. Retiring Officers 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 Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two Clubs, not later than 31<sup>st</sup> May in each year, or by nomination by the Management Committee without a seconder.

Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the AGM.

**4 c:** The President, Vice-Presidents, Past Presidents and Life Members shall not automatically retire at the Annual General Meeting, and may only be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

**4 d:** The Management Committee shall meet as often as is necessary to deal with business as it arises.

Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the Members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Committee.

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

**4 f:** All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their nominated Officers.

### **5. Powers of Management**

**5 a:** Each Member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Meetings of that Committee 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(s) of which he is a Member.

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

**5 b:** Subject to the permission of the Amateur Football Alliance having been obtained, the Management Committee may call upon each Club (including any Club which may have withdrawn during the season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the season.

**5 c:** All decisions of League Officers or the Management Committees shall be binding subject to the right of appeal to the Board of Appeal in accordance with Rule 16.

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

**5 d:** Four Members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

**5 e:** The Management Committee shall have power to fill any vacancies that may occur amongst their number and may co-opt additional members as necessary.

**5 f:** The Management Committee shall have power to appoint sub-committees and to delegate all or any of its powers to such sub-committees. The quorum for such sub-committees shall be three members.

**5 g:** A Club having failed to comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee, or failing to satisfactorily attend to the business and/or correspondence of the Competition, shall be liable to be fined or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the Management Committee.

**5 h:** All fines, charges and subscriptions shall be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the request for payment. Any fine which is not paid the due time may be doubled.

**5 i:** The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the League which may arise after the AGM or any SGM called to decide the constitution.

**5 j:** The Management Committee shall have the power to order that each Member Club contributes equally towards any sum that may be necessary to meet any deficiency in League Funds during or at the end of a season.

**5 k:** The Management Committee shall have the power to interpret these Rules. All matters not provided for by the Rules shall be dealt with by the Management Committee as it may determine.

**5 l:** No participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

## **6: Annual General Meeting**

**6 a:** The AGM shall be held not later than 30<sup>th</sup> June in each year. Each Club shall have the right to send two delegates but shall have one vote only.

At this meeting the following business shall be transacted:

- (i) To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding AGM.
- (ii) To consider any business arising therefrom.
- (iii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report.
- (iv) To receive and adopt the Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet.
- (v) Alteration of Rules, if any (of which notice has been given).
- (vi) Election of Officers and the Management Committee.
- (vii) Appointment of Auditors.
- (viii) Resignation of Associate Member Clubs.
- (ix) Election of new Clubs and re-election of Associate Member Clubs.
- (x) Constitution of the League for ensuing season.
- (xi) Determination of Annual Subscription for the following Season and any changes to the Schedule of Fines.
- (xii) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an AGM.

**6 b:** Not less than 14 days' notice shall be given of the AGM.

- 6 c:** A copy of the verified Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least fourteen days prior to the meeting, and to the Amateur Football Alliance
- 6 d:** A signed copy of the duly audited Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet shall be sent to the Amateur Football Alliance within fourteen days of its adoption by the AGM.
- 6 e:** Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the League during the season being concluded or who are not continuing Membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the season being concluded.
- 6 f:** All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot is demanded by at least one-third of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.
- 6 g:** Any Club failing to be represented at the AGM shall be fined.
- 6 h:** Officers shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM.
- 6 i:** There shall be no voting by proxy. No person shall exercise a second vote on any matter at the AGM, save that in the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.
- 6 j:** No club shall be permitted to vote on a matter directly appertaining to that club.

### **7. Agreement to be Signed**

The Secretary and Assistant Secretary of each Club shall annually complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the League for the coming season.

“We, .....(signature)..... of .....(address)..... (Secretary) and  
 .....(signature).....of .....(address)..... (Assistant Secretary) of the  
 .....(Club name)..... Football Club have been provided with a copy of  
 the Rules and Regulations of the London Legal League and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said  
 Club 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 15”.

Any alteration of the Secretary and/or Assistant Secretary on the above Agreement must be notified to the Amateur Football Alliance and to the Secretary of the League.

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

**8 a:** Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules, are not permitted to play in the League. All players are required to conform to Amateur Football Alliance (AFA) Rule 1a, namely that “An AFA Player is one who does not accept payment or inducement directly or indirectly for playing football”.

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

**8 c:** No player shall play for more than one Club in the League in the same season without the consent in writing of the Management Committee. No player shall be permitted to play for more than one Club in the same Cup Competition during the season. The Management Committee shall decide all disputes between Clubs as to the eligibility of players.

**8 d:** A Club shall keep a list of the players it registers and a record of the games in which they have played, and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee.

A registered playing member of a Club is one who, being in all other respects eligible has:-

- (i) Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the Registrations Secretary at least two days prior to playing.
- (ii) Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink on a match day prior to playing, countersigned by an Officer of the Club and witnesses by an Officer of the opposing Club, and submitted to the Registrations Secretary within two days of the match.

Registration forms may also be submitted to the Registrations Secretary electronically prior to the player playing.

**8 e:** All players shall be categorised as either “Employees”, “Ex-Employees” or “Guests”.

A Club representing one or more firms of solicitors shall be permitted to field no more than three Ex-Employees at any time.

A Club representing one firm of solicitors shall be permitted to field no more than three Guest players at any time.

A Club representing two or more firms of solicitors shall be permitted to field no more than two Guest players at any time.

An Associate Member Club shall not be permitted to field any Ex-Employee and Guest players.

No player considered to be an Ex-Employee or Guest shall be permitted to play in a Cup Semi-Final or Final unless he has played in at least 25% of that Club’s league matches during the season.

An “Employee” is defined as follows:-

- (i) In the case of a club which represents a one or more firms of Solicitors, a partner or full-time member of the staff of the firms.
- (ii) In the case of a club representing a legal department, a full-time member of the staff of the organisation concerned permanently employed in its legal department.
- (iii) In the case of a club which represents the members of an Inn or Court, a member of the Inn of Court who is (a) in independent practice as a barrister or pupil; or (b) is an employed barrister within the definition of paragraph 501 of the Code of Conduct of the Bar of England and Wales, provided that his employment is with an institution other than an institution which is capable of satisfying the requirements of membership of the London Legal League or is in fact a member; or (c) a full-time student at the Council of Legal Education Inns of Court School of Law or a person who having been a full-time student of the Council of Legal Education Inns of Court School of Law is eligible to and bone-fide intends to re-take part or all of the assessments for that course within the same year as the person is registered to play

An “Ex-Employee” is defined as follows:-

- (i) A person who was formerly a bona-fide employee within the appropriate definition given above but, no longer being so, still practices as a solicitor or barrister and is a full-time member of the staff of a solicitor or a firm of Solicitors or a legal department as defined in rule 1.
- (ii) Additionally in the case of a member of an Inn of Court, (a) a member who is an employed barrister within the definition of paragraph 501 of the Code of Conduct of the Bar of England and Wales and who is employed by an institution which is capable of satisfying the requirements of membership of the London Legal League or in fact is a member; or (b) a member who can satisfy the Management Committee that he is advising on or actively dealing with legal matters on a day to day basis

Any other players are considered as “Guest” players. No Guest player shall be permitted to play if he has not conformed to Rule 8a at any time within the last five years.

**8 f:** A player who is eligible to play for one club within the league as an “Employee” shall not be permitted to play for another club as an “ex-Employee” or “Guest” without the permission of the first club.

**8 g:**

- (i) Any team playing an ineligible player or players may have the points from the match awarded to the opposition, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed (or in the event of a cup fixture, a walkover awarded), and may be fined.
- (ii) In addition the team may have further 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) In the event of both teams playing ineligible players no points from the fixture will be awarded and the match shall not be replayed.

**8h:**

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

(Subject to Rule 16).

- (iii) The Management Committee shall have power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 16) subject to the right of appeal to the FA or the relevant County Football Association.

Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated conduct, which may deter

a participant from being involved in this Competition. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the player is registered with.

(Note: Action under Clause (iii) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute and 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.

## **9. Club Colours, Club Names, Footwear**

**9 a:** Each Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary who shall decide as to their suitability.

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.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours the home Club (first named club in the fixture) shall change, unless agreement is reached to the contrary.

Players’ shirts in all teams shall be uniquely numbered. Any Club failing to comply with this rule shall be liable to a fine.

**9 b:** Any Club wishing to change its name and/or its colours must obtain the approval of the Management Committee.

**9 c:** Studded footwear (including boots with bladed or moulded soles) is not permitted in any game unless it is played on grass.

### **10. Playing Season, Conditions of Play, Times of Kick Off, Postponements, Substitutes**

**10 a:** All fixtures shall be arranged by the League Fixture Secretary, and shall not be re-arranged by Clubs without the permission of the League Fixture Secretary. Clubs shall be given at least 14 days notice of each fixture. The first named club in each fixture shall be considered as being the “home” club.

**10 b:** No club shall be permitted to postpone or re-arrange a fixture without the permission of the League Fixture Secretary. Any request to postpone or re-arrange a fixture must be made at least 14 days before the date of the fixture, including the full reason for the request. The decision whether to allow the request shall be at the discretion of the League Fixture Secretary. The League Fixture Secretary shall have the Power to postpone or re-arrange a fixture at any time.

**10 c:** Notice of postponement of any match must be given without delay to the opposing club and to the League Fixture Secretary, Referees Secretary and Results Secretary. Clubs must ensure that the postponement is confirmed. It is not sufficient for Clubs to simply leave a message and assume that it will be collected.

If the club fails to notify the opposition and/or League Officials of a postponement causing the opposition and/or Match Officials to travel to a game the defaulting Club may be required to pay compensatory expenses as outlined in the Fines Schedule and may also be fined.

**10 d:** Subject to rule 10e, in the event of a club failing to fulfil a fixture without the prior agreement of the League Fixture Secretary, that Club may be fined and in the event of it being a league fixture, one point shall be deducted from the Club’s total for the season. In addition the points from the fixture shall be awarded to the opposition or in the event of the fixture being a cup fixture the opposition shall be awarded a walkover.

**10 e:** In the event of a club failing to fulfil a fixture, as long as it is the first such failure of the season and the club notifies the opposition and/or League Officials by 11am on the day of the game then no fine shall be levied, nor points deductions applied. The points from the fixture (or a walkover for a cup fixture) are still awarded to the opposition.

**10 f:** In the event of both clubs failing to fulfil a fixture, each club shall be fined. Unless the clubs are able to re-arrange the match at their own expenses before the end of the season the match shall not be played and no points awarded.

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

All matches shall last two equal periods of 45 minutes, unless otherwise determined by the referee, and in any event shall be of equal halves. No match shall last for less than 60 minutes.

The half-time interval shall be of five minutes’ duration and may be altered only with the consent of the referee.

The times of kick-off shall be set by the League Fixture Secretary. Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time may be fined.

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

In the event of a team not being ready at the appointed time, provided 7 or more of the players are available, the referee shall order the game to proceed as soon as he sees fit. If it is not possible to commence the game within 30 minutes of the scheduled kick off time, the referee has the right to refuse to officiate. All match officials shall be entitled to their match fees. Any team not able to commence the

game within 30 minutes of the due kick off time shall be considered to have failed to fulfil a fixture according to rule 10d.

Each team must provide at least two footballs fit for match play. Any club failing to do so may be fined.

**10h:** The Management Committee shall review all abandoned matches.

In the event of a match being abandoned owing to causes over which neither club has control, and where it is to the advantage of the League 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.

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

**10j:** A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game nominate and use up to a maximum of 3 substitute players in any match in the League. For all Cup Finals 3 substitute players may be selected from 5 players.

The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes before the start of the match. A player not so named shall not be allowed to take part in the game.

## **11. Reporting Results**

**Rule 11a:** The Registration Secretary must receive within two days of the date played, the result of each Competition match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename and surname of the team players and also the Referee markings required by Rule 13. Failure to do so will incur a fine and/or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide.

**Rule 11b:** Both clubs shall report the result of each match to “Full-Time” by SMS text message.

## **12. Determining Championship**

**12 a:** Team rankings within the League will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn match. The teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective Divisions at the conclusion shall be adjudged the winners.

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

- (i) Goal Difference
- (ii) Goals Scored
- (iii) Results between the teams

If the Goal Difference, Goals Scored and Results between the teams are equal the Championship in that Division shall be decided by a one-match playoff played under the same rules as a Cup Final Tie.

**12 b:** Automatic promotion and relegation shall be applied for the first two and last two teams in each Division, subject to the agreement of the Annual General Meeting.

**12 c:** Should one or more clubs withdraw from any one Division after the fixtures have commenced an equal number of teams to those withdrawing in that Division shall not be automatically relegated.

### **13. Referees**

**13 a:** Registered referees, and where possible, Assistant Referees for all matches shall be appointed by the Referees' Secretary in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the sanctioning Association.

**13 b:** In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed referee, or non-appointment of a referee, the Clubs must agree on a referee and the game must be played and shall rank as a League fixture.

If it is not possible to obtain a mutually acceptable substitute referee for the whole match each side must provide a referee for one half. Clubs shall have a whistle available for all games.

A referee thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee and shall be entitled to a Match Fee.

**Note:** *a referee may not also play in the match whilst refereeing.*

In the event of a fixture not being played because of the failure of a Club to provide a referee that Club shall be considered to have failed to fulfil a fixture according to rule 10d.

**13 c:** The appointed Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and the decision shall be final, unless the authority owning or controlling the ground, whose decision must be accepted, has declared it unfit for play.

**13 d:** Match officials should be offered their fees before the match. The fees shall be agreed at the AGM. The home club shall pay the match fee of the Referee. The match fees of any Assistant Referees shall be shared by the two clubs. Any club failing to pay the Match officials shall be fined.

**13 e:** In the event of a match not being played for any reason, the Clubs shall pay the match officials their fees in full, provided that they have made the journey to the ground. The Clubs shall be refunded these fees by the League in due course.

**13 f:** A match official not keeping his engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to his non-appearance, may have his name removed from the Referees Panel and may be reported to the Association with which he is registered.

**13 g:** Each Club shall award a mark out of 100 for the referee for each match, according to the guidance issued by the Football Association. Where a Club marks a referee 50 or less, a written explanation must be sent within 7 days of the match to the Referees' Secretary giving the name of the Referee and the reason(s) for such a mark. The League shall keep a record of all marks awarded to Referees.

### **14. Continuation of Membership or Withdrawal of a Club**

**14 a:** 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 Secretary in writing by 31<sup>st</sup> May each Season or be liable to a fine.

**14 b:** If a club cancels 25% of its League Matches, subject to the discretion of the Management Committee, it shall have its record expunged and shall be deemed to have resigned from the League.

**14 c:** A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw from the Competition after the Annual General Meeting. Any Club infringing this rule shall be liable to a fine and may also be liable for any expenses already incurred by the League at the time of the withdrawal in expectation of that club's membership for the ensuing or current season.

**14 d:** In the event of a Club which 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 of any such obligation remaining undischarged after a period of twenty-one days then such obligation shall be met by the then current Club Members, excluding those under the 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 the Club's Parent County Association for a suspension order.

### **15. Complaints, Protests and Appeals**

#### **15 a:**

- (i) All questions concerning the eligibility of players, qualifications of players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee.
- (ii) Objections relating to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be considered by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match.

**15 b:** Except in cases where the Management Committee decides that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints under rule 15a (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary of the League within 7 days of the match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A Member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

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

**15 d:** No protest or complaint shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the Club concerned shall have deposited with the Secretary of the League a sum as prescribed in the Fines Schedule. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the protest or complaint being dismissed. The Management Committee shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the enquiry or to order that the costs be shared by the parties.

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

### **16. Board of Appeal of the A.F.A.**

**16:** Within 14 days of the posting of written notification of any decision of a the Management Committee or Competition a Club, Official or Player against whom the action is taken may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars in duplicate with the Secretary of the Amateur Football Alliance, including a fee as set by the Amateur Football Alliance, for adjudication of a Board of Appeal. A copy of this appeal must be sent to the Secretary of the League.

The grounds of appeal shall be in accordance with FA Rules. The Board of Appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited and shall decide by whom the costs of the appeal shall be borne. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned.

No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an Annual or Special General Meeting unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

**17. Exclusion of Clubs, or Teams. Misconduct, Clubs, Officials, Players**

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

**17 b:** 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 Competition any Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by (more than) two thirds of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

**17 c:** The Management Committee may make a recommendation to the AGM concerning the future membership of any Club.

**17 d:** 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 or the Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Clause 17 a of this Rule.

**17 e:** The Management Committee shall have the power to ban any named individual from playing in the League, engaging in Club administration, or attending any League function if it considers that the individual's participation is detrimental to the best interests of the League.

Such a decision shall require a simple majority of those voting.

Any Club that expels a player independently of action taken by the Management Committee shall inform the Secretary of the League within 7 days of the decision.

**18: Trophy: Legal Owner, Conditions of Taking Over, Agreement to be Signed, Awards**

**18 a:** The ownership of all the League's Trophies shall be vested in the Trustees. Should any of the League's Competitions cease to exist the appropriate trophies shall be returned to the donor, or if this is not possible disposed of in a manner determined by the Annual General Meeting.

**18 b:** The President, the Chairman and Treasurer for the time being shall be and are hereby expressly appointed for all intents and purposes, trustees and legal owners of the Trophies. The trophies shall remain the property of the League and shall not be won outright by any Club. The trustees shall insure the league trophies at the league's expense.

**18 c:** Each club undertakes to make good any damage to the trophy whilst it is in that Club's possession and to return it to the League on demand, or be liable to be fined.

**18 d:** No engraving of trophies shall be undertaken by any club except with the agreement of the Management Committee.

(NB) The current engravers are Len Fowler (Trophies) Ltd., 55 Lambs Conduit Street, Holborn, London WC1N 3NB

**18 e:** The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of each trophy:-

" We, ----- and -----, the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of ----- FC, members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of the London Legal League Division ----- Trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the League, do hereby on behalf

of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the trophy to the League on or before -----.  
If the Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the League the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair. Any such losses shall be notified to the Secretary of the League immediately.”

**18 f:** Intellectual Property rights of the League shall include the League logo or badge and any patents, trade marks, designs, copyright or rights in the nature of copyright relating to the League and its operations. Clubs may reproduce the League logo or badge upon their playing kit, letter heading or website in order to indicate membership of the League. Any such reproduction by Clubs must be in accordance with guidelines laid down from time to time by the Management Committee for reproduction of the League logo or badge. Any Club leaving the League (for whatever reason) shall immediately remove all reproductions or references to the League logo or badge from all items.

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

**19 a:** Upon receiving a requisition signed by one-third of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call a SGM. Such a meeting must be held within 28 days.

**19 b:** The Management Committee may call a SGM at any time.

**19 c:** At least 14 days’ notice shall be given of a meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted thereat including a copy of any resolution to be placed before the meeting. Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.

**19 d:** Any Club failing to be represented at such a Meeting shall be fined by the Management Committee.

**19 e:** Officers shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs.

### **20. Alteration to Rules**

**20 a:** Alterations to these Rules may only be made at the AGM or at a SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 19.

**20 b:** Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by 30<sup>th</sup> April. Alterations submitted by Clubs must be proposed and seconded by Clubs. These, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or SGM shall be submitted to the Amateur Football Alliance 28 days prior to the meeting.

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

### **21. Rules Binding on Clubs**

**21 a:** Each Club shall be deemed to have given its assent to the foregoing Rules and agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee or any other League Committee subject to Rule 16.

**21 b:** The Management Committee shall have the Power to impose a fine on any Club for any administrative failure that causes serious inconvenience to another Club, a Match Official or to the League and for default of the Rules.

### **22. Finance**

**22 a:** The Management Committee shall determine with which bank(s) or other financial institution(s) the funds of the League will be lodged.

**22 b:** The Management Committee shall, each financial year, agree a budget for League expenditure and income. All expenditure in excess of the agreed budget shall require approval by the Management Committee.

**22 c:** The financial year of the League shall end on 31<sup>st</sup> May of each year.

**22 d:** The books, or a certified balance sheet, of the League shall be prepared for annual audit by suitable person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

### **23. Challenge Cup, Weavers Arms Cup, Invitation Cup**

**23 a:** The Management Committee shall have the power to control and regulate any cup competitions.

- (i) The Challenge Cup shall be open to all clubs
- (ii) The Weavers Arms Cup shall be open to all clubs which are defeated prior to the quarter final stages of the Challenge Cup.
- (iii) The Invitation Cup shall be open to two clubs nominated at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- (iv) The Services to Lawyers 6-a-side Cup shall be open to all clubs, along with any non-member clubs invited by the Management Committee.

**23 b:** All Cup Ties shall be decided by 90 minutes of play, with 30 minutes of extra-time if the scores are level at the end of normal time. If the scores are still level the tie will be decided by the taking of penalty kicks as set out in the Laws of the Game.

The referee shall have the discretion to reduce normal time to 60 minutes and to reduce extra-time to 10 minutes or dispense with it entirely if necessary to reach a decision within the time allowed.

**23 c:** In the event of both clubs in a Cup Fixture transgressing rule 8 or 10 such that they are due to forfeit the tie, neither club shall progress to the next round and the club which would have played the winner shall be awarded a walkover in the following round. In the event of this following round being the final then the remaining losing semi-finalist shall contest the final tie.

### **24. Representative Matches**

**24 a:** The Management Committee shall arrange and be responsible for representative matches.

**24 b:** Players representing the League in five or more Representative matches shall be awarded a League Representative tie.

**Standard Fines**

<b><u>Rule</u></b>	<b><u>Matter</u></b>	<b><u>Standard Fine</u></b>
14a	Maximum fine for withdrawal after 31st May	£100
6g	Maximum fine for failure to be represented at AGM	£20
5h	Maximum fine for non-compliance not otherwise provided for	£25
5h	Maximum fine for persistent non-compliance	£100
10d	Failure to fulfil a fixture	£100
10c	Compensatory contribution towards expenses on the opposing side	£100
10e	Reduced fine for first failure to fulfil where notice given before 11am	£25
10d	Fine for failure to fulfil where both clubs have failed	£50
10h	Fine for late kickoff	£10
13d	Fine for failure to pay referee or assistants on day of match	£20
10c	Maximum fine for failure to notify of postponement	£20
8g	Maximum fine for playing ineligible player	£25
11a	Failure to report result	£10
18c	Late return of trophy	£25
15d	Deposit for protests etc.	£25
21b	Failure to notify change of Club Secretary	£20
10g	Failure to provide two match balls	£20