

# **Rules of the Welsh National League (Wrexham Area)**

## **All Divisions & League Challenge Cups / Presidents Challenge Cup**

### **1 Title and Constitution**

This combination of Football Clubs affiliated to the Football Association of Wales shall be called the 'Welsh National Football League Wrexham Area' and shall consist of one or more Divisions.

All clubs in membership shall be directly affiliated to The Football Association of Wales.

Only Club First teams will be permitted in the Premier & 1st Divisions.

The Premier & 1<sup>st</sup> Divisions will consist of no more than 16 teams.

### **2 Subscriptions**

League and Cup combined entrance fees in respect of each team shall be as follows: Premier Division £80; Division 1 £80; Reserve Division £70; Reserves & Colts Division £70. New clubs / teams shall on or before 1st May deposit the sum of £100 for each team entered as a guarantee of its good faith, such deposit to be returned on the club's withdrawal from the League provided it shall have fulfilled its obligations to the League, and that such withdrawal shall have been made in accordance with the provisions of Rule 7. All subscriptions are subject to annual review at the Annual General Meeting.

If the Annual fees are not paid at the AGM then an increase of 50% will be incurred by the club/s per team/s in question.

### **3 Management**

- a) The League shall have a Patron.
- b) The League shall be governed in accordance with the rules, regulations and bye laws of The Football Association of Wales Limited by an Executive Committee which shall consist of a President & Vice President (whose tenure shall be for 3 years) and 12 Club Representatives, (elected annually). The Chairman & Vice Chairman shall be elected annually from the Executive Committee (whose tenure shall be for 3 years provided he/she retains his/her membership of the Executive Committee). The Executive committee shall appoint an Honorary General Secretary, Registration & Fixture Secretary, Referee's Secretary and Treasurer with no power to vote. The Executive Committee shall meet as often as is necessary.
- c) The Executive Committee shall be elected annually by the clubs at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with Rule 4. Where a member does not attend three consecutive numbers of Meetings without satisfactory reason, the Executive Committee shall have the power to declare the seat vacant and fill as a casual vacancy.
- d) All decisions of the Executive Committee shall be binding, but subject to the right of appeal to the Football Association of Wales.
- e) The President, Chairman and Honorary Secretary shall be the legal owners of all cups, monies and property of the League, and shall deal with the same as instructed by the Executive Committee. Clubs winning trophies shall be responsible for their safekeeping and good condition. Any damage sustained whilst in their care shall be repaired at their expense. Repairs to be carried out at the direction of the Executive Committee. Trophies to be returned to the Treasurer by 1st April of each year or clubs shall be fined £20 for each trophy not returned. The League shall insure trophies for the following amounts: Premier Division, Challenge and Championship Cup, £250; Division 1 Cups, £150; Reserve, Reserve & Colts Divisions Cups, £100. The League shall apportion cost of insurance to the winners of trophies.  
A club failing to return the Trophy / Trophies by the above date due to loss, theft or damage of such Trophy / Trophies shall bear the cost of replacing such Trophy / Trophies at the current value as determined by the Executive Committee.
- f) All cheques drawn upon the accounts of the League shall be signed by any two of the following three: the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. The Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary shall cause an audited balance sheet to be presented at the Annual General Meeting.
- g) Official League forms are the property of the Welsh National League for exclusive use of the League and improper misuse and photocopying of the same are liable to a fine of £20.
- h) The Officers and Executive Committee members will be entitled to receive a mileage allowance whilst on official league duties.
- i) Correspondence where possible will be sent by email to the email address as submitted by the club on its application form for the season in question. It is the clubs responsibility to inform the league of any changes.

### **4 Election of Executive Committee**

A club in membership may nominate such candidate as they think fit, including any retiring member to fill a vacancy on the Executive Committee. Such nomination shall be sent to the General Secretary on or before 28 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. Retiring members do not need to be nominated but must inform the General Secretary in writing on or before 28 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

When the nominations have been duly made, voting papers bearing the names of all candidates including the retiring members eligible for re-election shall be forwarded to all clubs entitled to vote. Clubs may vote for 12 of the candidates.

Voting papers must be signed by the Chairman, Secretary and one other member of the club concerned and posted to reach the General Secretary by not later than seven days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

The envelopes containing the voting paper shall be opened in the presence of the clubs at the Annual General Meeting. For this purpose, the League chairman or his deputy shall be the Returning Officer. The 12 candidates needed to fill the vacancies with the largest number of votes shall be declared duly elected, and in the event of any candidates tying the said Returning Officer shall have the casting vote. A club shall not have more than one representative on the Executive Committee.

The General Secretary, Registration & Fixture Secretary, Referee's Secretary and Treasurer shall be appointed by the Executive Committee on such terms and conditions as the Executive Committee determine.

## **5 Powers of Executive Committee**

- a) Each member of the Executive Committee shall be entitled to attend all League Meetings, having one vote thereat except as in (b).
- b) Any member of the Executive Council must withdraw from meetings at all such times when any matters and allegations about his own conduct or that of his own club are being determined.
- c) In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
- d) The Executive shall have jurisdiction in all matters affecting the League, whether specially provided for in these rules or not. Subject to provision of Rule 3c.
- e) Seven members of the Executive Committee shall form a quorum.
- f) The Executive shall have power to fill any casual vacancy arising in the Executive Committee, such member to be eligible for re-election at the next Annual General Meeting.
- g) The Executive Committee may order a match or matches to be played between Clubs and/or players of Clubs in the League as they may from time to time determine, and the proceeds of such match shall be allotted at the discretion of the Committee.
- h) All fines must be paid within 14 days of being imposed unless the subject of appeal. If not paid they shall be increased by £10 per week or part of a week over the time limit allowed for the normal receipt of notification and any club in default of this rule shall be subject to suspension from the League.
- i) The Executive 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, and such sums shall be a debt from the Club to the Executive Committee.
- j) The Executive Committee shall have powers to appoint sub-committees.
- k) The Executive Committee shall be empowered at any time to appoint life members with voting powers to the Committee. Only those who have acted as Officers or Committee members for not less 21 years shall qualify.
- l) The League Executive Committee has the power to refuse or cancel the registration of any player found guilty of undesirable conduct and to disqualify the player in question from participation in any or all games in the League.
- m) It is the responsibility of all Clubs to ensure their officials, players or members of the Club do not, by their written or spoken words or actions bring the League or any other Club into disrepute. Any clubs of which an Official, player or other member is found guilty of such actions will be dealt with by the Executive as they deem fit.

## **6 General Meetings**

- a) A General Meeting of Clubs in membership shall be held at least once in every calendar year, in the month of June. This shall be known as the Annual General Meeting.
- b) All other General Meetings shall be known as Extraordinary General Meetings. The Executive may at any time considered necessary call an Extraordinary General Meeting.
- c) The General Secretary shall on receipt of the requisition signed on behalf of not less than two-thirds of the Club in membership, call an Extraordinary General Meeting at any time and for any purpose.
- d) At the Annual General Meeting, clubs whose subscriptions have been paid for the past season shall be entitled to be represented by not more than two delegates, only one of whom shall be allowed to vote. All clubs in membership and executive committee members shall be entitled to vote.
- e) Fourteen days notice of all General Meetings shall be given unless otherwise determined by the Executive Committee, and in the case of the Annual General Meeting a copy of the duly audited statement of Accounts together with a copy of the Agenda shall be forwarded to all clubs in membership not less than 14 days prior to the Meeting.
- f) At the Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for the purpose, a two-thirds majority of the clubs present shall have the power to exclude from participation in the League any club whose conduct is deemed objectionable and such club shall NOT be entitled to vote.
- g) Any club not attending the AGM or Ex Ordinary EGM / League Forum without sufficient reason will be fined £20.
- h) All members or their representatives shall be entitled to one vote at meetings. A rule shall be changed if two thirds of those voting at the meeting vote in favour of the proposed change.

## 7 Resignations / Applications

- a) If a club wishes to resign from the League after being accepted at the League AGM and before completing its fixtures, it will be fined the following costs;
- Premier Division - £250
  - Division 1 - £250
  - Reserve Division - £50
  - Reserve & Colts Division - £50

If a club wishes to resign from the League at the end of the season, it must do so by 1<sup>st</sup> April each year and will be fined the following costs;

- Premier Division - £250
  - Division 1 - £250
- b) A Club withdrawing from the League contrary to (a) above, shall also forfeit its deposit.
- c) No application for membership of a new or current club will be accepted after the 30<sup>th</sup> April prior to the beginning of the following season.

## 8 Method of Scoring, Promotion and Relegations

Three points shall be given for a win and one for a draw. At the end of each season's competition the team scoring the highest number of points shall be declared the league winner, should two or more teams be equal in points the team having the best goal difference shall be declared in the highest position. If this is then equal the most goals scored shall determine the highest position.

Promotion / Relegation will be carried out in accordance with the FAW Pyramid Regulations.

The league will operate in two pyramids as follows:-

- a) Between levels 2 and 3 – three up/down in each of the North and South. In the North, one up/down to/from each of the Welsh Alliance League, Mid-Wales League and Welsh National League; in the South, three up/down to/from the Welsh Football League; and

Between levels 3 and 4 – two up/down to/from each of the Welsh Football League divisions 2 and 3; the Mid-Wales League divisions 1 and 2; the Welsh Alliance League divisions 1 and 2 and the Welsh National League Premier division and division 1.

Between levels 4 and 5 – one up/down from the Welsh National League Division 1 and the North East Wales League.

(For Promotion to Level 2 & 4, Champions or Runners up will qualify for Promotion in accordance with the FAW Pyramid Regulations).

The Premier & 1<sup>st</sup> Divisions will consist of no more than 16 teams.

Division 1 clubs being promoted must meet the Premier Division criteria by the 30<sup>th</sup> April in accordance with the FAW Pyramid regulations.

Promotion to the Cymru Alliance League will also be in accordance with the FAW Pyramid Regulations.

- b) Reserve & Reserve Colts division will operate on a two up / down system with no promotion to Division 1 or relegation from Reserve/Colts Division.
- c) Should a club get relegated from Division 1 then its reserve/colts team/s could also get relegated to the North East Wales League (North East Wales Area).

It shall not be permissible for one club to have two teams in the same division.

In the event of any club withdrawing during the playing season, all points obtained by or against such defaulting club shall be deleted.

If a club fails to fulfill its fixtures, all points obtained by or against such defaulting club may be deleted, unless by doing so the championship is affected, in which case the matter shall be dealt with at the discretion of the Executive Committee whose decision shall be final.

## 9 Qualification of Players

- a) All players must be Contract or Non-Contract players. Players must be registered in accordance with the FIFA regulations for the status & transfer of players and 'The Football Association of Wales's rules' will apply to the signing of both Contract and non-Contract players.
- b) All registrations / transfers must be received by the Registration Secretary and must be on the standard registration / transfer forms as approved by the FAW. The deadline for a club to register a player with the relevant league is 5pm on the last working day prior to the match in which the club wishes the player to participate. Registration by fax is permissible providing that the forms are sent to the Registration Secretary by the next available first class post. If International Clearance is required, then a copy of this must be sent to the Registration Secretary along with the registration / transfer form. Clubs must send an addressed envelope sufficiently stamped for the return of the counterfoils from the league registration secretary.
- c) All clubs in the WNL must adhere to the following period for the registration of all players:  
Registration period from Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2018 until Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019 in accordance with FAW Registration rules.
- d) The League Registration Secretary shall maintain a register of players on the FAW database and such register shall be open to inspection by any club in membership with the League.
- e) A Club playing an ineligible player in a match shall be guilty of an offence and shall have three points deducted and shall be liable to be fined or otherwise dealt with by the Executive Committee.
- f) Any player signing Registration Forms for two teams or more Clubs in the League during the same season shall be deemed guilty of misconduct, and shall be dealt with in such a manner as the Executive Committee deem fit.
- g) FAW rules allow the movement of a contract player to another club or league on loan. There will be a registration fee chargeable to clubs to cover the administration and regulation of these temporary transfers.
- h) Non payment to players  
If following written notification from the FAW, a club is found to be in default of any payment due in accordance with a player's contract or payment in consequence of termination of such contract, the League Board may place an embargo on any transfer or any registration by such club until payment is made.
- i) International Transfer Certificate (ITC) is required for any player over the age of ten who wishes to register in Wales and has previously been registered for a club abroad (this includes England, Scotland and Northern Ireland), or who is a foreign national seeking to register in Wales for the first time. It does not matter at what level a player previously played football in said country, or how long ago it was, as a player will still be subject to ITC It is both the player's and the club's responsibility to ensure that the previous club and National Association is correctly entered onto the Registration Form. A player cannot request their own international clearance. The club must contact the FAW to request ITC. The FAW will then make the necessary checks with the players former National Association. All ITC requests for Amateur Players can take up to a maximum of 30 days from the date of the FAW request to a players former National Association. If no response is received within the 30 days, then the FAW have the right to provisionally register a player. Players are advised that ITC requests may take the full 30 days and should be prepared for this. International Clearance for Professional Players must be processed via the FIFA TMS Database and may take a maximum of 14 Days to complete from the date of request. A player is not eligible to register or play for any club in Wales until ITC has been received. Players should contact their Club should they have any questions with regards to their Clearance request.

## 10 Approaching a Player (Non Contract)

A club intending to approach a player must give 7 days' written notice to his current club. Negotiations with the player may commence once the 7 days' written notice has expired and must stop after 21 days have elapsed since the date the initial notice was served. 7 Days' notice must expire during the applicable registration period. A club cannot approach more than one player from the same club at the same time. A club is also not allowed to approach another player at the same club until 21 days have elapsed since the date of the initial 7 days' notice. A club is not allowed to give 7 days' notice to the same club in respect of the same player during the same season. Except in the case of the first change to a Player's registration in an Amateur Registration Period, no Player shall be registered with another Club within twenty eight (28) days of that Player being registered with his/her current Club.

## 11 Matches and Conditions of Play

- a) All matches shall be played according to the laws of the game as settled by the International Football Association Board, on private grounds or such grounds as may be considered suitable by the Executive Committee. All Premier League & Division 1 grounds are to have fixed/demountable barriers around their grounds. Clubs are encouraged to visit the grounds prior to match days to ensure that they are marked out properly and suitable for playing. Clubs must take all necessary precautions to keep their grounds in playing condition. All clubs must have goal nets and every League and League Cup game in every Division must have the playing area completely fenced or roped off, string shall not be permitted. Failure to comply will incur a fine of £20 for the first offence and will be doubled for the second offence.
- b) Each club must play its full strength team in all League and League Cup matches or be dealt with by the Executive Committee for misconduct. Three substitute players whose names must be given to the Referee before the kick-off may be used. Teams may nominate 5 players as substitutes of which only 3 can be used in accordance with the 'Laws of the Game'.
- c) The duration of League matches shall be of two equal periods of 45 minutes, but in very exceptional circumstances two equal periods of 35 minutes may be played provided that clubs mutually agree. Such agreement to be put in writing and signed by the captains of both teams and handed to the referee before the commencement of the game.  
All matches shall be of ninety minutes duration. Any match not completed may be ordered to stand as a completed match or replayed for the full period of ninety minutes, as the Executive Committee may direct.

- d) All fixtures shall be made by the Fixture Secretary, who shall have sole authority to arrange and re-arrange all matches. Fixtures shall be circulated to the clubs at monthly intervals; such lists shall include the names of the appointed referee and time of kick-off. Where possible, a club shall be given 5 days' notice of a fixture. Clubs must submit a written request to the Fixture or General Secretary to call off games at least 56 days prior to the game. Failure to do so will result in clubs being charged in accordance with the league rules. Clubs must ensure that their grounds are available during the season for all league / cup fixtures as set out by the League Fixture Secretary.
- e) Clubs must turn out irrespective of weather to fulfil fixtures. A Referee between Levels 1-5 is the sole judge of whether a ground is fit to play on and his decision shall be final. A Local Referee between Levels 1-5 (an official who officiates in all directly affiliated Leagues within the Welsh Pyramid system) must be used if an early ground inspection is required. Decisions in respect of ground fitness should be taken as late as possible, however due consideration must be given in respect of the distance being travelled by the visiting club and match officials. An official asked to carry out a pitch inspection by a club prior to any match will be reimbursed his travelling expenses at the League rate by the club involved. An official asked to carry out a pitch inspection by any league official prior to any match will be reimbursed his travelling expenses accordingly by the League at the League's current rate. A match official who postpones a game must give the reason in writing or by email to the League
- f) Any Club without just cause failing to fulfil an engagement to play its League matches on the appointed date or causing a game to be abandoned without giving a reason deemed to be satisfactory by the Management Committee, shall have three points deducted, be liable for any reasonable expenses as deemed necessary by the Management Committee and shall be fined as follows;
- Premier Division - £200
  - Division 1 - £100
  - Reserve Division - £20
  - Reserve/Colts Division - £20
- Any subsequent charges will be doubled.
- Clubs having been charged shall have the right of appeal to 'The Football Association of Wales'.
- g) In the event of a match being postponed, notice of postponement must be given without delay to the Fixture Secretary together with the opposing club and the nominated match official(s) if they have not attended the ground. In the event of Clubs failing to comply with the above they will be fined £20 for the first offence which will be doubled for any subsequent offences.
- h) Any club guilty of delaying the start of a match shall be fined £20.00 for the first offence. A fine will be doubled for the second offence.
- i) The Secretary of the home club must give notice of full particulars of situation of ground, team colours, time of kick-off and means of reaching the ground to the match official(s) and the Secretary of the opposing club at least four clear days prior to playing the match, or his club shall be fined £20.00 for the first offence and doubled for the second offence. In exceptional circumstances, when it is not possible to give the required four days notice, such notice must be given immediately upon notification of the match from the Fixture Secretary.
- j) Team sheets to be numbered with players names against these numbers to correspond with the numbers on their playing kit which shall be numbered 1-16 or 1-17 if shirt manufacturers do not supply no 13. The numbering of players in squad numbers is prohibited. The League Registration number of each player must be stated on team sheet.
- k) In the event of the appointed referee failing to attend for a League game and a registered referee not being on the ground, clubs are advised to mutually agree on a substitute.
- l) Home clubs must supply proper assistant referee's flags.
- m) Neutral assistant referees shall be appointed in all Premier Division games where possible.
- n) Home Clubs in the Premier and Division One must telephone the result of the game to Phil Jones 01978-854028 immediately after the final whistle and no later than 4.45pm for Saturday games and 9.30pm for midweek games. Home Clubs in Reserves and Reserves/Colts Divisions must call by 6pm for Saturday games and 9.30pm for midweek games.  
If you cannot contact Phil Jones you must ring Steve Harris on 07739 178301 or Roy Thomas on 01244 836578.  
Failure to contact any of the above will result with a fine of £20, which will be doubled up for the second offence & any further offences.
- o) Clubs who do not answer correspondence with 14 days of the date of the correspondence will be fined £20 for the first offence, doubled up for the second offence.
- p) After Clubs have been disciplined for the second time, fines will be at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- q) All Clubs are required to provide proof of players insurance at the League's Annual General Meeting before they are allowed to compete in any division of the Welsh National League.
- r) All clubs must have an adequate first aid kit and qualified person to assist in the treatment of any injured person during the game. It is the clubs responsibility to ensure that they look after the welfare of its own players, committee members & supporters.
- s) All home teams must provide as a minimum, tea, coffee or some form of liquid refreshment for all players and match officials at half time. If clubs do not provide liquid refreshments at half time then they will be fined £20 for the first offence, doubled up for the second offence.
- t) All fines shall also be liable to administration and postage charges where applicable.
- u) Team sheets must be handed into the match referee at least 15 minutes prior to the kick off. If not then clubs will be fined £5 for the first offence, doubled up for the second offence.
- v) The number of persons e.g. Club officials and substitutes that are allowed pitch side of the barrier be limited to a maximum of 8 per team. The 'Technical Area' must be marked out in accordance with the 'Laws of the Game'. The only people who are allowed in this area are those who are stated above, and they must remain in that area for the duration of the game.
- w) Any club leaving the pitch / ground before the end of the game must be adjudged to have lost the game. They shall have 3 points deducted and shall be dealt with by the Executive committee for misconduct.

## **12 Gate Receipts**

Each club shall take the gate receipts for its home League matches. In the event of a referee deciding that the ground is unfit and the opposing team has already arrived to fulfill its League fixture, the postponed match or an abandoned match will be played on terms whereby both clubs equally share the legitimate travel expenses for the journey involved. The appropriate authority shall deal with a club causing a match to be abandoned owing to misconduct of Officials, Players or Spectators.

## **13 Claims**

A claim will not be considered unless a club lodges such claim with the League Secretary within SEVEN days of the date on which it arises, accompanied by a receipt for each item claimed.

## **14 Club Colours**

All clubs in the League shall register their colours with the League Secretary. Once colours have been declared on the relevant season's application form, application for change of colours must be made in writing to the General Secretary and approved by the Executive Committee before any colour change is made. In the event of two clubs having the same playing colours, the away team shall change its colours. Goalkeepers shall wear distinctive colours from those of either team, and both team colours must not clash with the match officials who in this league will be wearing black. Numbered shirts/jerseys/shorts shall be worn in all matches with players keeping the same kit throughout the game unless they are damaged and require replacing.

## **15 Cup Competitions**

A club shall not be permitted to postpone a match unless it is to play in the Welsh Cup, Welsh Trophy, Welsh Youth Cup, or if approved the Senior Cup of the Area Association of which they are members, or Cup Competitions organised by the League itself.

Clubs in the WNL will only be allowed to participate in the following National / Area Association Cup Competitions:- Welsh Cup, Welsh Trophy, Welsh Youth Cup & NEWFA Senior Challenge Cup, NEWFA under 19 Cup.

Should any clubs enter the FAW Youth Cup or NEWFA under 19 Cup and the Conference dates are on a Sunday then they will be given a WNL fixture on the day before.

Clubs wishing to take part in any other Cup Competition must obtain permission from the Executive Committee prior to the season in question to re-arrange a League fixture in order to take part in such other Cup Competition.

Should clubs become involved in cup-ties, which take precedence over League fixtures, it is the duty of that club to immediately notify their scheduled opponents and match official(s) of the fact. Failing to do this will constitute misconduct.

## **16 Representative Matches**

Any player selected to attend any representative or other match arranged by the League who refuses to comply with the arrangements of the League for the playing of such said match or who fails to attend such said match without good and sufficient cause, shall be guilty of misconduct. What shall or shall not constitute 'Good and sufficient cause' in any particular case shall be determined by the League in its absolute discretion. Any Club or Official, who shall be deemed to have encouraged or instigated or induced or connived at any breach by any player of any of the provisions of this or any other Rule of the League, shall be guilty of misconduct.

## **17 Referees**

All Referees shall be properly affiliated to the Football Association of Wales or such Association as the Football Association of Wales may direct.

Match Officials must be paid in their dressing rooms at the following scales:

Premier Division: Referees, £35 - Assistant Referees £25

Division 1, Reserve & Reserve & Colts Divisions: Referees, £30 - Assistant Referees £18

All match officials will be entitled to claim 35p per mile. In the event of a match not being played the referee shall be paid his half fee and traveling expenses provided he has made the journey to the ground. Referee's fees and expenses to be reviewed at the Annual General Meeting.

Referees shall report the result of the matches, the time of kick-off, and if a late start has resulted who was responsible for such late start. The Referee shall sign and post the match report form (match report book available from Treasurer, £10 each) which will be handed to him together with a SAE by the Home Club, after the full Christian and Surname of players have been inserted by both Club Secretaries. Report on Referee Forms referring to Referees assessment markings shall be completed by both Club Secretaries and sent to the League Referees Secretary within seven days. Any club in default shall be fined the sum of £20 in respect of each report not received. They are also liable to be dealt with by the Executive Committee.

Referees are required to notify the League Referees' Secretary at their earliest possible convenience their availability or unavailability for the following month. The Executive will not appoint referees who fail to comply with this requirement; any referee failing for two consecutive months to notify his open dates to the League Referees' Secretary shall be taken off the League's Referees list.

Referees/assistant referees are to be provided with separate clean changing facilities at all times and wherever possible, Referees and assistant referees should be provided with separate shower facilities.

A referee not keeping his engagement and failing to give a satisfactory explanation to the Executive Committee shall be fined a minimum of £20.00.

## **18 Protests and Appeals**

- a) All protests, appeals, claims or complaints must be sent to the League Secretary and be accompanied with the fee of £20 which shall be forfeited in the event of a protest, appeal, claim or complaint not being upheld. All such matters relating to a particular match must be lodged with the League Secretary within TWO DAYS of the match in question (excluding Sundays and Bank Holidays).
- b) All questions regarding eligibility, qualification of players or interpretation of the rules of the League shall be decided by the Executive Committee, but no objection relative to the dimensions of the ground, goalposts, crossbars or other appurtenances of the game shall be entertained unless a written protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the game. Where there is evidence of a breach of the League's rules by a club or player, the League will investigate the matter, and when considered appropriate, prefer a charge of an alleged breach of rule against the club or player(s) concerned.
- c) The League will appoint a Panel consisting of THREE persons, one of which shall be appointed as Chairman of the Panel, elected from members of the Executive Committee (excluding the League Secretary, Fixture Secretary and Referees Secretary), to consider all protests, appeals, claims or complaints lodged by a club or player(s) as well as all charges preferred by the League of an alleged breach of rule.
- d) Where a club or player elects to have a personal hearing, the appointed Panel will conduct its business in accordance with the provisions as set out in the Football Association of Wales Memorandum on Procedure at Personal Hearings.
- e)
  - (i) In the case of a protest, appeal, claim or complaint, the Panel, shall have the power to grant or deny the protest, appeal, claim or complaint (in whole or in part) as well as the power to order any such penalty or sanction as the Panel shall reasonably deem fit.
  - (ii) In the case of a charge of an alleged breach of a League rule being found proven, the Panel shall have the power to order any such penalty or sanction as the Panel shall reasonably deem fit.
  - (iii) In all matters, the Panel shall have the discretion to impose a costs order against any of the parties involved.

If dissatisfied with any decision given by the Executive Committee or a Sub-Committee or Panel appointed by the Executive Committee, a club or player shall have the right of appeal to the Football Association of Wales. Any such appeal must be lodged within TEN (10) days as of the earlier (a) the decision being announced at the time of the hearing/meeting or (b) the date of the correspondence containing the decision. All appeals must be accompanied with the appropriate fee as set out under FAW Rule 28.2.3.3 (plus VAT) and be made payable to the FAW. Please address the Notice of appeal for the attention of: The Chief Executive Officer, Football Association of Wales, 11-12 Neptune Court, Vanguard Way, Cardiff, CF24 5PJ

## **19 Alteration of Rules**

No alteration can be made to these rules except at the Annual General Meeting, and a member club shall give notice to the League Secretary of any proposed alteration by the 20<sup>th</sup> March prior to the AGM, the same to be circulated to the clubs at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting. The Executive Committee may recommend alterations to these Rules, such alterations to be circulated at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting.

## **20 Schoolboys**

All clubs must ensure that a schoolboy has received clearance from his head teacher regarding his availability to play in the Welsh National League (Wrexham Area). All Registrations & schoolboys participating in the game must be in accordance with the Rules of The Football Association of Wales.

## **21 Matters not covered by Rules**

The Executive Committee shall have power to deal with any matter not provided for in these Rules and also to deal with any offending club, player or official as they may think fit.

## **22 Correspondence**

All correspondence/communications must be via the authorised club secretary as detailed on the application/renewal of membership form and the Executive must be informed in writing by the clubs of any changes in their officials.

## LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP

In addition to the League Championship, a cup competition may be organised for each Division of the League and every team must enter for their respective Divisional cups. Contract and Non-Contract players will be permitted in all cup competitions with the Rules as follows:

- 1 The entire control and management of the cup competitions shall be vested in the Executive Committee of the Welsh National League.
- 2 The competing teams shall number eleven players. Teams may nominate 5 players as substitutes of which only 3 can be used in accordance with the 'Laws of the Game'.  
Every player must wear the distinctive colours of the club for which he is a playing member and should two clubs have similar colours, then the away club shall change. Should both clubs concerned in the final tie have similar colours, then both clubs must change unless amicably agreed otherwise.
- 3 a A player taking part in one of the League Challenge Cup Competitions must be a qualified League player for the club for which he intends to play for. The deadline for a club to register a player with the relevant league is 5pm on the last working day prior to the conference date on the last working day prior to the match in which the club wishes the player to participate.  
The conference date is the date of the original scheduled fixture.  
b In the case of a player being found ineligible the Clubs playing such player/s must be adjudged to have lost the match.
- 4 The members of each team may be changed during the series of matches if thought necessary but each player must be a playing member of the club as defined in (3) above.
- 5 a If a game is postponed on two occasions, then the cup tie will be reversed and played on the registered ground of the away team. The team which was originally drawn away will then be responsible for paying the match officials with the home club being responsible for confirming the game with the match officials.  
If the league cancel or change the cup tie then this will not count as a postponed game.  
The league fixture secretary will have sole authority to arrange this.  
b A player who has taken part in a League Cup Tie for a team operating in a higher League within the Welsh Pyramid System shall not be eligible for the League Cup Ties in the Welsh National League. No individual shall play for more than one competing team during the season in such Cup Competitions and a player who has taken part in Premier Division, Division 1, Reserve, Reserve & Colts Cup Competitions shall not play in a cup competition of a lower division, viz Division 1, Reserve, Reserve / Colts Divisions during the same season. Notwithstanding this if a player is named substitute in a senior team cup-tie match and does not play, he is eligible to play in that club's reserve team(s) cup-ties in that season.
- 6 a If the Executive Committee have any doubt as to the qualification of any player competing in these competition, it shall have the power to call upon such player, or the Club to which he belongs or for which he played, to prove to the satisfaction of the Committee that he is properly qualified according to the rules. Failing such satisfactory proof, the Committee shall have the power to disqualify such player, and remove such club from the Competition or to take such action as deemed expedient.  
b A player willfully signing more than one registration form or a club knowingly inducing a player to sign more than one form shall be dealt with as the Executive Committee shall deem fit.
- 7 No objection to the qualification of any player mentioned in such lists shall be entertained unless notice of objection, stating particulars, is given to the League Secretary with two days (Sunday excluded) after the conclusion of the match. (In accordance with League rule 18).
- 8 The duration of each match shall be one hour and a half in each round including the final. If the result is a draw after full time, an extra half hour must be played and if it is still a draw the winner shall be determined by a series of kicks from the penalty spot according to the 'Laws of the Game'. The final ties will be played at a neutral venue.
- 9 In each tie, the game shall be played on the ground of the club first drawn in the ballot unless otherwise mutually arranged and the consent of the Executive Committee obtained. Except by mutual consent, it shall not be permitted for any club to select any other ground.  
If a game is postponed on two occasions, then the cup tie will be reversed and played on the registered ground of the away team. The Fixture Secretary will have sole authority to arrange this.
- 10 The match officials in all cup competitions shall not belong to either of the competing clubs. If for any cause, the match is not played and the officials have traveled, they shall be paid half their fee in addition to their expenses. No member of the League Executive Committee shall be appointed as match official. The referee shall have powers to disqualify any player(s) for misbehavior during the match and no substitutes for him (they) shall be allowed.
- 11 All questions of eligibility, qualification of competitors or interpretation of the Rules or Laws of the game shall be referred to the Executive Committee, whose decision shall be final. Should any club in connection with any dispute or protest have a member on the above Committee the said member shall not be eligible to consider the dispute or protest. No protest relative to the playing surface, goalposts or bars or other appurtenances of the game shall be entertained by the Committee unless it is laid with the referee before the

commencement of the game, nor shall any protest relative to the interpretation of the rules or laws of the game be entertained unless laid with the Referee on or before the conclusion of the match. Such protest may be made verbally but must be handed to the Referee in writing before he has left the ground or dressing room. A written notice of such protest(s) and two copies thereof must be lodged with the Secretary within two days (Sunday excluded) after the conclusion of the match within which time a written protest against the eligibility of any player may also be lodged. The sum of £20.00 must be deposited with the League Secretary, together with all such protests. The sum shall be forfeited to the League funds in the event of such protest(s) not being sustained. If it is found that a protest is frivolous the club laying the protest in addition to forfeiting the protest fee, may be liable for the costs of the enquiry.

- 12 Any club leaving the ground before the expiration of the game must be adjudged to have lost the match and shall be liable to get dealt with by the Executive Committee for misconduct.
- 13 Team sheets must be supplied and sent to the League Secretary in accordance with the procedure for League games.
- 14 In Final ties, the League shall divide the net proceeds of the gate retaining half and dividing the other half equally between competing clubs.
- 15 The League clubs on whose grounds the Final ties are played on shall receive £100. The £100 shall be exclusive of match expenses. A match ball is to be provided by finalists, who shall present them to the referee at least 30 minutes prior to kick off. Semi-finals and Finals to be played on Saturdays but if circumstances require change then the Executive Committee shall have the power to arrange for these games to be played mid-week.
- 16 The field of play for cup-ties shall be not less than 100 yards by 50 yards and not more than 120 yards by 80 yards. The field of play to be completely roped or fenced off 3 yards from the touch line and goal lines which are to be clearly defined.
- 17 The Rules to be observed in all cup competitions governed by the League shall be those of the Football Association of Wales.
- 18 Both teams shall provide a match ball in good condition for use in the League Challenge Cup Finals, which must be provided to the Referee at least 30 minutes prior to kick-off.
- 19 Any player sent off during the final shall not be entitled to collect their trophy after the game.

#### **PRESIDENTS CHALLENGE CUP**

- 1 The Champions of the Premier Division and the Winners of the Premier Division League Cup will participate in this game prior to the beginning of the following season. If a team does the double then the Premier Division runners up would play the Premier Division Champions.  
The Presidents Challenge Cup final shall be held on the home ground of the Premier Division Champions.  
The gate receipts from this game will be donated to a charity nominated by the 'President.' The league will also donate the usual fee that the host club receives to the nominated charity.
- 2 The duration of each match shall be one hour and a half. If the result is a draw after full time, the winner shall be determined by a series of kicks from the penalty spot according to the 'Laws of the Game'.
- 3 All of the other rules of the League Challenge cup will apply to this Challenge Cup competition.

## **GROUND CRITERIA.**

(This Criteria must be in place by the 30<sup>th</sup> April prior to the following season)

### **Premier Division & Division One (wef 2015/16 Season)**

- 1.** All playing areas must be completely fenced off with wood or metal tubing set in adequate support posts. Boundary fencing is to be a minimum of 2 yards outside the playing area.
- 2.** There must be two separate 'dugouts' for managers, trainers and substitutes with the front of the 'dugout' in line with the boundary fence and not the touchline.  
The 'Technical Area' must be marked out in accordance with the 'Laws of the Game'.
- 3.** The minimum size of the playing area shall be 100 yards by 50 yards in accordance with the 'Laws of the Game'.
- 4.** An emergency aid person per team shall be available at each game and serviceable first aid equipment shall be kept on every ground.
- 5.** For emergency purposes the league secretary must be informed of the nearest telephone that can be contacted.
- 6.** The home club is to provide as a minimum tea, coffee or some form of liquid refreshment for all players and match officials prior to the game, at half time.
- 7.** All clubs are to provide adequate dressing room accommodation for all players and separate accommodation for match officials. Separate showering facilities shall be provided for both teams and match officials.
- 8.** Any member club who intends entering a ground sharing agreement either by sharing its own ground irrespective of whether the other club is from within or outside the Welsh National League, must initially submit in writing to the League full details of the agreement which must then be approved by the League Executive Committee before it can be accepted.  
Details of ground sharing agreements must be submitted to the League by 1<sup>st</sup> April to be effective for the following season and must be for a minimum of one season  
This condition also applies to new member clubs entering or promoted to the League.  
Any club entering into a ground sharing arrangement for one season and being promoted on this basis, will automatically be relegated after one season if they are unable to continue the arrangement and are unable to confirm their facilities for the following season by 1st April.
- 9.** Emergency vehicles must be able to drive in to the stadium. The access and egress point(s) must not be blocked. A parking space must be identified for an emergency vehicle to park, which must not be occupied by any other vehicle or used for any other purpose. Unobstructed access leading from a spectator area in the stadium to the playing area must be provided to allow access and egress for a stretcher. It is recommended that this access is located as close as possible to the area designated for the access/egress of the emergency vehicle(s).  
Please note: See Rule 8 for Promotion and Relegation.