

RULES AND CONSTITUTIONS OF

ENGLAND DEAF FOOTBALL

NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

1. (A) This Competition shall be designated the ENGLAND DEAF FOOTBALL and shall consist of not more than 44 Clubs who shall be Full Member Clubs

All such Member Clubs must 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 their recognised County Football Association. The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be within the boundary of England and Wales.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Football Association and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding 6 in number.

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 EDF Competition Sub Committee of the Competition.

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

2. (A) The Annual Registration fee shall be £225 per team per league or cup place, £275 per team for league and cup place. The fee is inclusive of 25 players registration per team. This must be payable to England Deaf Football, by 31st July of each year. Failure to do this may result in additional cost incurred.

(B) A Club shall not participate in this Competition(s):- Cup or League / Cup and League until the Entry Fee have been paid.

(C) Clubs must advise annually to the Co-ordinator in writing by 31th August of its recognised County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming Season, failing which they shall be fined £25. Clubs must advise the Co-ordinator in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its Headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition.

OFFICERS

3. The Officers of the EDF Competition Sub Committee shall be the General Secretary, Competition Co-ordinator and Treasurer.

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

4. (A) The Sub Committee may appoint such other committees as they may consider necessary and may delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary to such committees. The decisions of all such committees shall be reported to the EDF General Secretary for ratification.

(B) Subject to the permission of the Football Association having been obtained the EDF Competition Sub 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.

(C) The EDF Competition Sub 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. Except where these Rules provide for the imposition of a set penalty any Club, Official or Player alleged to be in breach of a Competition Rule must be formally charged in writing and given the opportunity to present their case before the EDF Competition Sub Committee. All breaches of the Laws of the Game, Rules and Regulations of The Football Association shall be dealt with in

accordance with F.A. Rules.

(D) All decisions of the EDF Competition Sub Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal to the Board of Appeal in accordance with Rule 13.

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

(E) The EDF Competition Sub Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill in an acting capacity, any vacancies that may occur amongst their number.

(F) A Club having failed to comply with an order or instruction of the EDF Competition Sub 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 EDF Competition Sub Committee.

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

Clubs, Officials or individuals committing a breach of this Rule will incur such penalties as the EDF Competition Sub Committee may impose.

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

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

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

1. Signed a fully and correctly completed new player registration form in ink, countersigned by an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the Secretary five days prior to playing.
2. Signed a fully and correctly completed new player registration form in ink on a match day prior to playing, countersigned by an Officer of the Club and witnesses by an Officer of the opposing Club, and submitted to the Registration Secretary within two days (Sundays excluded) subsequent to the match together with correct registration fee (see rule 2). A maximum of two players may be registered in this way.
3. Hearing loss of 55 decibels according to the regulation of International Deaf Football organisation (ICSD)
4. All registration of the player shall be register for the said club for one year. Period of registration shall be in between 31st August to 31st May of each year.

(C) The EDF Competition Sub 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 Club priority of registration shall decide for which Club the player shall be registered. The Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

(D) It shall be deemed misconduct for a player to: -

- i. Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same season without first being transferred.
- ii. Having signed for one Club in the Competition, sign for another Club 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.
- iv. Sign under false name or identifications

(E)

- i. The EDF Competition Sub Committee shall have power to accept the registration of any player. The EDF Competition Sub Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player or may fine any player at their discretion proved guilty of registration irregularities. (Subject to Rule 13).
- ii. The EDF Competition Sub Committee shall have power to refuse or cancel the registration of any player found guilty of undesirable conduct and to disqualify the player in question from participating in all games in the Competition. (Subject to Rule 16).

(Note: Action under Clause (2) 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.)

(F) 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 to the Registrations Secretary accompanied by a fee of £15. Such transfer shall be referred by the Registrations 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 Registrations Secretary and to the player concerned within seven days of receipt of the transfer form! Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within seven days, the (Registrations) Secretary may, on behalf of the EDF Competition Sub Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or five days after receipt of such transfer.

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

(G) A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 28th February except by special permission of the EDF Competition Sub Committee.

(H) 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 EDF Competition Sub Committee.

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

(J) A player shall not be eligible to play for a team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding match unless the player has played one games for that team in this Competition in the current season.

(K) A player who has played for a team in the higher Division twice or more shall not in that season be eligible to play in a lower Division except by permission of the EDF Competition Sub Committee.

(Note: There are many differing procedures to cover eligibility of players in various divisions of which the above is only one example. A Competition should adopt a Rule to suit their particular requirements.)

- (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 and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the EDF Competition Sub Committee.
- (ii) In addition the team *may* have three points deducted from its total at the discretion of the EDF Competition Sub Committee and may be dealt with in any further manner, which is thought to be fit.
- (iii) The EDF Competition Sub Committee in exceptional circumstances may, at its discretion, award any points deducted from a Club under this Rule to the opponents in the match in question, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.

(L) (The following Clause applies to Competitions involving players in full-time secondary education):-

- i. Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities.
- ii. The availability of children must be cleared with the Head Teachers (except for Sunday Leagues).
- iii. Children under 14 shall not play in a team involving players who are more than 2 years older.

(Note: For players under the age of 18 the provisions contained in Football Association Rules will apply)

(M) Each club are permitted to have maximum of 25 players registered at one time throughout the season. There may be less than 25 players which is permitted.

CLUBS COLOUR, CLUB NAME

6. (A) Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 31st August who shall decide as to their suitability.

Goalkeepers must wear colours, which distinguish them from other players and the referee.

No player 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 will play to its opponents at least five days before the match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the HOME 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 £25.

The Co-ordinator of the Competition may request shirts to be submitted if complaints are received as to lack of distinguishing colours, and the EDF Competition Sub Committee may refuse to permit any shirts or shorts as they think fit. All Shirts must be numbered.

(B) Any Club wishing to change its name and/or colours must seek permission from its affiliated County Association and from the EDF Competition Sub Committee.

PLAYING SEASONS. CONDITIONS OF PLAY & TIMES OF KICK-OFF. POSTPONEMENTS. SUBSTITUTES

7(A) The committees shall determine the commencing and concluding dates for the ensuing season, which shall be in accordance with Football Association Rules. No Club shall be compelled to play after the concluding date. Original fixtures will be arranged by the Co-ordinator, or deputy, no later than 1st September. These fixtures (with deadline dates) must be arranged for a date later than seven days preceding the concluding date determined by the committees.

(B) All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board.

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

The EDF Competition Sub 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.

All matches shall have duration of 90 minutes unless a shorter time (not less than 70 minutes) is mutually arranged by the two captains in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves.

The times of kick-off shall be fixed by the Home club, but shall not be earlier than 1.30pm, and not later than 3.00pm. All other matches shall be play not earlier than 10.30am, and not later than 3.00pm, if the distance is not more than 25 miles between clubs home ground. Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time shall/may be fined a sum not exceeding £25 or be otherwise dealt with as the EDF Competition Sub Committee may determine

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

The home team must provide at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the

Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. Goal nets must be used.

(C) Except by permission of the EDF Competition Sub Committee all matches including evening matches must 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 must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of the (Fixtures) Secretary.

(D) The Secretary of the home Club must give notice in writing of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the match officials and the Secretary of the opposing Club at least five clear days prior to the playing of the match. The away Club shall seek and acknowledge receipt of such particulars.

Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine of £25.

(E) Every Club shall play its best available qualified team or teams in all matches in the Competition.

(Note: The intention of this Rule is not to interfere with normal team selection by Clubs, but to prevent Clubs deliberately fielding a weakened team in order to unreasonably reserve players for another game or to boost the strength of another or lower team. It is NOT intended that Clubs MUST field higher team players in lower teams when the higher team has no engagement. If, in the opinion of the EDF Competition Sub Committee, the substance or spirit of the Rule is obviously being disregarded, the Club or Clubs concerned may be called to account for its/their actions and shall be subject to such decisions as the EDF Competition Sub Committee may determine, despite the fact that Rule 5 has not been infringed.)

In the event of a Club playing in any match with less than 8 players they may/shall be fined £25 for each missing player. A minimum of eight players will constitute a team for a Competition match.

(F) Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the EDF Competition Sub Committee shall have power to inflict a fine, deduct points from the defaulting Club, and award the points to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals! Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the EDF Competition Sub Committee shall have power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent's ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

Any Club with more than one team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence: - First Team, Reserve Team, and A Team. Clubs in breach of this requirement shall be fined a sum not exceeding £25 or otherwise dealt with by the EDF Competition Sub Committee.

Notice of postponement of any match must be given without delay by the postponing Club to the Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the match officials. Any Club failing to comply shall be dealt with by the EDF Competition Sub Committee who may inflict any penalty it may deem suitable.

In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the EDF Competition Sub Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Co-ordinator within fourteen days the EDF Competition Sub Committee shall have power to order the match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date.

The EDF Competition Sub Committee shall review all abandoned matches and in a case where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the EDF Competition Sub 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 opponents and/or take what other action they may deem necessary. In cases where a match is abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams and their Club members, the EDF Competition Sub Committee shall take such action as they consider appropriate. Such action is subject to any disciplinary action taken by the appropriate County Association.

(G) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use 3 (three) substitute players in all Cup Competition match who may be selected from 5 (five) players. For league match, roll on

/ off substitution are permitted with exception of the League Final championship match, where the Cup rules will apply (3 substitutions from maximum of 5)

The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than thirty 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 5 of this Competition.

(H) The half time interval shall be of five minutes duration, but it shall not exceed six minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

(I) Clubs must release any players selected to take part in any Representative match. But may apply for release of selected players or postponement of fixture in extenuating circumstances. Such notice to be in writing to the Co-ordinator giving twenty-one days notice.

(J) Each team shall provide an adequate First Aid Kit with basic items. A team failing to comply with this shall be dealt with at the discretion of the EDF Competition Sub-Committee.

(K) No hearing aids, cochlear implants or similar shall be worn by the players in any matches of the competitions.

(L) Club are required to complete a team sheet showing NAMES IN FULL, PLAYERS REGISTER NUMBER AND SHIRTS NUMBER of participating players and substitutes. A Club officials and team captain of both teams shall hand it to the Referee at least 30 minutes prior to kick off. Failure to produce team sheet showing players details will be fined £15.

REPORTING RESULTS

8. (A) The Co-ordinator must receive within five days of the date played, the result of each Competition match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the team players (in block letters) and also the Referee markings required by Rule 13, or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £15 and/or the Club being dealt with as the EDF Competition Sub Committee decide. Result sheet must be received by Co-ordinator within 3 working days after the match. Where match is played on Saturday or Sunday – the result sheet must be posted by Tuesday if sent 1st class and by Monday if sent 2nd class. If the Result sheet is sent late and arrives at the address late, the club will be liable for fine of £15.

Scanned document of result sheet will be accepted via email if in PDF format and clear to be viewed via email. Same rules applies for this scanned result sheet, with emails to be received by co-ordinator no later than 5pm on Wednesday where match is played on the weekend, or 72 hours after the kick-off of match if played mid-week (Monday-Friday, including bank-holidays)

Where result sheets are left incomplete, the club will incur fine of £5. Incomplete result sheet involves any gaps left blank, players names not correctly filled in, player registration number missing, signatures not completed or missing details of home/away teams.

(B) The Home Club shall text messages the result of each match to the Co-ordinator by 7pm on the day of the match. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £10 and/or the Club being dealt with as the EDF Competition Sub Committee decide. Where match is played on mid-week night, result should be texted to the co-ordinator by no later than 11:59pm of the match day.

(C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of the Club. The EDF Competition Sub Committee shall have power to take such action as they deem suitable against a Club, which submits an incomplete form or incorrect information.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

9. (A) The competition shall be arranged on league basis in geographical zone, which shall be North and South Zone at the discretion of the Competition Sub-Committee. The winner of the each division shall be drawn in Final play-off to determine the National League Champions.

(B) Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with 3 points to be awarded for a win and 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 must not be played for double points.

In the event of two or more teams being equal on points team rankings may be decided in any one or more of the following ways:-

1. Goal difference
2. Goals scored
3. goal average
4. Deciding match (es) played under conditions determined by the EDF Competition Sub Committee.

(C) Automatic promotion and relegation shall be applied for the first two and last two teams in each Division except as provided for hereunder, subject to the provisions of Rule 9(B)

- Should one or more teams withdraw from any one Division after the fixtures have commenced an equal number of teams to those withdrawing in that Division shall not be automatically relegated!
- Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the season may be filled on any of the following ways:
 1. retention of otherwise relegated team(s)
 2. additional promotion of the next ranked team(s) from the Division below
 3. election
- The last two teams in the lowest Division shall retire, but be eligible for re-election except as below, and be subject to the conditions of paragraph (B)(1) above.
- When a senior team is relegated to a lower Division of which its reserve team is a member, or entitled to be a member, such reserve team must accept relegation to, or retain its position in, the next lower Division; and should the senior team be relegated to the lowest Division its reserve team automatically retires from the Competition.
- Should either or both of the leading teams in any of the Divisions have its senior team in the next higher Division, promotion shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next highest team or teams in the Division concerned.

(D) 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.

REFEREES

10. (A) Registered Referees and Assistant Referees for all matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the EDF Competition Sub Committee and by the sanctioning Association(s).

(B) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed Referee the appointed senior Assistant Referee shall take charge and a substitute Assistant Referee appointed by the competing Teams. In cases where there are no officially appointed Assistant Referees, the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee A Referee thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee.

(C) The EDF Competition Sub 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 will result in a fine of £10 being imposed on the defaulting Team.

(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 must be accepted unless the ground is declared fit for play.

(E) Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be entitled to charge standard class public transport expenses or private car expenses of 30p per mile and any other permitted expenses actually incurred together with the following match fees: - Referee £35. Registered Referees appointed by the EDF Competition Sub Committee as Assistant Referees £20, subject to any limits laid down by the sanctioning

Association(s).

The Home Club shall pay the Officials their fees and expenses immediately after the match.

(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 full fee plus half fee plus expenses. 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 and expenses.

(G) A Referee not keeping his engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to his non-appearance, may have his name removed from the list of Referees and the fact reported to the 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. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined or dealt with as the EDF Competition Sub 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 The Football Association/County Association.

(I) The Referee shall submit a report Form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the match, the number of players in each team and the time of kick-off to the (Registration) Secretary within two days of the match.

(J) Referees and Assistant Referees shall be supplied, each Season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

11. (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 must notify the Secretary in writing by 31st March each Season or be liable to a fine not exceeding £50.

All Clubs wishing to remain in membership of the Competition for the following Season must confirm their intention to do so, in writing, 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 Registration for the following Season. Any Club infringing this Rule shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £50 per team and shall also be liable for any further costs incurred.

(C) Clubs registered with EDF for the season will comply to play their fixtures up to the end of season. Any club withdrawing from EDF during the season, EDF 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 Club which is an un-incorporated 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 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.

PROTESTS AND APPEALS

12(A)

- i. All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the EDF Competition Sub Committee.

- ii. Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the EDF Competition Sub 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 EDF Competition Sub Committee.

(B) Except in cases, where the EDF Competition Sub Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged in duplicate with the Co-ordinator within five 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 EDF Competition Sub Committee.

(C) Any dispute occurring between Clubs in the Competition shall be referred for determination by the EDF Competition Sub Committee whose decision shall be binding upon all parties subject to Rule 13.

(D) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the EDF Competition Sub Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Co-ordinator a sum of £25. 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 to be shared by the parties.

(E) All parties to a protest or complaint must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement when the protest or complaint is being heard and must have received seven days notice of the hearing, together with a copy of the submission. When dealing with a protest or complaint the EDF Competition Sub 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.

BOARD OF APPEAL

13. An appeal to an Appeals Board of the Football Association shall be made and be conducted in accordance with Rules and Regulations of the Football Association that relate to appeals to an Appeal Board as are in force at any time.

EXCLUSION OF CLUBS, OR TEAMS MISCONDUCT, CLUBS, OFFICIALS, PLAYERS

14. (A) Any official or member of a Club proved guilty of either misconduct, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a player or players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to expulsion or such penalty as a General Meeting or EDF Competition Sub Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion.

(B) Any player who receives two cautions in the challenge cup/plate knock out phase will receive an automatic match ban (i.e. miss next match). When the season ends, the cautions and suspensions will be removed and start afresh for the new season.

(C) Any player who receives a red-card/sent off offence in the challenge cup/plate knock out phase will receive an automatic match ban (i.e. miss next match).

(D) Any player who receives a red-card/sent off offence in the league match will receive an automatic match ban (i.e. miss next match).

(E) Any Club or Team failing to complete 75% of its fixtures in any season shall (unless the conditions are beyond their control, or the accredited delegates present at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting decide otherwise by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast) be debarred from membership the following season.

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

15. (A) A Competition Cup or Trophy shall be vested in the Association sanctioning the Competition as Trustees. If a Competition be discontinued for any cause the Cup or Trophy shall be returned to the Donor, if the conditions attached to it so provide, or otherwise dealt with as the 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 following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the Cup or Trophy:-

"We A _____ and B _____, 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 Head of the Competition on or before 28th February. If the Cup or Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair."

"We accept responsibility for engraving our success on the trophy, before returning as above."

Failure to return it by the due date, suitably engrave, will incur a fine of £30 and other action as the EDF Competition Sub-Committee consider appropriate

ALTERATION TO RULES

16. Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Committee Meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary by 28th February in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the EDF Competition Sub Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 7th May and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 21st May. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the Committee Meeting. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the Committee Meeting shall be submitted to the sanctioning Football Association twenty one days prior to the date of the meeting.

Any alterations or additions decided upon at any meeting shall not become operative until the approval of the Association issuing sanction shall have been obtained.

RULES BINDING ON CLUBS

17. Each Member Club must abide by any issued Football Association Code of Conduct.

Please Note: -

All National Deaf Competitions must comply with International Deaf Football Organisation (ICSD) regulations. See Rule 5(b) Clause 2 and 3

1. No hearing aids or cochlear implants are to be worn at any competition
2. No Deaf player with less than 55 decibels loss is eligible to play in any competition.