



Newport and District Football League

Founded 1901 Affiliated to the Gwent County Football Association

OFFICIAL HANDBOOK

of Constitution and Rules

Season 2025-2026

Useful Telephone Numbers

NEWPORT & DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE

League Secretary.....	(01633) 412780
Fixture Secretary	07976 740177
Hon. Treasurer.....	07977 133271
Disciplinary Secretary.....	07880 555994

GWENT COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Association Secretary/Treasurer.....	(01495) 214388
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer.....	
Disciplinary Secretary.....	(01685) 379719
Referees Appointments.....	07855 406923

MONMOUTHSHIRE REFEREES ASSOCIATION

Association Secretary.....	(01633 321504)
----------------------------	----------------

NEWPORT LEISURE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Newport International Sports Village.....	(01633) 656757
Leisure Services,.....	(01633) 656757
Leisure Services, Parks Bulletin.....	(01633) 816035
Glebelands.....	(01633) 656757
Tredegar Park.....	(01633) 656656
Bettws Leisure Centre.....	(01633) 656757
Lliswerry Leisure Centre.....	(01633) 656757
Pill Leisure Centre.....	(01633) 660262

CWMBRAN PARKS DEPARTMENT

Cwmbran Stadium.....	(01633) 627100
Southfields.....	(01633) 875277
Cwmbran Park.....	(01633) 485491
Llantarnam Leisure Centre.....	(01633) 482832

NEWPORT & DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Affiliated to Gwent County Football Association

Headquarters:-

Civic Centre, Newport.

OFFICIALS

Life Members:

A. R. Jenkins, 1972	G. Jones, 1974	P. Aston, 1976
L. Mort, 1978	M. D. James, 1979	D. Piper, 1980
R. James, 1981	B. A. Reynolds, 1969-70/1993	
G. Maddicks 1998	M. Iqbal, 2001,	A. Hersey, 1975-81/2007

President:

G, Jones Esq

Vice-Presidents

I. Collier 2008, Mrs B Jordan 2009, C. Harvey 2009, M. Jenkins 2013,

Chairperson: Dean Thomas, Esq 2017

Vice-Chairman: Chris Hallett, Esq 2017

League Secretary: P. Aston, Esq.,
Brook Farm, Bishton, Newport, NP18 2DZ
Tel: (01633) 412780

Fixture Secretary: M. Iqbal, Esq.,
40 Candwr Park, Ponthir, Newport, NP18 1HL
Mob 07976 740177

Hon. Treasurer: B. A. Reynolds, Esq.,
20 Forest Close, Newport, NP19 8LX.
Mob 07977133271

Disciplinary Secretary: D. Thomas Esq
Email;- deanthomasNDFL@gmail.com
Mob 07880555994

Auditor: Denis Lewis Chartered Accountant, 22 Cader Idris Close
Risca NP11 6RP

Executive Committee:

C Hallett 2017, C Harvey 2009, C Matthews 2023,
S Webb 1991-2005/2023, L Sims 2023, S Foster 2024

Members appointed to Gwent County F. A.

I. Collier

Index of Rules

Constitution

- 1 Title
- 2 League Area
- 3 League & Cup Competitions
- 4 Membership
- 5 Management & Expenses
- 6 Disciplinary Committee
- 7 Club Officials
- 8 General Meetings
- 9 Representation at General Meeting
- 10 Accounts
- 11 Affiliation
- 12 Subscription & Deposit
- 13 Fines & Fees
- 14 Inter League Games
- 15 Alcohol

League Rules

- 1 Fixtures & Postponements
- 2 Friendlies
- 3 Tours
- 4 Breaking Fixtures
- 5 Abandoned Matches
- 6 Registrations & Transfers
- 7 Bona-fide Players
- 8 International Transfer Certificate
- 9 Executive Committee Meetings
- 10 Clubs Joining
- 11 Club colours
- 12 Dressing Accommodation
- 13 Park Pitches
- 14 Time of Kick-off
- 15 Late Starts & Abandoned Games
- 16 Search of Registers
- 17 Protests & Ineligibles Players
- 18 Appeal
- 19 Substitutes
- 20 Clubs Disbanding
- 21 Home Team to Notify Visitors & Referees
- 22 Eligibility of Players
- 23 Results
- 24 Team Sheets
- 25 Referees
- 26 Referees Duties
- 27 Referees Absent

League Rules Continued

- 28 Stand-in Referees
- 29 Neutral Assistant Referees
- 30 Club Linesmen
- 31 Hire of Grounds
- 32 Admission to Grounds
- 33 Disorderly Conduct
- 34 Misconduct
- 35 Promotion & Relegation- Championships
- 36 Promotion to Gwent Premier League
- 37 Custody of Cups
- 38 Rule Books
- 39 Alteration of Rules
- 40 Balance Sheet
- 41 Non-Attendance at Meetings
- 42 Matters not Provided For

Cup Rules

- 1 Name
- 2 Area
- 3 Conditions
- 4 Entry & Fees
- 5 Date of Rounds
- 6 Choice of Ground
- 7 Home Team to Notify Visitors & Referees
- 8 Drawn Games
- 9 Registration of Players
- 10 Ineligible Players
- 11 Protests & Ineligible Players
- 12 Search of Registers
- 13 Team Leaving the Field
- 14 Appeal
- 15 Duration of Game
- 16 Results
- 17 Referees & Assistant Referees
- 18 Gate Monies
- 19 Custody of Cups
- 20 Cup Rules
- 21 Matters not Provided For
- 22 Sunday Cup
- 23 Cup Final Stewards

CONSTITUTION

1. Title

The amalgamation of Clubs affiliated to the Gwent County Football Association other Associations (optional) admitting its Rules and Regulations shall be called the Newport and District Football League. Hereinafter called the 'League'.

2. League Area.

For Clubs other than those Registered in the Sunday Divisions the Area of the League shall be Newport to and including Bedwas Boundary, Newport to Abercarn, Newport to Sebastopol Bridge, Newport to and including Llanwern, Newport to Nash, Newport up to but not including Wattsville, & Newport to District boundary in other directions.

The Sunday Divisions shall be open to all Amateur Clubs in the County. Clubs receiving permission to enter a team in another League (Gwent Premier League or higher excepted). When they have a team in the Newport & District League, MUST register ALL their players on Comet.. Priority of games at all times must be given to the team in this League.

3. League and Cup Competitions.

The League and Challenge Cup Competitions for the Season shall be as follows:

PREMIER DIVISIONS--For Silver Cup and Medals for Winners and Runners-up. Two sections X and Y.

FIRST DIVISIONS--For Silver Cup and Medals for Winners and Runners-up.

SECOND DIVISION--For Silver Cup and Medals for Winners and Runners-up.

THIRD DIVISION--For Silver Cup and Medals for Winners and Runners-up.

SUNDAY DIVISIONS--For Trophy and Medals for Winners and Runners-up.

DENNIS HERBERT SENIOR CHALLENGE BOWL--(Cup-tie system). Medals for Winners and Runners-up.

JUNIOR CHALLENGE CUP--(Cup-tie system) for Trophy presented by J.H. Tatton, Esq. Medals for Winners and Runners-up.

MONMOUTHSHIRE BUILDING SOCIETY SUNDAY CHALLENGE CUP--(Cup-tie system). Medals for Winners and Runners-up.

VILLA DINO CHALLENGE PLATE--(Cup-tie system). Medals for Winners and Runners-up.

Note in exceptional circumstances The League reserve the right to change the format of cup competitions from straight Knock out to round robin group format

[Note.-- In all League & Cup Competitions suitable Memento's (in lieu of Medals) if funds permit.]

(a) - Trophies will be presented on a Presentation evening to be held **ON THE SECOND FRIDAY in JUNE** following the end of the season, and all clubs may purchase a ticket on application

4. Membership

(a) Premier X Division

Applications for entry to the Premier X division to be subject to approval by the League Executive and must have either a private ground or one suitable to be upgraded to Gwent Premier League Standard, the maximum number of teams in the division to be 14.

Clubs wishing to be promoted to the Gwent Premier League cannot be promoted until the end of there 3rd season in the District League

(b) Premier Y Division

This division is only open to reserve teams whose first team play in the Gwet Premier League or higher

(c) Lower Divisions

These divisions will be open to any team including reserve teams of clubs in other Leagues higher than the Premier X

5. Management.

The affairs of the League shall be managed by an Executive Committee to consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, President, Vice Presidents, League Secretary, Fixture Secretary, Disciplinary Secretary and Treasurer, together

With six Members, Life Members, Five to form a quorum

President, League Secretary, Fixture Secretary, and Treasurer & Disciplinary Secretary To be appointed

by Executive Committee .

Secretaries and Treasurer must not be associated with any football club within the League but the remainder of the Executive Committee & four Vice Presidents shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

Chairman & Vice-Chairman to hold office for two years as such. No member to be eligible for these positions until he has served for five years on the Executive Committee. President to be a Life Member and to hold office for three years as such.

No member to be eligible for Vice-Presidency until he has served for five years.

A Member shall be eligible for Life Membership after serving 15 years, such Members to have voting powers. Such Members not to exceed 14 in number. Once a Life-

Memberships has been granted, member holding a Vice-Presidency shall vacate that position.

Four members of such Committee to be recommended by the retiring Executive Committee, shall be eligible to sit for the following Season, but the remaining members of the Executive Committee shall be open for re-election. Any Member absenting himself from such Executive Committee Meetings for 2 consecutive Meetings without (in the opinion of the Executive Committee) sufficient reason, shall be considered to have resigned.

Any vacancy occurring on such Executive Committee shall be filled by the next nominee on the voting list at the Annual General Meeting. Should any Club in connection with any dispute or protest, have a Member on the Executive Committee, the said Member shall not be eligible to sit on such committee, or represent his club, whilst a matter is being considered in which his Club is directly concerned. The Executive Committee shall have power to appoint such Sub-Committees as they may deem necessary for the better conduct of the League. In the event of voting being equal, the chairman shall have casting vote.

The League Officials and all Executive Members shall have voting powers at all General Meetings. Retiring members to have vote at Annual General Meeting. Clubs entering may make ONE nomination for Executive Committee. This to be in the hands of League Secretary by 20th June each year. 'No currently operating Referee is eligible to serve on the Council of the League

Expenses.

The bus or Rail expenses of Members shall be paid out of the funds of the League when on any business in connection with the League Management.

6. Disciplinary Committee.

The Committee to consist of the officers of the League, plus co-opted members. The Chairman of the committee to be elected by the committee members.

7. Club Officials etc.

(a) Each Club shall also within 14 days of election or re-election forward to the Fixture Secretary a statement giving the names of Officials and Committee and any subsequent changes within 7 days, the locality of its ground and headquarters. Club Officials' names must be given at time of application. Failure to do so involves a fine of **£15**.

The named Secretary will be the person responsible for all Correspondence relating to the Club, Correspondence from any other person will not be accepted

The League reserves the right to refuse the nomination of any person nominated as a Club Official. They also reserve the right to terminate any such appointment at any time.

The team manager or person responsible for the team on match days must be on the application form and if altered during the season must be notified to the League

(b) All clubs, being members of the League, are responsible to the Executive Committee for the conduct of their Officials, Players & Spectators and are required to take all precautions necessary to prevent Officials or Players being threatened or assaulted before or at the conclusion of matches. Any person acting in a temporary capacity within the Club shall be deemed an Official of the Club and subject to the Rule

Any registered player reported for misconduct by the Referee whilst attending matches as a spectator will be reported to the Gwent County Football Association. This player will be charged with 'Bringing the Game into Disrepute'

8. General Meetings.

The League Secretary shall convene a special General Meeting at any time by Order of the Executive Committee, or on receiving a requisition to that effect, with 7 days notice, signed by the Secretaries of not less than ten Clubs in full membership of the League.

No such general Meeting shall have power to alter the decisions of the Executive Committee, but should the General Meeting, with a two-thirds majority, be against any

decision of the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee shall reconsider the matter.

A two-thirds majority must be secured before any resolution of any prior General Meeting during the current season can be rescinded, and no proposition to rescind any resolution shall be considered unless **SEVEN DAYS** notice has been given to the League Secretary, who shall include such proposition to rescind in the Notice calling the Meeting.

9. Representation at General Meetings.

Each Club in the League shall be entitled to send one Representative only to an Annual Meeting or to any Special General Meeting.

In the event of voting at any Meeting being equal, the Chairman of such Meeting shall have a second, casting vote

10. Accounts

The League funds shall be banked in the Name of the League and all Cheque to be signed by The Treasurer & General Secretary or Fixture Secretary and Bank Transfers require two signatures, some funds are kept in an account with the Monmouthshire Building Society

11. Affiliation.

All Clubs must be directly affiliated to the Gwent County Football Association and shall not arrange fixtures with any unaffiliated Club.

Affiliation fee as specified, must be paid via the Comet System and not to the Hon. Treasurer, Gwent County Football Association, A. Watkins, 1 Ashtree Cottages, Aberbeeg, Gwent. Tel. 01495-214388,

This affiliation must be produced before any player can be registered for that club'

12. Subscription and Deposit.

An annual Subscription which must be paid via the Comet System and Deposit and levy shall be paid by all Clubs to the League as follows:

Division	Registration Fee paid via Comet	Deposit (new clubs) Paid to League
All Divisions	£50.00	£50.00

The Deposit shall be as a guarantee that the Club will fulfil all its League Fixtures during the season and shall be returned to that Club at the end of the Season unless forfeited by failure to complete such fixtures or through misconduct. The Deposit of Clubs struck out of the League for any of the aforesaid reasons shall belong to the League and shall not be claimable for any debt by any other Club or Clubs. Clubs not complying with this rule shall be liable to be struck out of the Competition.

13. Fines & Fees

Fines to be decided annually by the Executive Committee, Referees fees to be decided annually by the Gwent County Football Association.

14. Inter-League Games.

The Executive committee shall have power to arrange special matches, the proceeds of which shall be devoted to League Funds. Any player selected to play under the auspices of the League in Inter-League Games or otherwise, and failing or refusing to do so, shall, in the absence of a good and sufficient cause be dealt with at the discretion of Executive Committee. Any Club which shall be found to have encouraged or instigated such conduct on the part of a Player shall be deemed guilty of misconduct and shall be dealt with at discretion of Executive Committee. Travel expenses only will be paid for benefit matches

15. Alcohol.

The league Executive instruct every club who participate within the League that they should not consume any alcohol outside licenced premises or around the field of play at which they participate. Failure to comply will result in your club being dealt with severely and a fine imposed on any guilty club at the discretion of the Executive Committee. The Clubs position within the League will also be carefully considered and expulsion may result

LEAGUE RULES

1. Fixtures and Postponements

All matches shall be arranged as the Executive directs.

No Club shall postpone a League match unless with permission of League Executive. Clubs requesting postponements must make application in writing for same and this to be in the hands of the Fixture Secretary at least **FOURTEEN DAYS** before the date concerned. Opponents must be informed that the application is being made and same must be in their hands at least **FOURTEEN DAYS** prior to date concerned.

Permission is not automatic, even if necessary time is given. Each application to be considered separately.

When a game is postponed through any cause, other than a broken fixture, the home secretary must contact the away club within seven days of such postponement and arrange a new date. Both clubs to inform the Fixture Secretary, in writing, of the re-arranged date.

Unless this is done within the **SEVEN DAYS** stated, the League will impose a date and that date will be binding.

When a pitch becomes unavailable for any reason, the venue will be reversed, unless the Home Club can arrange suitable alternative, including facilities.

Clubs breaking this rule will be dealt with by the Executive Committee. Games played without the necessary notice to the Fixture Secretary will be void.

2. Friendlies.

In all cases League matches shall take precedence over friendlies. and friendlies must be sanctioned by Gwent County FA

3. Tours.

Clubs undertaking tours, whether playing or not, must abide by the procedure laid down by Gwent County F.A. in their handbook. No tour will be sanctioned unless this is done. No Club may undertake a tour without the permission of Gwent County F.A., and The League.

4. Breaking Fixtures.

Clubs charged with breaking a fixture shall be dealt with by the League Management Committee. The offending club shall have up to three (3) points deducted from their total of points and fined as directed by the Management Committee. They will also be liable for any costs incurred by their opponents. A Club committing a third offence will be liable to such disciplinary action the Management Committee may determine, including expulsion from the League.

In all cases the game will be either rescheduled or awarded to the non-offending club as determined by the League Management Committee

Any Club unable to play a scheduled match due to suspension for non payment of fees or fines owed to the League or Gwent County FA will be deemed to have broken a fixture & the matter will be dealt with as above.

In the event of a Club being expelled, all results shall be expunged.

Any claim arising out of expenses involved when a club breaks fixture must be made to the Fixture Secretary within fourteen days of the date of the game.

A receipt showing payment must accompany the claim. No claim will be entertained unless these conditions are observed. Any such claim to be charged against the club breaking the fixture. The League will not accept liability for any such claims.

Any Club unable to play a scheduled match due to their suspension from playing on a local authority pitch because of non payment of fees will be deemed to have broken a fixture & the matter will be dealt with as above. Also the club will be given two weeks from notification of the debt to clear the matter with the local authority concerned or they will be liable to expulsion from the League

Any Club found guilty of conspiring or attempting to conspire with their opponents to deceive the LEAGUE into believing that a match was played when it was not will be **EXPULLED** from the League

5. Abandoned Matches

a1. Caused by late start:

In the event that a late start is the cause of a match being left unfinished, the League Management Committee shall determine if the result at the time the match finished shall stand.

a2. Caused by inclement weather:

When a match is abandoned due to inclement weather, the League Management Committee shall determine if the result at the time the match finished shall stand.

a3. Caused by Misconduct by Club/s

Any match abandoned by the Match Official due to indiscipline of a Club or Clubs must be reported by the match Official to the Gwent County Football Association with a copy of the report sent to the League Secretary. A charge of misconduct shall be issued to the offending club/s by the Gwent County Football Association. The Gwent County Football Association shall inform the League of the outcome of the Disciplinary Hearing. Any Club found guilty by the Area Football Association of having caused the abandonment of a match may have up to three (3) points deducted from its League record by the League Management Committee. Furthermore, the League Management Committee shall determine the result of the match as they deem fit or have the match replayed. In the event that both Clubs are found guilty by the Area Association, the League Management Committee may at its absolute discretion declare the match VOID and order that it be replayed.

a4. Caused by Team leaving the field of play.

In the event of any club leaving the field of play, without the permission of the referee, the Match Official must send a report to the Gwent County Football Association with a copy of the report sent to the League Secretary. A charge of misconduct shall be issued to the offending club/s by the Gwent County Football Association. The Gwent County Football Association will inform the League of the outcome of the Disciplinary Hearing and the result of the match shall be decided at the discretion of the League Management Committee, irrespective of the time played. The offending club may have up to three (3) points deducted from its League record.

A5. Caused by an injury to a player the field of play

When a match is abandoned due to an injury to a player, the League Management Committee shall determine if the result at the time the match finished shall stand or the game is replayed.

6. Registration & Transfers

The registration and transfer of players must be done on the Comet System and shall be in accordance with the current rules (Section H) and Regulations of the Football Association of Wales (as amended from time to time)

6.1 All Players must be registered for the club for which they are competing.

6.2 All clubs for whom the League has Registration Authority must register at least eleven players 7 days prior to the start of the season.

6.3 No registrations will be accepted after 5pm on the last Thursday in March each season,

6.4 The League will have the right to accept, reject or withhold a player's registration at any time.

6.5 The League will operate in accordance with the transfer system of the Comet System

6.6 No transfer will be permitted after 5pm on the last Thursday in March, each season.

6.7 The period of registrations & transfer of players will be July 1st until the last Thursday in March each season.

6.8 The deadline for Clubs to register a player with the relevant League is 12:00pm on the last working day prior to the match in which the club wishes the player to participate.

6.9 In the case of a male player reaching the age of sixteen (16) and in the case before the player reaches the age of nineteen (19) a player shall be permitted to play in both youth & adult football below level 2 in the pyramid system. The said player must be registered with each club if he plays youth and adult football for different clubs. For the avoidance of doubt, this right shall apply for the remainder of the season in which the said player reaches his nineteenth (19) birthday.

6.10 A player may only register for **ONE CLUB** at a time provided that this shall not prevent: (a) a youth player being registered with separate clubs to play both youth & adult football in the circumstances permitted in (6.9), (b) a player being registered with another club which only plays Association Football on a Sunday

6.11 A player may only be registered for three (3) clubs during the period 1st July to 30th June of the following year and during such period the player will only be eligible to play for two (2) clubs. **Provided that** if a player registers for a second club pursuant to the exemptions permitted in Rules 6.13 (a) or (b) in such cases the registration shall not count towards the total of three (3) registered clubs and playing for such second club shall not count towards the total of playing for two (2) clubs.

6.12 No player having taken part in matches for a club shall be allowed to join another club without first satisfying the officials of his existing club and intended club that he has discharged his reasonable financial and other liability to the club or clubs for which he is or was a playing member. It is the responsibility of the existing club to maintain records, mutually confirmed by the club and player, outlining any such liabilities.

6.13 The League reserves the right to accept or cancel a Player's registration at any time.

6.14 Any player having been dismissed from the field of play on three occasions during the current season, while playing for any Team/Club and having been proved guilty by the Gwent County Football Association for misconduct, the League Management Committee shall have the power to cancel the player's registration for the remainder of the season, and the Club to whom the Player is registered be warned as to the future conduct of its players

6.15 Where (i) a Club which plays in a National League and also has a reserve team playing in a league at Grassroots Level and (ii) the Club's first team (which plays in a National League) does not have a playing fixture on a given day, then on that given day no more than three (3) Players from the Club's first team (which played in the Club's last fixture in a National League) shall be allowed to play in the reserve team league fixture played on that given day.

7. Bona-fide players.

All matches shall be played under the Laws of the football Association of Wales.

Any bona-fide member of a Club shall be allowed to play provided (subject to Rule 6) he is not Registered with any other Club under this League during the Season at any time. If he has been so registered, permission for his transfer must be first obtained from the Club for which he is Registered, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld and also from the Executive Committee. A bona-fide Player is one who has signed an **Official Registration Form**, and has been duly Registered with the Comet System. (See Rule 6).

Minimum number of players to start or play the game is **SEVEN** of which one must be a goalkeeper

8. International Transfer Certificate

See F.A.W. instructions of 26 February 1998

9. Executive Committee Meetings.

Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held monthly during the playing season on the second Thursday or whenever deemed necessary by the League Secretary & Chairman

10. Clubs Joining.

Applications for admission by Clubs to the League must be made on the application form to the Fixture Secretary to be accompanied by fees (as per constitution rule 12).

Applicants for entry to the Premier Division or for running more than two teams in the League will be called for an interview by the Executive Committee.

See Rule 13 regarding names of Officials.

Name of Club cannot be changed after Club information has been given to the printers, any change of Club information, i.e. Secretary, Colours, etc., during the season will be subject to a **£15** administration fee.

Clubs wishing to change name of Club during the Close Season and before details go to print, must first obtain permission of Gwent County F.A by July 1st

This must be forwarded to the Fixture Secretary with application. A charge of **£20** will be made for such changes payable to the League.

All Clubs must be prepared to give the name of a club member who will attend a Referees course run by the Gwent County FA

11. Club Colours.

Each Club shall within 14 days of election or re-election, forward to the Fixture Secretary a statement of its distinguishing colours.

No team will be allowed to play in black shirts, goalkeepers included. This refers to the body part of the shirt. Colours of socks & stockings also to be shown.

This is to be a recorded part of Club colours.

Players jerseys MUST be numbered 1 to 16 or with numbers that relate to their comet players number

Away Team to change when similar.

All players in the League Matches shall play in the colours registered for their respective Clubs, and in the event of the colours being similar it shall be the duty of the Away Club to change colours for the match except where mutually arranged.

12. Dressing Accommodation.

All Clubs must provide adequate dressing room accommodation to include washing facilities for the use of visiting teams, with separate accommodation for the Referee, where possible, within a reasonable distance to the ground. This rule will be strictly enforced where facilities are available.

The League will not be responsible for the safety of players and officials property when in any dressing accommodation whether hired to a Club or the League, it is the responsibility of the Club or Official concerned

13. Parks Pitches.

Pitches are allocated by the Leisure & Amenities Dept. Tel 01633-670532 from the list provided by the League. Application for pitches other than for games in fixtures must be made through Fixture Secretary, enclosing a stamp for forwarding.

When a Public Pitch is unobtainable the Secretary of the Home Club shall inform the Referee and Visiting Club, and report such postponement to the Fixture Secretary immediately, enclosing a reply from Leisure Committee. For re-arrangement of such postponed matches see Rule (1).

Information regarding fitness of pitches can be obtained by phoning 01633-211907 after 9:30 am on Saturdays. Should conditions worsen after this report, the **MATCH REFEREE** will make the final decision. No one else will undertake such an inspection, unless with the approval of the League. Clubs with their own grounds are required to inform opponents and referee, clubs playing on parks pitches are required to inform the referee in all cases of cancellation. Failure to do so will involve the payment of expenses, plus any fine that the League Executive may impose.

Any Club found playing on a parks pitch called off by the Parks Dept will be charged with misconduct and fined accordingly

Clubs leasing a Newport Parks pitch are bound by the conditions of the previous paragraph, as they do not come under the category of a private ground with a qualified groundsman. They may ask the match referee to make an early inspection if they consider the pitch unfit, but they will be bound by his decision. If the match referee is not available for the early inspection, they may call upon another official referee to make the inspection. In such instances they must inform the match referee and the visitors immediately the inspection is made.

Match Referee implies fully qualified referee. Where such referee is appointed, the HOME club must contact the League for an official Referee to make the pitch inspection. His decision will be final. Unless this is done, clubs must abide by the Parks Department Bulletin. **Note.** This applies only to the postponement of games, caused by deteriorating conditions after the parks Bulletin is issued. The procedure cannot be used to re-instate pitches that have been declared unfit in the Parks Bulletin

14. Time of Kick-off.

Times of Kick Off to be not later than 2.30pm all season, and must be strictly adhered to. Applications for permission to alter the time of kick-off for special matches may be granted by the Executive, but such application must be made to the Fixture Secretary (in writing) **SEVEN** clear days before match. Clubs relying on Parks Pitches must kick-off at such times stated on their permit. Defaulting Clubs will be dealt with under Rule 22.

For Cup games, see Cup Rule 8 and Cup Rule 14(d).

Times of kick-off for Mid-Week games not subject to above.

Sunday morning games must start not later than 10:30a.m. Applications for permission to alter the kick off time must be in writing, seven clear days before the match and will be subject to the Executives decision.

Where a club has two teams, both teams must kick-off at the same time, except in Away games where the opponents kick-off is contrary to these arrangements.

No Player may play in two games on the same day where the second match kicks off less than two hours after the first match. (This includes games in Gwent Premier League and higher)

15. Late Starts and Abandoned Games.

The duration of all league Matches shall be 45 minutes each way, and must commence at the appointed time (see Rule 14). If the whole of the Players are not present, the teams shall start with those players who are then present. Any Club guilty of delaying the start shall be reported by the referee (who shall be fined £5 if he fails to do so), the Executive Committee will fine the offending Club if their explanation is unsatisfactory. Fines for late starts will be **£10 + £2 per minute**.

If the teams are not changed & ready to play within 15 minutes of the official kick-off time, the game will be abandoned. Any game kicking off more than 15 minutes later than the official kick-off time will be declared null and void, and the result expunged. The defaulting Club or Clubs will be charged with Breaking Fixture. (Rule 4)

Any match played to a finish & not subject to the previous paragraph will count as a League match.

League matches to be played for 90 minutes or an agreed time by both Captains. When a game of shorter duration than the stipulated time is agreed upon, the agreement must be in writing and signed by both Captains of the respective teams and the Referee before the game commences. No match constitutes a League match if not played for 30 minutes each way. If a match is abandoned through any cause, the referee shall only be paid half his fee plus his expenses, in accordance with League rules, then the home club shall pay the referee his remaining half fee due only when ordered to do so by the League Secretary by order of the Executive Committee.

16. Search of Registers

Should doubt arise as to the eligibility of any Players, the Registration Secretary shall give such Registered information as is necessary, or required, on payment of a fee of **£20** for each player concerned.

All applications should be made in writing and must be accompanied by fee.

This will not constitute a Protest, which must be made in the usual way and within the time limit laid down in Rule 17

The information given only in furtherance of a Protest

17. Protest and Ineligible players

Any club doubting the eligibility of a player/s of the opposing side, will report the matter to the referee of the player/s concerned, and the Referee will report it to the League on his match report card.

Protests must then be lodged with the Fixture Secretary within **SEVEN** (7) business days of the date of the match to which they refer. AND AN EXACT COPY OF SUCH PROTEST SHALL IN ADDITION BE FORWARDED BY RECORDED DELIVERY POST BY THE CLUB PROTESTING TO THE SECRETARY OF THE CLUB AGAINST WHICH PROTEST IS LAID WITHIN SUCH TIME LIMIT AS AFORESAID. In the event of a search being first made as provided in Rule 26, an extension of 48 hours will be granted for protests arising out of such search. To prevent frivolous protests fee to be **£50** must be deposited. If the Committee deem the protest frivolous, the fee will be forfeited.

All protests must be accompanied by the fee or they will be rendered void. Any club playing an ineligible man shall be:-

- (a) When the winning club plays an ineligible player/s.
 - 1. The match shall be awarded to the non offending club.
 - 2. The result will be recorded as 5-0.
 - (b) When the losing side plays an ineligible player/s.
 - 1. The result of the game to stand.
 - 2. The result will be recorded as 5-0.
 - (c) In drawn matches where one club plays an ineligible player/s.
 - 1. The match shall be awarded to the non offending club.
 - 2. The result will be recorded as 5-0.
 - (d) When BOTH clubs plays an ineligible player/s.
 - 1. The match shall be declared void and no points awarded.
 - 2. The match shall be replayed.
 - (e) In all cases clubs will be liable to fines and expenses as the League Executive direct.
 - (f) Any player taking part in a match in which he is not eligible, shall be reported to the Gwent County F.A. He is also liable to have his registration cancelled at the discretion of the League Executive.
- This Rule is as directed by the Gwent County Football Association.

18, Appeal.

Any appeal on the decision must be served on the Gwent County Football Association not more than **SEVEN** (7) Business Days in the case of an appeal arising out of a decision relating to anything other than a cup or play-off match or **THREE** (3) Business Days in the case of an appeal arising out of a decision relating to a cup or play-off match after the earlier of (a) the League announcing its decision at the time of its hearing (if any) or (b) receipt by the Party appealing of written notification of the Leagues decision. For the purposes of (b) above the provisions of Section B Rule 24 of the Gwent County Handbook (as to the services or notices etc.) shall apply to the said written notification issued by the League.

Any Request Notice lodged after **SEVEN** (7) Business Days or **THREE** (3) Business Days as in the case may be rejected unless the Party lodging the same can demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the Gwent County Football Association that it was not reasonably practicable to lodge the Request Notice within the time limit; The following appropriate Request Fee must accompany the Request Notice: **£50.00** in all cases.

Any Request Notice which is not accompanied by the appropriate Request Fee will be rejected by the Gwent County Football Association and any incorrect fee will be returned and the time will continue to run for the service of the Request Notice within the original **SEVEN** (7) Business Days period or **THREE** (3) Business Days as in the case may be.

19. Substitutes.

Each Club may use five substitutes in a game providing that: (a) They are registered with the Club. (b) They are on the list of five named substitutes given to the Referee before the game. (c) They are not in contravention of any League or Cup rule. (d) Are not under suspension or like penalty. No substitution allowed to replace a player sent off the field by the Referee.

20. Clubs Disbanded.

Any team withdrawing after acceptance into the League will incur a withdrawal fee of **£75**.

(a)--The players of a disbanded team, which has discharged its liabilities to the league, may register with another team, subject to the following:-

(b)--No more than two players of the disbanded team can register for any one club during the current season, always provided that the conditions of paragraph (b) have been observed. Subsequent transfers also affected by this ruling.

In subsequent seasons, the players of the clubs disbanded in previous seasons may register for other clubs on payment of the proportionate payment of his former club's debt. They are not eligible unless this is done.

(c)-- The results of disbanded teams will be expunged.

(d)-- Where a club has more than one team entered in the League, it is the team in the

lowest division that must be disbanded.

(e)--When a team is forced to withdraw due to financial problems, and with players owing money to the Club, Gwent County FA or the League, they will have their registration held until their proportion of the outstanding debt is cleared. If the outstanding debt is not cleared during the current season then that player will not be allowed to register for ensuing season until the debt is cleared.

Players will also have their names sent to GCFA along with the outstanding amount

21. Home Team to Notify Visitors and Referees.

Each HOME club will notify visitors and referees of venue, kick-off time and also give instructions regarding route to the ground. This must be done, in writing or by phone at least SEVEN DAYS prior to the match taking place. Failure to comply will involve a fine of **£30** for non notification of Visitors and **£30** for non notification of Referee for each offence. Persistent offenders (three offences) will be brought before the Executive Committee and fined as directed, this to be in addition to fines for the individual cases. This rule will be strictly enforced. On the day of the game, each club will produce names of the players taking part.

(a).--Home Club to notify Visitors of colours. (See Rule 11).

(b).-- Non-receipt of notification is no excuse for a team not turning up. In cases of games being played on a private ground, visitors should travel for a kick-off in accordance with Rule 14

When home club plays on parks pitches, visitors can obtain information as to venue and time of kick-off by telephoning 01633 656757 when game is not on list issued by Parks Department.

Parks office is closed on Saturday mornings. Telephone numbers of various Parks given inside front cover.

In each case, visitors not receiving notification from home club as per Rule 20, should inform Fixture Secretary.

Home Clubs must inform opponents, referee and Fixture Secretary of any cancellation, but refer to Para (c) re Parks.

(c).-- Information regarding fitness of Newport Parks pitches can be obtained by telephoning 01633--816035 after 9:30 am. on Saturdays. This information is available for clubs and referees and all are urged to use the service.

(d).--Two balls to be provided by home team. Both to be in match condition. They must be shown to the referee before the game commences. Clubs not conforming will be fined **£10** for each offence.

22. Eligibility of Players.

(a). No Contract players are eligible to play in this League.

(b). The onus as regards eligibility of players for all divisions shall be that of Clubs.

(c). Any player of Non-Contract status shall be eligible for the ALL Division.

Providing they comply with Rule 6

Sunday Divisions.

(d). These sections shall be open to all non-contract clubs in Gwent. The formation of these Divisions to be left to the discretion of the Executive Committee.

(e). No more than three players of Welsh League status (or similar) will be allowed to REGISTER for any Sunday League club irrespective of division. This applies to League games..

(f). Rules for Sunday Divisions to be same as for Saturday divisions unless otherwise stated.

Definition of Welsh League (or similar) player.

A Welsh league (or similar) player is one who has signed a registration form for a club In that League during the current season. Cancellation of that registration will not affect This definition. He will remain a Welsh League player as far as eligibility with the Newport and District League is concerned until the end of the current season.

(See cup Rule (10)

Conditions of eligibility of players in these Sunday Divisions NOT to be taken into consideration when assessing eligibility for playing in Saturday League games.

23. Results.

All HOME clubs must inform the Fixture Secretary, of all results. This must be done on the day of the game, between 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. This applies to Saturday and Sunday games. Mid-week game results must be sent in not later than 9.00 p.m. on the day of the game. When a game is postponed, the HOME club must inform the Fixture Secretary accordingly. This must be done at the same time as results are normally phoned in. Failure to comply carries a fine of **£15** for each offence. (Note that AWAY sides do not have to phone). In addition, home clubs, must forward a referee match report for every game with a official Referee to the Fixture Secretary on the form available on the website. This to be in the hands of the Fixture Secretary within TWO DAYS of the date of the game. Failure to comply with this part of the rule also carries a fine of **£15** for offence;

24. Team Sheets

Each team must completed Comet team sheet a half hour before kickoff, so that it can be forwarded to Referee, Opponents & Fixture Secretary by email.

Failure to comply will result in a £20 fine.

25. Referees.

Referees shall be appointed on the Comet System from a list supplied by Gwent County F.A.

Referees **must** accept or reject appointments within 48 hours. If no reply is received it will be assumed appointment is accepted.

The Referee's Fees shall be as follows:-

All Divisions.....**£30.00**

All fees must be paid by the HOME club and payment made BEFORE the game. Normal Travelling Expenses will be paid in addition (cheap fares to be used where available) and only the actual fare paid to be charged to the Club. If travelling by car, expenses to be 45p per mile. Clubs are encouraged to report to the Fixture Secretary any excessive Travelling Expense charges. Referee's expenses to be based on distance from his home address to the ground and back. Clubs failing to pay fees and expenses as laid down in this rule will be liable to a fine as directed by the Executive Committee with a minimum of £20. If through any cause the match is not played and the Referee attended the Ground, he shall be paid half his fee in addition to his travelling expenses (if any) provided he has not received Notice that the match will not be played. Should the match not be played on account of the failure of either of the competing teams to appear, such defaulting Club shall be ordered to make good any expenses incurred for such match.

The referee shall decide as to the fitness of ground unless other authority takes priority.

(See Rule 20(c)

No Referee can register as a player in the League until he cancels his Referee's Registration.

Referees must report all cautions and sending-off's to Gwent county F.A. and to the League.

Referees equipment and possessions must not be damaged in any way by Players or Spectators, offending Clubs will be made to make good the damage and will also be liable to a fine of **£25** for each offence.

26. Referee's Duties.

(a) Submit report on Comet System

(b)Referees must attend disciplinary hearings arising from their Reports should their attendance be requested by the League. Failure to do so will be reported to the Executive Committee, which will take any action deemed necessary, and will report the matter To Gwent County F.A.

27. Referees Absent.

In the event of the Referee or Assistant Referee appointed:-`

- (a) Not attending the match, the home club's '**STAND-IN**' referee will officiate, such Referee or Assistant Referee shall be considered to be a League official for the time being.
- (b) failing to give a satisfactory explanation, the absent referee will be reported to Gwent County F.A. for misconduct.
- (c) Start of game will be taken as proof of agreement.

The Gwent County F.A. may take a referee from this League, at any time, to referee a Welsh League/Gwent Premier League game. When this happens, the REFEREE must inform the FIXTURE SECRETARY and the HOME club of their non-availability. If the HOME club are not notified, they must inform the Fixture Secretary.

28. STAND-IN Referees

Each club must provide a 'STAND-IN' referee and a suitable whistle. All Club STAND-IN Referees or his deputy must attend the Leagues training course on the date notified to clubs at the start of the season. Failure for a club to be represented will result in a fine of **£60**

These 'STAND-IN' referees must be used when no official referee is present. In the event of a match not being played due to the failure of the HOME club to provide a 'STAND-IN' referee, they will be charged with Breaking a Fixture. (Rule 4). When a STAND-IN referee is used he will referee the whole of the game except in emergencies.

Referees must report all cautions and sending-off's to Gwent County F.A. and to the League.

Stand in referees or their designated deputy must attend the Referees course in September, the date of which is listed in the dates of compulsory meetings, and failure to attend will result in a **£60** fine

29. Neutral Assistant Referees.

Each Club in a game must provide a Linesperson, failing to provide a Club Linesperson will result in the offending Club being fined **£10**. A Club may apply for Neutral Assistant Referees for any particular match, and such Assistant Referees shall be appointed by the Referee's Committee, if available, and the Club making applications for such Neutral Assistant Referees must apply at least **SEVEN DAYS** before the match for which they are required.

The Executive Committee may appoint Neutral Assistant Referees in any match where they consider them necessary. Fees for Assistant Referees, half of Referee's fee.

30. Club Linemen.

Both Club Linemen should report to the Referee before the start of the game to receive his instructions. They must be informed that no matter what their personal opinion may be, the decision of the Referee is final and must not be questioned. The work allotted to them as Club linesperson is to signal when the ball is ENTIRELY over the touchline and to indicate which side is entitled to the throw-in, subject always to the decision of the referee. Club Linesperson will be classed as League Officials during their duties as linesperson.

31. Hire of Grounds.

Any Club playing under the auspices of this League shall be compelled (subject to any existing tenancy agreement) to let their ground (properly marked and with nets and other equipment) and usual dressing accommodation to the League for Cup, Inter-League and Championship Matches.

32. Admission to Grounds.

Any Member of the Executive Committee shall have free access to any ground during the progress of any match upon the production of his Executive Card or Badge. Such Card or Badge to be returned to the League Secretary by the Executive member on his ceasing to be in office.

33. Disorderly Conduct.

In order that League Competitions may be carried on in a fair and sportsmanship manner, the Referees are empowered in all matches to put down the slightest attempt at rough play or intimidation. They have also power to close the game at any time from the same cause or where the interference of the Spectators incites to any display of feeling or rough play, in which case the Spectators at any match stopped on this account cannot claim any return of money paid for admission.

The League reserves the right to suspend the registration of any player pending the Hearing of a case involving Violent Conduct.

Every Club is responsible for the behaviour of their officials and their supporters. Failure to do so will result in the club being charged with misconduct.

34. Misconduct.

All cases of misconduct shall be dealt with by the Gwent County Football Association, Disciplinary Secretary. (Under GCFA Rule 37)

Every Home Club is responsible for the safety of the Referee from the time he arrives at the ground until the time he departs

Any Club found guilty of serious misconduct or bringing the game into disrepute will be liable to be expelled from the League.

Any Club that has 3 players sent off in one season for violent conduct will be charged with misconduct and summoned to appear before the Executive Committee.

35. Promotion and Relegation--Championships.

Goal difference to count in cases where points are level. Should points and goal difference be the same, the team scoring the most goals shall be declared champions. Championships to be declared on positions of clubs at end of current league season (subject to Rule Paragraph 3).

If a season is badly affected by adverse weather conditions, or other serious issues the Executive shall have power to impose special rulings to decide championships.

Promotion and relegation will apply to the two bottom clubs of Division 1 and the two top clubs of Division 2 and likewise between Division 2 and Division 3.

Promotion to Premier Division from Division 1 and relegation from premier Division to be at discretion of Executive Committee. Clubs requesting places in Premier Division will be interviewed by Executive Committee.

36. Promotion to Gwent Premier League (This Rule is as directed by GCFA)

The Football Association of Wales has given approval for the Gwent County Football Association Ltd to retain control of the Gwent Leagues in membership of The pyramid Structure.

(a) The two lowest clubs in Division Two of the Gwent Premier League may be relegated to the District Feeder League immediately below within the Pyramid System. Two Clubs from the four District Feeder Leagues will be eligible for promotion to replace the bottom two teams in the Gwent Premier League Division Two. If there are more than two clubs eligible for promotion from the District League, there will be a Play Off; the format of the Play Offs will be dependent on the number of teams eligible for promotion and will be decided by the Competitions Committee. If there are 2 clubs or less eligible for promotion there will be automatic promotion. If there are vacancies in the Gwent Premier League Division Two a maximum of a further two clubs will be promoted. In all circumstances a maximum of one club from each League can be promoted.

(b) Clubs will be considered for promotion from the Feeder Leagues if:

- (i) The Club has completed three (3) full seasons.
- (ii) Finished the season as Champions of their League
- (iii) Have the required ground criteria and the necessary facilities required by the Gwent Premier League

The runner up can be accepted if the champion club does not want promotion or does not meet the Criteria as laid down in (b) above, This will then be subject to (a) above

All clubs who wish to make an application to be assessed against the relevant Ground Criteria and therefore who, if successful, will be eligible to be considered for promotion to Pyramid Level 6 in the following season, subject to Rule 36(a) & 36(b), must do so in writing to the Secretary of the Gwent Premier League by Recorded Delivery/Registered Post with a copy to the Secretary of the Gwent County Football Association and their respective League Secretary, between the start of the season and 31st December. The inspection fee of **£50.00** (cheque to be made payable to the Gwent Premier League) must accompany the application. A first ground inspection will be made by the Gwent Premier League before the 1st February and clubs will be informed what work they require to do to meet the Ground Criteria. All work as detailed by the Gwent Premier League must be completed to comply in full with the Ground Criteria of the Gwent Premier League by the 30th April to be eligible for promotion. Under no circumstances will a club be promoted if they do not meet the Ground Criteria by the 30th April deadline. Time shall be of the essence in respect of all deadlines in this Rule.

It must be noted that in addition to the bottom two clubs in Division Two (2) of the Gwent Premier league further teams may be relegated if the number of teams being relegated from Level 3 of the Pyramid System does not equate to the number of teams being promoted to Level 3 from the Gwent Premier League. This is to ensure there are no more than 16 teams in each division of the Gwent Premier League.

37. Custody of Cups.

The Winners of the respective Divisions of the League shall furnish to the League Secretary for approval by the Executive Committee the names of two bondsmen, who will be surety for the full value of the Cup awarded in such Division. Guarantee forms will be sent out at the end of the season and must be returned to the League Secretary not later than June 1st of the current year. Failure to return the forms by this date will result in the Trophies not being presented on presentation night.

The said Bondsmen shall be required to execute the following guarantee:-

We, Messrs.....
of..... and.....
of.....members of and representing
the..... A.F.C., which has now been declared to have won the
Newport & District Football League Cup..... (Division),
and the same having been delivered to us by the
Cup Trustees, do hereby, on behalf of the said Club, individually and collectively engage to return same to the League Secretary for the time being 28 days before the final match in next season, in good order and condition, and providing the said Cup is destroyed or damaged by fire, whilst under our care and custody, on behalf of the said Club we agree to refund to the League the amount of its value or cost of thorough repair. Should the said Cup be lost or destroyed from any other cause whilst under our care and custody, on behalf of the said Club, we hereby individually and collectively undertake to pay the sum of £....., the amount of the value of the Cup. We undertake also that no inscription shall be allowed to be placed upon the Cup by any person.

38. Rule Books.

Each team shall be responsible for a handbook, same to be handed to their representative at a special meeting. Failure to send a representative, such Club shall be fined **£50**. Any Club withdrawing is liable for payment of these handbooks.

39, Alteration of Rules.

No alteration shall be made in these Rules except at an Annual Meeting specially convened for that purpose, before the playing season ends. All proposed alterations of Rules to be in the hands of the League Secretary by 14th February. No alteration of such Rules shall be deemed to be carried unless by two-thirds majority of the Members present. Such alteration to become operative at the commencement of the ensuing season. Subject to Gwent County FA approval.

Proposed changes to Rules can only be made by clubs for their own part of the League.
I.e. Sunday clubs can only propose changes for Sunday section, whilst Saturday clubs can only make proposals for Saturday sections

40. Balance Sheet.

The Annual Report and Balance Sheet, duly certified, shall be forwarded to each Club before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

41. Non-Attendance at Hearings.

Clubs failing to attend disciplinary case hearings when called upon to do so, shall be liable to such fines as the Executive Committee may direct.

42. Matters not provided for.

Matters not provided for in these Rules shall be dealt with by the Executive Committee.

CUP RULES
THE SENIOR CHALLENGE BOWL,
THE JUNIOR and SUNDAY CHALLENGE CUP & PLATE COMPETITIONS.

1. Name.

The Competition shall be called:-

- (a) The Dennis Herbert Senior Challenge Bowl Competition.
- (b) The Junior Challenge Cup Competition.
- (c) The Monmouthshire Building Society Sunday Challenge Cup Competition.
- (d) The Villa Dino Challenge Plate Competition.

2. Area.

- (a) The Senior Challenge Bowl Competition shall be open to all Premier Division Clubs.
- (b) The Junior Challenge Cup shall be limited to First, Second and Third Division Clubs.
- (c) The Villa Dino Challenge Plate shall be between the winner of the Premier X and Premier Y.
- (d) The Sunday Cup shall be open to all Sunday Division Clubs.
- (e) All Clubs must be affiliated to the Gwent County Football Association in accordance with Constitution Rule 11

3. Conditions Except in exceptional circumstances when the the League reserves the right to change the format

The Competitions shall be conducted on Cup-tie System, opponents in each round being drawn for; the draw to be made by the Chairman of the Executive Committee in the presence of the other Members of the Committee. The Executive Committee shall have power to exempt such clubs as they may think fit from the Qualifying Rounds of the Senior Challenge Bowl Competition.

In the Cup Competitions 16 Medals or Mementos only will be presented to the winners and the Runners-up, or as the Executive may direct.

Extra Medals or Mementos will be allowed to be purchased by each club concerned.

No order for extra medals or Mementos will be accepted unless accompanied by remittance to cover cost of same.

4. Entries & Fees

All Clubs must enter Cup competition relevant to their division,
Fee is paid via Comet of **£20**

5. Date of Rounds.

Rounds shall be played on dates decided upon by Executive. The Executive Committee shall have power to arrange Qualifying Rounds as they deem advisable.
All Byes shall be given in the first round played in the Competition, whether qualifying round or otherwise.

Any Club responsible for not playing a Cup Fixture on the Conference date will be charged with breaking a fixture and dealt with accordingly by the Executive Committee. If found guilty the defaulting club will be struck out of the Cup and fined an amount As deemed fit.

6. Choice of Ground.

That matches in the rounds & Semi-Finals shall be played on the ground of the team first drawn whether a private ground or public park, such ground to be registered with the Fixture Secretary prior to the commencement of the Competition, and to be to the approval of the League Executive. If the ground is unavailable on dates arranged by the League, venue shall be reversed, unless team due to stage game can arrange alternative ground suitable for game. Executive to be informed in such cases. The Finals on enclosed grounds to be selected by the Executive Committee¹ where a 'gate' can be taken. Executive to have power to make alternative arrangements regarding financial matters relating to game.

7. Home Team to Notify Visitors and Referees.

Each HOME club will notify visitors and referees of venue, kick-off time and also give instructions regarding route to the ground. This must be done, in writing or by phone at least **SEVEN DAYS** prior to the match taking place. Failure to comply will involve a fine of **£30** for non notification of Visitors and **£30** for non notification of Referee for each offence Persistent offenders (three offences) will be brought before the Disciplinary Committee and fined as directed, this to be in addition to fines for the individual cases. This rule will be strictly enforced. On the day of the game, each club will produce Names of the players taking part.

8. Drawn Games.

If the scores are level at the end of normal time, fifteen minutes each way extra time must be played. If scores are still level after this extra time, round to be decided on penalties procedure. This to be as follows:

Each side to take FIVE penalty kicks, each by a different player, all of whom must be playing at the end of extra time. If a man has been substituted by another, he CANNOT be included in those taking the penalties. Sides will take kicks alternately. The side scoring most goals from penalties to be winners of the game, if the scores are level at end of five penalties each, the procedure will continue with other players of each side (one kick only) until such time as a penalty is missed, when the opposing side will be declared the winners, providing equal number of penalties have been taken by both sides. Kick-off to be half an hour earlier than that stated in League games to allow for extra time If for some reason a Cup Match has not reached a final result on the designated conference date, for whatever reason. The HOME club must inform the Fixture Secretary immediately. Furthermore unless advised otherwise the Cup match will be rearranged for the following Saturday or Sunday with the same Referee. The Home club to notify the Referee and their Opponents of the new date. Clubs so involved in such replays must inform their League opponents that their match is postponed, any Referee allocated to those games will be re-allocated by the Fixture Secretary.

9. Registration of Players.

Registrations are covered by normal League registration, apart from the following:-

- (a). Clubs with more than one team in a particular competition may not play a player who has played for another team in the competition. When a club has more than ONE team in a particular competition, the names of players registered for EACH team in that competition must be shown on a list to be given to the Fixture Secretary NOT LATER THAN THE DAY BEFORE THE FIRST ROUND. Additional registrations to the club must be allocated to one particular team of the club before he can play and this information must be given to the Fixture Secretary accordingly. (Attention is drawn to Para. (c) of this Rule).
- (b). A player transferred from another club, who has played for his former club in that competition in the current season shall be cup-tied. A player transferred who is not cup-tied is not eligible until his transfer has been completed and the confirmation is received back .and subject to (c) below
- (c). Cup registration to become effective SEVEN DAYS after registration (subject to

Para. (b) above) and Rule 10. This to be seven days before original conference date of the game (d). Cup squads must coincide with League divisions, in that players named in squads must be entered in the team they normally play for.

(e) Finals and Semi-Finals of all Cups. At all cup finals and semi-finals a registration check will be held, Clubs to list teams on Comet 1 hour before kick off on Semi Finals & Finals. This will entail the inspection of the registration of all players and substitutes, any player whose registration is not correct will not be allowed to play.

10. Ineligible Players.

No Player registered as a Contract player by any Registered Football Association, shall be eligible for any of these Cup Competitions. (See League Rule 21).

Any Player of Non-Contract status shall be eligible to play in the Senior Challenge Bowl & The Villa Dino Plate Premier Challenge

No Player who has been named on the team sheet whether in the team or substitute & played on Comet a total of 8 or more Premier Division games or Gwent Premier League games or a Cup game in those Leagues can play in the Junior Cup

No one playing any game in a League of higher status than Gwent F.A., such as Welsh League or higher, can play in Junior Cup. The only exceptions are games played in Gwent County Amateur Cup & FAW cups

In the Sunday Challenge Cup, the players classed as 'Welsh League' players will not be allowed to compete. (See League Rule 21).

11. Protest and Ineligible players

Any club doubting the eligibility of a player/s of the opposing side, will report the matter to the referee of the player/s concerned, and the Referee will report it to the League on his match report card.

Protests must then be lodged with the Fixture Secretary within **THREE** Business days of the date of the match to which they refer. AND AN EXACT COPY OF SUCH PROTEST SHALL IN ADDITION BE FORWARDED BY RECORDED DELIVERY POST BY THE CLUB PROTESTING TO THE SECRETARY OF THE CLUB AGAINST WHICH PROTEST IS LAID WITHIN SUCH TIME LIMIT AS AFORESAID. In the event of a search being first made as provided in Rule 11, an extension of 48 hours will be granted for protests arising out of such search. To prevent frivolous protests a fee of **£50** must be deposited. If the Committee deem the protest frivolous, the fee will be forfeited.

All protests must be accompanied by the fee or they will be rendered void. Any Club proved guilty of playing an ineligible player, shall be struck out of the competition, and the match shall be awarded to the opposing side, who shall enter the next round.

The Offending Club will be fined for Misconduct as directed by the Executive Committee.

The defaulting club shall pay such expenses of opponents as the League shall direct.

12. Search of Registers.

Should doubt arise as to the eligibility of any Players, the Fixture Secretary shall give such Registered information as is necessary, or required, on payment of a fee of **£20** for each player concerned.

All applications should be made in writing and must be accompanied by fee.

This will not constitute a Protest, which must be made in the usual way and within the time limit laid down in Rule 11.

The information given only in furtherance of a Protest.

13. Team Leaving Field.

Any team leaving the field before the expiration of the game without the consent of the Referee, shall be adjudged to have lost the match, and the offending Club will be charged with misconduct, and dealt with by the Executive Committee.

14. Appeal.

Any appeal on the decision must be served on the Gwent County Football Association not more than **seven** (7) Business Days in the case of an appeal arising out of a decision relating to anything other than a cup or play-off match or **three** (3) Business Days in the case of an appeal arising out of a decision relating to a cup or play-off match after the earlier of (a) the League announcing its decision at the time of its hearing (if any) or (b) receipt by the Party appealing of written notification of the Leagues decision. For the purposes of (b) above the provisions of Section B Rule 24 of Gwent County Handbook (as to the services or notices etc.) shall apply to the said written notification issued by the League. Any Request Notice lodged after **seven** (7) Business Days or **three** (3) Business Days as in the case may be, will be rejected unless the Party lodging the same can demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the Gwent County Football Association that it was not reasonably practicable to lodge the Request Notice within the time limit.

The following appropriate Request Fee must accompany the Request Notice: **£50.00** in all cases.

Any Request Notice which is not accompanied by the appropriate Request Fee will be rejected. by the Gwent County Football Association and any incorrect fee will be returned and the time will continue to run for the service of the Request Notice within the original **seven** (7) Business Days period or **three** (3) Business Days as in this case may be.

15. Duration of Game.

The duration of ALL CUP ROUNDS shall be 45 minutes each way. Matches must commence at the appointed time such time to be fixed by the Executive Committee. Any Club guilty of delaying the start shall be reported by the referee (who shall be fined £5 if he fails to do so). The Executive Committee will fine the offending Club or Clubs a sum as directed, and for a second offence shall be liable to be struck out of the Competition. Cup matches to be played not less than 90 minutes, and at all times to be re-played if abandoned (See Cup Rule 13).

(b) Any Club found guilty of breaking a Cup fixture will be liable to be struck out of the Competition for the Season and the round awarded to opponents, and in addition to be fined according to Rule. **No club will be allowed to postpone a Cup Conference date.** No club will be allowed to postpone a Cup Date arranged by the League.

(c) If a match is abandoned through any cause. The referee shall only be paid half his fee plus his expenses, in accordance with League rules, pending the decision of the League Executive as to whether the abandoned game stands as played. Then the home club shall pay the referee his remaining half fee due only when ordered to do so by the League Secretary by order of the Executive Committee.

(d) Kick Off time for Cup rounds to be 30 minutes before normal league kick off time (Saturday Divisions only)

16. Results.

All HOME clubs must inform the Fixture Secretary, by telephone, of all results. This must be done on the day of the game, between 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. This applies to Saturday and Sunday games. Mid-week game results must be phoned in not later than 9.00 p.m. on the day of the game. When a game is postponed, the HOME club must inform the Fixture Secretary accordingly. This must be done at the same time as results are normally phoned in. Failure to comply carries a fine of **£15** for each offence. (Note that AWAY sides do not have to phone). In addition, ALL clubs, home and away, must forward a match report for every game. This to be in the hands of the Fixture Secretary within THREE DAYS of the date of the game. Failure to comply with this part of the rule also carries a minimum fine of **£15** These forms will be perused by the Fixture Secretary, and ClubSecretaries sending in a false report will be deemed guilty of misconduct and dealt with under League Rule 35. (See League Rule 24 last paragraph).

17. Referees and Assistant Referees.

Referees shall be appointed from a monthly list supplied by Gwent County F.A.

Referees **must** accept or reject appointments within 48 hours. If no reply is received it will be assumed appointment is accepted.

In the event of there being no Referee or the Referee appointed not being available, the club's '**STAND-IN**' referee will officiate, such Referee shall be considered to be a League official for the time being.

Fees:- Rounds.....**£30.00**

Semi-Final.....**£40.00**

Assistant Referees, when appointed, fees to be 50% those of referee. In finals a memento will be granted in lieu of appropriate fee. Normal fares in addition (cheap fares to be used where available) and only the actual fare paid to be charged to the Club. If travelling by car, expenses to be 45p per mile.

In the event of the game being abandoned for any cause, only half fees, plus expenses, shall be paid. Expenses to be based on distance from his home address to the ground and back.

(b). Each Club in the Semi-Final or Final shall provide TWO match balls, which are to be shown to the Referee before the game. Clubs to be responsible for the balls they provide.

18. Gate Monies.

In each Semi-Final, after deduction of expenses, the rest shall be divided, one third to the League and one-third to the two contesting teams. Executive to have discretionary powers regarding gate at Semi-Finals. They also have power to decide on the form the Semi-Finals shall take.

That each team in a Semi-Final shall be permitted to send one representative to act as gateman with members of the Executive Committee; each club to bear the expenses of their representatives. This is to apply only when a 'gate' is taken.

In the Final tie, the whole of the proceeds shall be given to League funds.

19. Custody of Cups.

Both Clubs competing in the Cup Finals shall be called upon to furnish two approved Bondsman, on the forms provided SEVEN DAYS before the match. The Bondsman of the winning teams will stand surety for the full value of the respective Cups in accordance with League Rules. The form of the losing finalists will be returned to the Club. Failure to provide the forms by the above date will result in the Cup not being presented. All Trophies shall be returned to the League Secretary in accordance with League Rule 37.

20. Cup Rules

Where not stated in Cup Rules, League Rules to apply.

21. Matters Not Provided For.

Matters not provided for in these Rules shall be dealt with by the Executive Committee.

22. Sunday Cup

Conditions as Senior Bowl, but Saturday League Cup constitution not affected by Cup constitution.

23. Cup Finals--Stewards.

In all Cup Finals, each team will provide five Stewards to help control spectators. Names of these stewards must be given to the League Secretary three days before the game. They will report to the League Secretary twenty minutes before time of kick-off

PLAYERS UNDER THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN

Any Club wishing to Register Players under the age of **Eighteen on 31st August 2025**

with this League. **Must provide the League with the name of a Welfare Officer for the Club**

The leagues Welfare Officer is Mrs. Bev Jordan, who will provide Clubs with the necessary Form that must be completed by your clubs nominated Welfare Officer, and give any information & advice you may require.

PLAYER INSURANCE

Players are covered by the FAW on completion of registration by a general policy a copy of which can be found on the FAW website.

Notes for Secretaries

1. Make Sure you read the rule book and make yourself conversant with the rules.
2. Reply to all correspondence the same day it is received, it only has to be done once. The name of the club should be on all correspondence.
3. All correspondence will be sent via the registered secretary, i.e. as listed in the handbook.
4. Attend all meetings to which you are summoned to represent your club, or send a reliable substitute.
5. If ever in doubt, please contact the relevant Secretary who can advise you on the matter.
6. **No telephone calls will be accepted by the officers of the League after 9:00 p.m., unless by prior arrangement.**
7. Be sure all your players are properly registered.
8. Fill in the match report forms & referee report form immediately and send to the Fixture Secretary forms immediately and send to the Fixture Secretary as stated in rules Failure to comply carries a £15 fine for each failure.
9. Remember to phone in the match score if you are the home team, even if the match is not played, as per rule.
10. All Cheques and Postal Orders to the League must be made payable to **.N.D.A.F.L. and not Gwent County FA**

FINES & FEE TARIFF	
1. Failure to answer Correspondence	£20
2. Failure not to attend compulsory meetings	£60
3. Playing shirts not numbered	£10 per shirt
4. Playing in unregistered kit or mismatched kit	£10 per player
5. Late Kick-off	£10 + £2 per minute
6. Failure to provide 2 Match Footballs	£10
7. Failure to provide corner flags	£10
8. Failure to provide Club Linesperson	£10
9. Failure to Report Result to Fixture Secretary	£15
10. Failure to send Referees report (electronic format)	£20
11. Failure to Notify Opponents of Match Details	£30
12. Failure to Notify Referee of Match Details	£30
13 Failure to Confirm Club Committee Details	£15
14. Breaking Fixture (Up to 3 points may be deducted plus fine)	£60, £70, £80
15. Failure to Confirm Team Sheet on Comet	£20
16. Failure to Complete match phases/goal scores on Comet	£15
17. Withdrawal from League	£75
18. Protest Fee	£50
19. Search Fee	£20

GWENT PREMIER LEAGUE GROUND CRITERIA

The following criteria is laid down by the above League for clubs who finish first or second in the Premier X and who wish to apply for entry into the above named League. It does not apply to the N.D.A.F.L

The following ground criteria will apply to all clubs in the League. Clubs **MUST** have this criteria which will also apply to new clubs entering the League.

1. All matches are to be played on private grounds or on grounds deemed suitable by the League Management Committee. If another pitch/pitches are in close proximity the pitch being used for matches in the League must be fully enclosed. The boundary enclosure shall be of a solid structure with a minimum height of 4'6" and capable of preventing unauthorised access.
2. All Clubs shall have the playing area of their ground permanently enclosed by a solid barrier during the playing season. Rope or wire is NOT acceptable. In certain circumstances (where cricket or other sport is played in the summer months) where it is not possible to erect a permanent barrier, it may be allowed to have one side of the ground enclosed by close mesh security type fencing fixed into the ground.
The shortest distance between the touch line and pitch perimeter barriers should not be less than 1.83 metres.
3. Clubs must provide two covered dug outs adjacent to the playing area. They must be capable of accommodating a minimum of Eight seated persons, and the floor must have a solid foundation (concrete, tarmac, or paved slabs). A technical area for both clubs must be clearly marked out in front of both dug outs, which must not extend more than 2 metres either side of the dug outs. Only substitutes, manager, coaches and medical staff are allowed to be in the dugout, only ONE person is allowed to stand in the Technical Area at any one time.
4. The minimum size of the pitch is 105 x 60 yards, or metric equivalent. Goal posts and goal net supports must be of professional manufacture and meet the requirements of the Laws of the Game. They must be identical.
Clubs must keep their ground in a proper playing condition and maintain a good playing surface.
5. Goal nets and regular height corner flags to must be used at all times. The pitch markings to be easily distinguishable by match officials and players, under normal circumstances they should be white in colour.
6. All clubs to provide adequate dressing room accommodation within reasonable proximity of the playing area, which must be separate for both teams. The dressing rooms for both teams must be heated, well ventilated, free of damp and secure, and capable of accommodating a minimum of 16 persons.
7. Clubs must have toilet facilities of at least one W/C and one hand basin with hot and cold running water and a minimum of one urinal with in the vicinity of each dressing room.
8. A separate shower area must be provided for each team with a minimum of four shower heads in each area.
9. A separate area must be provided for the exclusive use of match officials. The area must be capable of accommodating a minimum of three persons. The area must contain a shower, WC and a wash basin with hot and cold running water.

10. All clubs must have first aid equipment, which must include a stretcher. The location of which must be clearly marked in all dressing rooms.
11. The Home club must produce a match programme (not single sheets) to include the names of all players of both teams, together with match official/s. The visiting club **MUST** send to the home club, details of player's names in the team squad they plan to field. This information must be received by the home club at least 7 days prior to the scheduled date of the match. The home club are required to forward to the League Secretary a copy of the Match Day Programme within Four days of the date of the fixture. These Match Day Programmes **MUST** be available on the home clubs ground on match days, of which a copy **MUST** be given to the Referee, prior to kick off.
12. All the facilities shall be approved by the League Management Committee and must not be allowed to deteriorate below the standard required by the League.
13. All new clubs seeking membership through the pyramid system must have this criteria in place by 30th April each year, on the same ground they have been playing on during the current season.
13. Permission to play at other venue other than the clubs existing ground will not be allowed, unless granted by the League Secretary.

Ground Criteria can also be found on the GCFA web site