

1. NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

- (a) This Competition shall be designated the SOUTH CHILTERN MINOR SATURDAY LEAGUE and shall consist of not more than sixty (60) Clubs approved by the sanctioning Authority.

All such Member Clubs shall be affiliated to an affiliated County Football Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on the Form "D" to the Berks & Bucks County Football Association. The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be confined to Clubs whose grounds are situated within a fifteen (15) mile radius of Reading Civic Centre (with the exception of those Clubs whose grounds are outside this area but were Member Clubs during Season 2004/05). A Club outside this radius may apply for membership. The Management Committee shall consider such application and make recommendations to the Annual General Meeting who shall decide acceptance or otherwise.

The FA Charter Standard Scheme is a best practice guide for Clubs working with young people. All Clubs in the South Chiltern Minor League shall be FA Charter Standard, or with the approval of the Management Committee be working to achieve that status within twelve (12) months of election. Failure to obtain or loss of Charter Standard may result in loss of League Membership. At the discretion of the Management Committee a further twelve (12) months may be granted in which to achieve or re-attain Charter Standard.

Any Club or Team accepted into membership shall not be allowed to change their ground to another, if that ground is outside the limit.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Berks and Bucks Football Association and the constituent Teams of Member Clubs may be grouped by yearly age groups, in Divisions, each not exceeding ten (10) in number.

- (b) Member Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing in the Competition in any other Competitions (with the exception of F.A. and County F.A. Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee of the Competition.
- (c) The Competition shall provide 9-A-Side football for players who have attained the age of ten (10) years as at midnight 31st August in a playing season.

2. ENTRANCE FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT.

- (a) Applications by existing Clubs for admission to this Competition shall be made in on Form 'A' (see Appendix B) to the Secretary by 31st May. Applications from new Clubs shall be made by 15th May and accompanied by an entry fee of £30.00 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.

- (b) The Annual Subscription shall be £10.00 per Club and £50.00 per Team playing 9-A-Side football. The Club Subscription and £25.00 per Team shall be payable on or before 15th July in each year and the balance shall be paid on or before 31st August in each year.
- (c) Each Club shall, within 0 days pay a Deposit of £0-00 per Team which shall be returnable to Clubs on leaving the Competition provided they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all

Copy as Approved and advised to Competition August 2011
orders of the Management Committee.

- (d) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the Annual Subscription and Entry Fee (if applicable) has been paid and Rule 8(c) complied with.
- (e) Clubs shall advise annually to the Secretary on Form 'C' by 15th July of its County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming season, failing which they shall be fined £10.00.
- (f) Clubs shall advise the Secretary, on Form 'C' (see appendix B) by 15th July, details of its Officers, Managers and any other information required by the Competition, failing which they shall be fined £30.00.

3. OFFICERS

The Officers of the Competition shall be the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Registration Secretary, Referees Secretary, Fixture Secretary to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. (N.B. Verifiers are not Officers)

4. MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

- (a) The Competition shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association by a Management Committee comprised of the Officers, Events Co-ordinator, together with a League Manager representing each age group who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

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

- (b) 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 (2) Member Clubs, not later than 30th April in each year. Names of the candidates shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting.
- (c) The Management Committee shall meet monthly to deal with business as it arises.

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

- (d) Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its procedures.
- (e) All communications received from Clubs shall be conducted through their nominated Officers.

5. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

- (a) The Management Committee may appoint Sub-Committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all such Committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the

Copy as Approved and advised to Competition August 2011

jurisdiction of The Football Association or affiliated Association.

- (b) Subject to the permission of the Berks & Bucks Football Association having been obtained the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, 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 (see Rule 6(e)).
- (c) Each Member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee Meetings and have one (1) vote thereat, but no Member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such Member or to the Club so represented or where there is a conflict of interest. (This shall apply to the procedure of any Sub-Committee).

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

- (d) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition, including any not provided for in the Rules.

With the exception of Rules 5(i), 6(h), 10(a), 11 and 19 for any breaches of Rule a formal written charge shall be issued. The respondent shall be given seven (7) days from the date of notice to reply to the charge and given the opportunity to:-

- (i) Accept or deny the charge
- (ii) Submit in writing a case of mitigation, or
- (iii) Put their case before the Management Committee

All breaches of the Laws of the Game, Rules and Regulations of the Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance with Football Association Rules by the appropriate Association.

With the exception of Clubs, playing at Step 7 of the Football Pyramid and the FA Women's Premier League, the maximum fine permitted for any breach of Competition Rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Competition shall ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

- (e) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16.

Decisions of the Management Committee shall be notified in writing to those concerned within fourteen (14) days.

- (f) Five (5) Members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee and three (3) Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by any Sub-Committee of the Competition.
- (g) The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill in an acting capacity, any vacancies that may occur amongst their number.
- (h) 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 the correspondence of the Competition, shall be liable to be fined or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the Management Committee.

Copy as Approved and advised to Competition August 2011

- (i) All fines and charges shall be paid within fourteen (14) days of the date of posting of the written notification.

Any Club failing to do so shall be fined a sum not exceeding £50.00. Further failure to pay the fine and the additional sum within fourteen (14) days shall result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding payments are settled.

- (j) A Member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or match may have any expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.
- (k) The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the Annual General Meeting and the commencement of the Competition season.
- (l) The Management Committee shall have the power to appoint Vice-Presidents from time to time in recognition of service to football within the League.
- (m) In addition to the Management Committee the Competition shall meet monthly as a Council for administrative purposes only on a minimum of four (4) occasions each season. At least fourteen (14) days notice of such a meeting shall be given. A Club failing to be represented at a Council Meeting without satisfactory reason shall be liable to a fine of £0.00 and increasing in increments of £0.00 for each subsequent offence. Any Club failing to be represented, without satisfactory reason being given, at all meetings in a season may be recommended to have their membership withdrawn at the end of the season.
- (n) No participant under the age of eighteen (18) can be fined.
- (o) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- (a) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 30th June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least eight (8) Members are present and entitled to vote:-
 - (i) To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
 - (ii) To consider any business arising therefrom.
 - (ii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts
 - (iv) Election of New Clubs (as recommended by the Management Committee).
 - (v) Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing season.
 - (vi) Election of Officers and Management Committee
 - (vii) Appointment of Verifiers of Accounts.
 - (viii) Alterations to Rules, if any (of which notice has been given).
 - (ix) Fix the date for the commencement of the season and kick-off times applicable to the Competition
 - (x) Any other business, of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting

Copy as Approved and advised to Competition August 2011

- (b) A copy of the duly verified Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting, and to the Berks & Bucks County Football Association.
- (c) A signed copy of the duly verified Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Berks & Bucks County Football Association within fourteen (14) days of its adoption by the Annual General Meeting.
- (d) Each Member Club shall be empowered to send two (2) delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one (1) vote only. Not less than fourteen (14) days notice shall be given of any Meeting.
- (e) Clubs who have withdrawn their Membership of the Competition 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.
- (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.
- (g) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one (1) Member Club.
- (h) Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £10.00.
- (i) Officers and Management Committee Members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an Annual General Meeting.

7. AGREEMENT

The Chairman and Secretary of each Club shall complete and sign the following Agreement Form "B", which shall be deposited with the Competition together with the Application for Membership for the coming season and entry fee (if applicable).

"We,

A, _____ of _____ (Chairman) and

B _____ of _____ (Secretary) of the

_____ Football Club have been provided with a copy of the Rules and regulations of the South Chiltern Minor Saturday League Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, if elected or accepted into Membership, to conform to those Rules and regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16.

Any alteration of the Chairman and/or Secretary on the above Agreement shall be notified to the County Football Association to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary of the Competition.

8. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

(a) (i) Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules, are not permitted in this Competition.

(ii) It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any player signing a registration form for that Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any player aged 12 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

(iii) While serving in any branch of Her Majesty's Regular Forces, a player shall first obtain the consent of his commanding Officer before signing a registration form to play for a Club.

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

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

(i) Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration card in ink, countersigned by his/her parent or guardian and by an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the Registration Secretary and whose completed registration card has been received by the Club prior to playing. The registration card shall incorporate any known serious medical condition of the player and emergency contact details of the player's parents or guardians. These details shall be available at matches and training events the player attends within the management of the Club or Competition.

(ii) The registration card shall incorporate a current passport size photograph of the player seeking registration together with confirmation by an Officer of the Club of the player's date of birth and a note of the original document of proof seen. A Club requested by the Management Committee to provide the original document of proof of any player shall do so within seven (7) days of receipt of a written request. A Club failing to comply may be fined £20.00 and otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(iii) The qualification dates for the Competition shall be as follows:

(iv) **Youth Football**

Under 11 – the player shall have attained the age of 10 but shall be under the age of 11 by midnight 31st August in the playing season.

Under 12 - the player shall be under the age of 12 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

In accordance with the foregoing qualifications a player under the age of fifteen (15) as at midnight 31st August in the playing season shall not play in a match where any other player is older or younger by (2) years or more.

(c) Prior to Registration Night, which shall be held on or before 31st July in each year, the Registration Secretary shall send to each Club eighteen (18) blank registration cards for each Team entered in the League. Each club shall then lodge with the Registration Secretary correctly completed registration cards for at least nine (9) players for each Team on or before Registration Night. The players names shall be listed on Form "D" (see appendix A) and submitted with the

Copy as Approved and advised to Competition August 2011

registration cards and the previous seasons' player registration cards (where appropriate). No registrations shall be submitted to or shall be accepted by the Registration Secretary prior to 1st July from existing Member Clubs. No registrations shall be accepted from new applications until they are accepted into membership of the Competition or prior to 1st July.

Failure to comply with this Rule shall eliminate a Team from entry into the Competition.

- (e) The maximum number of players permitted to be registered for any Team during a season shall be eighteen (18).

Registrations are valid for one (1) season only and remain the property of the Competition.

- (e) A player having taken part in matches for any Club affiliated to any County Football Association shall not be allowed to join, be transferred to, or sign for a Club in the Competition without first proving to the officials of the intended Club that the player has discharged all reasonable financial liabilities to that previous Club or Clubs, and a Club official may not accept such player's signature without first ascertaining whether such claims have been discharged to the satisfaction of the Club, or Clubs, for which the player last played.
- (f) A fee of £3.00 shall be paid for each player registered after the registration night. No fee shall be charged for players registered on or before registration night
- (g) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes.
In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one (1) Club priority of registration shall decide for which Club the player shall be registered. The Registration Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.
- (h) It shall be deemed misconduct for a player to:-
 - (i) Play for more than one (1) Team in the Competition in the same season without first being transferred. (1)
 - (ii) Having signed for one (1) Team in the Competition, sign for another Team in the Competition in that season except for the purpose of a transfer.
 - (iii) Submit a signed registration form for registration that the player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.
- (i) (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 proved 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 found guilty of undesirable conduct and to disqualify the player in question from participation in all games in the Competition (Subject to Rule 16) subject to the right of appeal to The Football Association 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.

Copy as Approved and advised to Competition August 2011

(Note: Action under Rule 8(I)(iii) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct on the field of play 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 shall 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 one-hundred and twelve (112) days suspension, or ten (10) matches in match based discipline, in a period of two (2) years or less from the date of the first offence.)

- (j) Subject to The Football Association Rules dealing with players without a written contract when a player desires a transfer, the Club the player wishes to transfer to shall submit a transfer form and correctly and fully completed registration form to the Registration Secretary accompanied by a fee of £0-00. Such transfer shall be referred by the Registration Secretary to the Club for which the player is registered. Should this Club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Registration Secretary and to the player concerned within seven (7) days of receipt of the transfer form. Upon receipt of the Clubs consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within seven (7) days, the Registration Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club on receipt of such transfer.

In the event of an objection to a transfer the matter shall be referred to the Management Committee for a decision.

A player shall be limited to one (1) transfer in each season.

- (k) Providing a Team has satisfied the minimum requirement by registration night, they may register a further players up to a maximum eighteen (18) prior to 1st October.

No player shall be transferred between 1st June and 1st October except by special permission of the Management Committee.

A player may not be registered for a Team nor transferred to another Team in the Competition after 12-00 noon on 31st January except by special permission of the Management Committee.

- (l) 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.

In the event a Club having more than one (1) Team in each age group, each Team shall be clearly identifiable but not designated 'A' or 'B' or 1st or 2nd. In such cases players shall be registered for one (1) Team only. A player so registered shall be allowed to play for his Club in a younger or older age group within the provisions of Rule 8(b).

- (m) A register containing the names of all players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Registration Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of any duly appointed Member Club representative at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged.

Registrations are valid for one (1) season only.

- (n) Clubs shall be responsible for the custody and protection of registration cards. Wilful damage or defacement shall result in a fine of £10.00. A charge of £5.00 may be applied for replacement of a Registration Card.

Copy as Approved and advised to Competition August 2011

If any Team withdraws from the Competition all Registration Cards for the registered players shall be returned to the Registration secretary within seven (7) days of notification of withdrawal. Failure to comply shall result in a fine of £25.00.

- (o) (i) Any Team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players shall have the points gained in the match deducted from its total and may be fined £25.00 and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.
 - (ii) In addition the Team shall have three (3) points deducted from its total at the discretion of the Management Committee and may be dealt with in any further manner which is thought to be fit.
 - (iii) The Management Committee may at its discretion, award the points available in the match in question to the opponents, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.
- (p) (i) Priority shall be given at all times to school and school organisations activities.
 - (ii) The availability of children shall be cleared with the Head Teachers (except for Sunday Competitions)
 - (iii) Children under fifteen (15) shall not play in a Team involving players who are more than two (2) years older.

(Note: For players under the age of eighteen (18) the provisions contained in Football Association Rules shall apply)
- (q) All communications with the Registration Secretary shall be by post either by sending via the mailing system or delivering personally to his door. The Registration Secretary shall not be contacted by telephone or by knocking at his door after 21.00 hours unless invited to do so at a pre-arranged time. Any Club failing to comply shall incur a fine of £25.00.

9. CLUB COLOURS. CLUB NAME

- (a) Every Club shall register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 15th July on Form "C" who shall decide as to their suitability.

Goalkeepers shall wear colours, which distinguish them from other players and the Referee.

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

Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify the colours in which they shall play to its opponents at least five (5) days before the match.

If, in the opinion of the Referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the Away Team shall make the change. Any Team not having a change of colours or delaying the kick off by not having a change shall be fined £10.00.

The Secretary of the Competition may request shirts to be submitted if complaints are received as to lack of distinguishing colours, and the Management Committee may refuse to permit any shirts or shorts as they think fit. Shirts shall be numbered.

- (b) Any Club wishing to change its name and/or colours shall obtain permission from its affiliated County Football Association and from the Management Committee.

10. PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY
TIMES OF KICK OFF. POSTPONEMENTS. SUBSTITUTES

- (a) The Annual General Meeting shall determine the commencement of the season, which shall be in accordance with Football Association Rules. Original fixtures arranged by the Fixture Secretary shall not be arranged for a date later than seven (7) days preceding the concluding date determined by the Annual General Meeting.
- (b) All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board, or for Mini-Soccer, the Laws of Mini-Soccer as set down by The Football Association.

Clubs shall take all reasonable precautions to keep their grounds in a playable condition. All matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee. If through any fault of the Home Team a match has to be replayed, the Management Committee shall have power to order the venue to be changed.

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

Duration of Play

For Youth Football – The duration of play shall be as follows: (unless it is mutually agreed by all parties to reduce the time)

Under 11 and Under 12 - 30 minutes each half

The minimum "shorter" period for each half shall be;

Youth Football - Under 11 and Under 12 - 20 minutes each half.

No player under the age of seventeen (17) as at midnight on 31st August in any season shall be permitted to play more than one (1) game or, in the event the Competition allows the playing of a double-header, i.e: two (2) separate matches, one-hundred (100) minutes per day in this Competition.

The times of kick-off shall be fixed at the Annual General Meeting and shall be 10-00am on a Saturday.

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

The Competition may require Clubs to play weekday evening fixtures in September, March, April and May after the change of British Summer Time. Evening weekday matches shall normally be played on a Wednesday with a 6-15pm kick-off unless the Home Team notifies the Away Team giving at least seven (7) clear days notice and is sanctioned by the age group League Manager.

The home Team shall provide at least two (2) footballs fit for play and the Referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable.

The size of football to be used shall be:

For Youth Football

Size 4 for Under 11, Under 12

Goal sizes and maximum and minimum pitch sizes as recommended and published by The Football Association shall be observed.

Goal nets shall be used.

- (c) Except by permission of the Management Committee all matches shall be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The Football Association and all relevant County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches shall be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of the Age Group Representative.

Clubs wishing to be excused playing due to four (4) players engaged on School Activities or International Visits shall notify the Fixture Secretary at least twenty eight (28) days prior to the date on which time off is required, or as soon as practicable after the engagement is known if less than twenty eight (28) days. Notification shall include the names of players involved, the name of the school together with a contact name and number at the school. Clubs shall be excused subject to verification. Failure to submit notification may result in any scheduled match being forfeited and dealt with as per rule 10(f).

Teams wishing to be excused playing during a recognised holiday period (providing the fixture date is within twenty-four (24) hours of such a holiday period) shall notify their respective Age Group Representative by no later than 18.00 hours seven (7) days prior to the fixture. Scheduled opponents shall be informed by the Team as soon as the Age Group Representative has acknowledged the notification. A Team failing to comply shall be fined £10.00 and the match dealt with as per Rule 10(f).

- (d) The Manager of the Home Club shall give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to the ground and time of kick off to the match officials and the Manager of the opposing Club at least four (4) clear days prior to the playing of the match. If notice is not given the Away Team Manager shall communicate the fact to the Age Group Representative as soon as possible. The Age Group Representative shall give consideration to any action necessary.

Once the arrangements for any match have been notified by the Home Team, they shall not be altered unless

- (i) Both parties agree to the change and;
- (ii) The change is sanctioned by the Age Group Representative

Any Team failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine of £20.00.

In the event of a Club playing in any match with less than nine (9) players they may be fined £5.00 for each missing player.

- (e) A minimum of seven (7) players shall constitute a Team for a Competition match (six (6) players for Mini-Soccer).

- (f) Home and away matches shall be played unless it is agreed prior to the start of the season that any age group(s) shall play at a fixed venue. In the event of a Team failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have power to re-schedule the fixture, inflict a fine NOT EXCEEDING £50.00 upon the defaulting Team, award the points from the match in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Team to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals. Notwithstanding the Home and Away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponents ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

Any Club unable to fulfill a fixture shall, without delay, give notice to the Fixture Secretary, Referee Secretary and the opposing Club and Match Officials. Any Club failing to comply shall be dealt with by the Management Committee who may inflict any penalty it may deem suitable.

In addition when a fixture is unplayed or abandoned for any reason, both Teams shall complete and submit to the Fixture Secretary a "Form G" (Notice of Unplay Fixture) (see appendix B) within forty-eight (48) hours of the scheduled fixture.

Failure to comply shall incur a fine of £10.00.

In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall be rescheduled by the Fixture Secretary who shall advise both Teams of the new date by 18-00 hours six (6) days prior to the rescheduled date.

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 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, 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.

- (g) A completed Team Sheet, listing the players for the match, shall be handed by both Teams to the Referee no later than ten (10) minutes prior to the commencement of the match. A Team failing to comply shall be fined £10.00.
- (h) Registration cards for those players only listed on the Team Sheet shall be passed to the opposing Team Manager for inspection at least ten (10) minutes prior to the commencement of the match.

Any player whose card is not presented for inspection or is not listed on the Team Sheet shall not be eligible to play in the match.

The registration cards shall be retained by the opposition for the duration of the match and shall be returned to the opposing Team Manager no later than ten (10) minutes after the conclusion of the match. A Team failing to comply shall be fined £25.00.

In the event of that a Team fails to produce the registration cards for inspection at the commencement of the match, the match shall not be played and the Team shall be fined £50.00 and dealt with as per Rule 10(f).

No protest regarding the playing of an ineligible player shall be considered by the Management Committee unless Rule 10(h) has been complied with in full.

- (i) For age groups Under 11 to Under 12 a Team may at its discretion use five (5) substitute players at any time during a match, except to replace a player who has been dismissed from the game by the Referee after play has commenced. A player who has been substituted during a match himself becomes a substitute and may, in turn, replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance of Law 3 of The Laws of Association Football.

The Referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than five (5) minutes before the start of the match.

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

- (j) The half time interval shall be of five (5) minutes duration. This interval may only be altered with the consent of the Referee but it shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes.
- (k) The League shall require all players and Club Officials to have signed The Football Association's "Respect Code of Conduct" and produce these if so requested by the League Management Committee.

11. REPORTING RESULTS

- (a) The Results Co-ordinator shall receive, from all Teams, a fully completed match result card for each Competition match within four (4) days of the date played. Failure to do so shall incur a fine of £10.00 and/or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide.
- (b) Both Teams shall text the result of each match to the Age Group Representative within one (1) hour of the completion of the match. Should a match be postponed both Teams shall text "Result p-p". Failure to comply shall incur a fine of £5.00 and increasing in increments of £5.00 for each subsequent offence.

N.B. If the fine exceeds £20.00 the Club shall be charged as detailed in Rule 5(d).

Teams taking part in County Cup Competitions shall also inform the League Manager of the Result of the match by 18-00 hours on Sunday for weekend matches. Failure to do so shall incur a fine of £5.00.

- (c) The match result card shall include the forename(s) and surname of the Team players (in block letters), the Referee markings as required by Rule 13 and other information as required by the Competition. Correctly completed it shall be attested a responsible member of the Club. Submission of an incomplete or incorrect card shall incur a fine of £5.00.

12. DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

- (a) Team rankings within the Competition shall be decided by points, with three (3) points to be awarded for a win and one (1) point for a drawn match. The Teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective Divisions at the conclusion shall be adjudged the winners. Matches shall not be played for double points.

In the event of two (2) or more Teams being equal on points Team rankings shall be decided in the following way.

- (i) The league results between the Teams concerned
 - (ii) The least goals conceded in the above game.
 - (iii) Deciding match(s) played under conditions determined by the Management Committee
- (b) Promotion and relegation shall be applied for the first two (2) and last two (2) Teams in each Division subject to number of Teams, number of Divisions and new Teams joining.
- (c) In the event of a Team not completing 75% of its fixtures for the season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting Team shall be expunged from the Competition Table.

13. REFEREES

- (a) Registered Referees (and Assistant Referees where approved by The Football Association or County Football Association), for all matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the sanctioning Association.

A Referee appointed by the League shall take precedence over a mutually agreed Referee.

- (b) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed Referee or where the Competition has not been able to appoint a Referee, both Teams shall agree upon a Referee. A Referee, who need not be qualified, thus provided, shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee.
- (c) The Management Committee may, if they consider it desirable, or upon application by the two competing Clubs, appoint Assistant Referees, if available, to any match. Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee. Failure to do so shall result in a fine of £25.00 being imposed on the defaulting Club.
- (d) The appointed Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and the decision shall be final subject to either in the case of a ground of a Local Authority or the owners of a ground, the Representative of that body is the sole arbiter and whose decision shall be accepted unless the ground is declared fit for play.
- (e) Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be entitled to the following match fees, inclusive of travel expenses.

Under 11 and Under 12 £20.00

Assistant Referees appointed by the Management Committee

Under 11 and Under 12 £15.00

Subject to any limits laid down by the sanctioning Association.

The Home Team shall pay the officials their fees within fifteen (15) minutes of the conclusion of the match. Where Assistant Referees have been appointed by the Management Committee, the Away Team Manager shall reimburse the Home Team half of the combined match Officials fees before leaving the ground.

- (f) In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to expenses only. Where a match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Officials, if they attend the ground, their full fee.
- (g) A Referee not keeping his engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation for his non-appearance, may have his name removed from the list of Referees and the fact reported to the County Football Association with which he is registered.
- (h) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by the Football Association, award marks to the Referee for each match and the name of the Referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed form provided. Where a mark of fifty (50) or less is awarded a report Form 'F' (see appendix B) shall be submitted within seven (7) days of the fixture to the General Secretary.

Clubs failing to comply with this rule shall be liable to be fined or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.

The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the Form provided by the prescribed date each season, shall submit a summary to Berks & Bucks County Football Association.

- (i) Appointed Referees shall be supplied, each Season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.
- (j) A list of official Referees shall be published and circulated and shall be subject to amendments from time to time. Clubs are not authorised to make independent approaches to Referees on the Official list. Any infringement shall render the offending Club liable to a fine of £20.00

14. CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

- (a) After 31st December in the current season a Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a Team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition, shall notify the Secretary in writing by 31st March each season or be liable to a fine not exceeding £5.00.
All Clubs wishing to remain in membership of the Competition for the following Season shall confirm their intention to do so, in writing on Form 'A' (see appendix B), to the Secretary by 31st May.
- (b) A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its Teams from the Competition after the Annual General Meeting for the following Season. Any Club infringing this Rule shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £25.00 per Team and shall also be liable for its share of any call which may be made under Rule 5(B).
- (c) The membership for the coming season having been decided at a Special General Meeting or at the Annual General Meeting held not later than 30th June the Competition shall have the right, irrespective of other provisions in this Rule, to refuse to permit a Club to withdraw its Team(s) in order to join another Competition and may hold the Club to its engagements.
- (d) In the event of a Member 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 Competition.

In the event that any such obligation remains un-discharged after a period of twenty-one (21) 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 Competition, which may apply to the Club's Parent County Association for a suspension order.

15. PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS

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

(ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue shall not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match. Any Club lodging such protest and not proceeding with it shall be deemed guilty of a breach of this Rule and shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.
- (b) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which shall contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) shall be lodged in duplicate with the Secretary within seven (7) days (excluding Sundays) 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 a witness or representative of his club) when such a protest or complaint is being determined.
- (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.
- (d) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee, unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum of £10.00. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition 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.

All protests and complaints shall be signed by the Chairman or Secretary of the Club.

- (e) All parties to a protest or complaint shall receive a copy of the submission and shall be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least seven (7) days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.
 - (i) All parties shall have received seven (7) days notice of the Hearing should they be instructed to attend.
 - (ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then they should forward a deposit of £10.00 and indicate such when forwarding the written response.
- (f) 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.

16. BOARD OF APPEAL

Within fourteen (14) days of the posting of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee or the Competition, a Club, Official or Player against whom action is taken may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars in duplicate with the Secretary of the Berks & Bucks Football Association, including a fee of £25.00, for adjudication of a Board of Appeal. 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.

All appeals shall be signed by the Chairman or Secretary of the Club.

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

**17. EXCLUSION OF CLUBS, OR TEAMS
MISCONDUCT, CLUBS OFFICIALS, PLAYERS**

- (a) At the Annual General Meeting, or Special General Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, Notice of Motion having been duly circulated on the Agenda, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude any Club or Team from further membership which shall be supported by (more than) two-thirds of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot.
- (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 or Team in a Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which shall 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 the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.
- (c) Any official or member of a Club proved guilty of either a breach of Rule, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a player or players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to expulsion or such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Clauses (A) and (B) of this Rule.
- (d) Clubs are responsible for the conduct of their Players, Officers, Supporters and followers as defined in FA Rule E21(a) and (b) of the Rules of the Football Association. Cases of proven misconduct shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of these Rules.

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

- (a) A Competition Cup or Trophy shall be vested in the Association sanctioning the Competition as Trustees. If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a Trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the Donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the sanctioning Association may decide. At the close of each Competition awards may/shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

The agreement Form 'E' (see appendix B) shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the Cup or Trophy.

"We..... and

the Chairman and Secretary of FC, members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of Cup or Trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the Cup or trophy to the Competition secretary on or before 28th February. If the Cup or Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its replacement"

- (b) Trophies shall be returned to the Competition on or before 28th February in good order and condition. Failure to comply shall incur a fine of £2.00 per day to a maximum of £100.00.
- (c) It shall be the responsibility of all Clubs winning trophies to ensure the name of the Club and the season are engraved on the trophy by a suitably qualified craftsman in the style appropriate for the particular trophy. If a Club shall fail to comply with this Rule, the officers of the Competition shall arrange for a suitable inscription on the trophy and shall have power to recover costs from the defaulting Club who shall be liable to a fine of £20.00.

19. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

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

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

At least seven (7) days notice shall be given of either meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting. Each Member Club shall be empowered to send two (2) delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one(1) vote only as shall members of the Management Committee. Not less than seven (7) days notice shall be given of any meeting.

Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £10.00.

Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all Special General Meetings.

All amendment of Rules can only be implemented once approved by the appropriate sanctioning authority.

20. ALTERATION TO RULES

- (a) Alterations, for which consent has been given by the sanctioning Association, shall be made to these Rules only at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 19. Any alterations made during the playing season to the Rule relating to the qualification of players shall not take effect until the following season.

- (b) Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary by 28th February in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals from the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 15th March and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 31st March.

The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if two-thirds of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.

- (c) A copy of the proposed alterations and proposed amendments to be considered at the annual general meeting shall be submitted to the Berks & Bucks Football Association by not later than 14th April.

A copy of the proposed alterations and proposed amendments to be considered at a Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the Berks & Bucks Football Association by no later than twenty eight (28) days prior to the date of the meeting.

- (d) Any alterations or additions decided upon at any meeting shall not become operative until the approval of the Berks & Bucks Football Association shall have been obtained.

21. RULES BINDING ON ALL CLUBS

Each member Club shall be deemed to have given its assent to the foregoing Rules and agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee subject to Rule 16. Each Member Club shall abide by any issued Football Association Code of Conduct (Appendix A).

22. FINANCE

- (a) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition shall be lodged.
- (b) All expenditure in excess of £150.00 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two (2) Officers nominated by the Management Committee. No officer of the League shall purchase or sanction the purchase of items of equipment or services except as follows:-

- (i) Three (3) Officers can sanction to a value of £50.
- (ii) Five (5) Officers can sanction to a value of £150

It shall be a condition that the Treasurer shall be consulted and be part of the decision making process concerning (i) and (ii) above.

- (c) The financial year of the Competition shall end on 31st May.
- (d) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of the Competition shall be prepared and shall be verified annually by some suitable person(s) who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

23 LEAGUE EQUIPMENT

- (a) The League shall, where possible, supply its Officers with the necessary equipment to assist them in carrying out their designated function. The Officer concerned shall be responsible for the safe keeping of the equipment but the League shall reimburse running costs, upon the production of suitable receipts, and shall be responsible for routine maintenance.
- (b) The officer shall when requested or within fourteen (14) days of resignation or non re-election, return the equipment, all documentation, software etc to a Committee member designated by the Management Committee.

24. PROCEDURES

- (a). No persons are to telephone any Management Committee member after 21.00 hours unless they have been invited to do so. Any Club infringing this rule shall be fined £10.00.
- (b) No Club or Club member shall make any comments to the press or media on any controversial issue. Any controversial matter should be brought to the attention of the Secretary by the Club Secretary without delay.
- (c) Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.
- (d) All communications received from Clubs shall be conducted through their nominated Officers.
- (e) All communications with the Registration Secretary shall be by post either by sending via the mailing system or delivering personally to his letter box or email. The Registration Secretary shall not be contacted by telephone or by knocking at his door unless invited to do so and then only at a prearranged time and date. No person shall delivery to the Registration Secretary letterbox between 21.00 hours and 07.00 hours. Any Club failing to comply shall incur a fine of £25.00.

APPENDIX A CUP RULES

The SOUTH CHILTERN MINOR SATURDAY LEAGUE Cup Competition, which shall take place at the Management Committee's discretion, shall be clearly defined at the commencement of the season and shall be governed by the Standard Rules of the League with additional Rules as detailed below.

1. Title of Cups and Order of Precedence.

- (a) Each Cup Competition shall consist of separate age sections designated Under 11 and 12 each of which shall be a separate Competition.

2. Eligible Teams

- (a) The Competitions shall be confined to Clubs who are Members of the South Chiltern Minor Saturday League.
- (b) All Teams taking part in the South Chiltern Minor Saturday League shall compete in Cup Competitions.

3. Conditions of Play and Extra Time.

- (a) The Age Group Representatives shall have the power to determine whether any or all of the Cup Competitions shall be played over one (1) or two (2) legs or a league format..
- (b) In the event of the scores being level at full time in a Cup Competition being played over one (1) leg or the aggregate scores being level at full time in the second match in a Cup Competition being played over two (2) legs, extra time shall be played as follows:

Under 11 and Under 12 - 10 minutes each way

- (c) In the event of the scores being level at the end of extra time in a Cup Competition then the Tie shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedure adopted by the International Board Recommended Procedures.
- (d) In the event of a Cup Tie not being played due to inclement weather conditions or circumstances over which neither club has control, the tie shall be played in its entirety on the next available playing weekend or as determined by the Fixture Secretary.

4. Draw, Venue and Dates of Ties.

- (a) (i) The draw for all Cup Competitions rounds shall be made at either the Monthly Council meetings or Management Committee meetings.

(ii) The first name drawn shall be the Home Team.

(iii) The Management Committee shall decide the date on which Cup Competition matches shall be played.
- (b) The Management Committee shall decide the venue, date and time of all Cup Competition

Copy as Approved and advised to Competition August 2011

Finals, and shall at their discretion have the power to decide the venue, date and time of all Semi-Finals.

- (c) The League shall take all proceeds, if any, from matches arranged by the Management Committee.
- (d) Each Club shall share equally the expenses of matches arranged by the Management Committee. Payment shall be made prior to the game.

5. Qualification of Players.

- (a) (i) A player shall not, in the same season, play for more than one (1) Team in the Chronicle Cup Competition.

(ii) A player shall not, in the same season, play for more than one (1) Team in the Sponsors Cup Competition.

6. Referees and Assistant Referees

- (a) The Referee Secretary shall where possible appoint Referees and Assistant Referees for all Semi-Finals and Finals.
- (b) In Cup Semi-Finals the first named Team shall pay the match officials in full within fifteen (15) minutes of the conclusion of the match. The second named Team shall reimburse the first named Team with half the total costs before they leave the ground.
- (c) Clubs shall be notified as to the payment in respect of Cup Finals.

CHILD PROTECTION

1. Any act, statement, conduct or other matter which harms a child or children, or poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children, shall constitute behaviour which is improper and brings the game into disrepute.
2. In these Regulations the expression "Offence" shall mean any one or more of the offences contained in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and any other criminal offence which reasonably causes The Association to believe that the person accused of the offence poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children.
3. Upon receipt by The Association of:
 - 3.1 notification that an individual has been charged with an Offence; or
 - 3.2 notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the Police, Social Services or any other authority relating to an Offence; or
 - 3.3 any other information which causes The Association reasonably to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children then The Association shall have the power to order that the individual be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
4. In reaching its determination as to whether an order under Regulation 3 should be made The Association shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:
 - 4.1 whether a child is or children are or may be at risk of harm;
 - 4.2 whether the matters are of a serious nature;
 - 4.3 whether an order is necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by The Association or any other authority or body to proceed unimpeded.
5. The period of an order referred to in 3 above shall not be capable of lasting beyond the date upon which any charge under The Rules of The Association or any Offence is decided or brought to an end.
6. Where an order is imposed on an individual under Regulation 3 above, The Association shall bring and conclude any proceedings under the Rules of The Association against the person relating to the matters as soon as reasonably practicable.
7. Where a person is convicted, or is made the subject of a caution in respect of an Offence, that shall constitute a breach of the Rules of The Association and The Association shall have the power to order the suspension of the person from all or any specific football activity for such a period (including indefinitely) and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
8. For the purposes of these Regulations, The Association shall act through its Council or any Committee or Sub-Committee thereof, including the Board.
9. Notification in writing of an order referred to above shall be given to the person concerned and/or any Club with which he is associated as soon as reasonably practicable.
10. The applicable standard of proof shall be the civil standard, of the balance of probability. The more serious the allegation taking into account the nature of the misconduct alleged and the context of the case the greater the burden of evidence required to find the matter proved. Save that for charges pursuant to The Football Association's Child Protection Policy, where the welfare and protection of children shall be paramount and the test shall be whether more likely than not.