DEFINITIONS

1. (A) In these Rules:

"Affiliated Association" means an Association accorded the status of an Affiliated Association under the rules of The FA."AGM" shall mean the annual general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

"Club" means a club affiliated to the Northamptonshire Football Association.

"Competition" means the Northampton Town Football Association.

"Competition Match" means any match played or to be played under the jurisdiction of the Competition.

"Contract Player" means any Player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play under a written contract of employment with a Club.

"Deposit" means a sum of money deposited with the Competition as part of the requirements of membership of theCompetition.

"Fees Tariff" means a list of fees approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committeefor any matters for which fees are payable under the Rules, as set out at Schedule A.

"Fines Tariff" means a list of fines approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any breach of the Rules, as set out at Schedule A.

"Ground" means the ground on which the Club's Team(s) plays its Competition Matches.

"Management Committee" means in the case of a Competition which is an unincorporated association, the management committee elected to manage the running of the Competition and where the Competition is incorporated it means the Board of Directors appointed in accordance with the articles of association of that company.

"Match Officials" means the referee, the assistant referees and any fourth official appointed to any competition match.

"Non Contract Player" means any Player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play for a Club but has not entered into a written contract of employment.

"Officer" means an individual who is appointed or elected to a position in a Club or Competition which requires thatindividual to make day to day decisions.

"Participant" shall have the same meaning as set out in the rules of The FA from time to time.

"Player" means any Contract Player, Non Contract Player or other player who plays or who is eligible to play for a Club.

"Playing Season" means the period between the date on which the first competitive fixture in the Competition is played each year until the date on which the last competitive fixture in the Competition is played.

"Rules" means these rules under which the Competition is administered.

"Sanctioning Authority" means [The FA] [the [ ] County Football Association Limited]. "Scholarship" means a Scholarship as set out in Rule C 3 (a) (i) of the rules of The FA.

"Season" means the period of time between an AGM and the subsequent AGM.

"Secretary" means such person or persons appointed or elected to carry out the administration of the Competition. "SGM" means a special general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

"Team" means a team affiliated to a Club, including where a Club provides more than one team in the Competition inaccordance with the Rules.

"The FA" means The Football Association Limited.

"WGS" means the Whole Game System and the procedures for the operation thereof as determined by The FA fromtime to time.

"Written" or "in writing" means the representation or reproduction of words or symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.

"Youth Football" means those participating at ages under 11s to under 18s.

(B) Unless stated otherwise, terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

GOVERNANCE RULES

2. COMPETITION NAME AND CONSTITUTION

(A) The Competition will be known as Northampton Town Football Association (or such other name as the Competition may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition and thus they agree to the adoption of the competition rules agreed at the AGM. A Club which ceases to exist or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall thereupon automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.

(B) 'The Competition shall consist of The Gorell Barnes Cup (sponsored by Michael Jones' Jewellers, The Under 18 Pinner Cup, The Alan Burgess Under 15 Youth Cup, The Under 15 Trophy, The Alan Robinson Under 13 Youth Cup, The Under 13 Trophy The All Weather Under 11 Youth Cup, The Under 11 Trophy The Halo Corporate Finance Women's Cup, The Team Daisy/Nine4Norah Under 11 Girl's Cup, The Sally Keeble Under 13s Girls' Cup, Under 15s Girls Cup and The Hometech Veteran's Cup.

The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be within the county boundary of Northamptonshire where clubs have an NN postcode as their home ground unless agreed by the Management Comittee.

(C) The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Competition acting (save where otherwise specifically mentioned herein) through the Management Committee in accordance with the rules,regulations and policies of The FA.

(D) All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a member of the Competition to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee in relation thereto, subject to the provisions of Rule 7.

(E) The Rules are taken from the Standard Code of Rules for Youth Competitions (the "Standard Code") determined by The FA from time to time. In the event of any omissions from the Standard Code then the requirements of the Standard Code shall be deemed to apply to the Competition.

(F) All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority and must have a constitution approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

(G) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (to include those contained in the Equality Act 2010).

This Competition and each Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise. Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.

(H) All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The FA from time to time.

3. ENTRYFEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

(A) Applications by Clubs for admission to the Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same Club must be made in writing to the Secretary and must be accompanied by an entry fee per Team as set out in the Fees Tariff, which shall be returned in the event of non-

election.

The Entry Fee shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff and shall be payable on or before 1st September in each year. A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the entry fee has been paid.

(B) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 1st August of its Sanctioning Authority affiliation number for the forthcoming Playing Season. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, its Officers and any other information required by the Competition.

(C) All Clubs shall pay £50 for each round of the Gorell Barnes Cup they take part in (except the final), this shall be invoiced to the clubs before the game takes place and should be paid 5pm on the day before the game. Failure to pay this shall result in the team being withdrawn from the competition.

4. MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

(A) The Management Committee shall comprise of a President; Life Vice Presidents; Vice Presidents; Chairman; Vice Chairman; Honorary Treasurer; Honorary Secretary; Assistant Secretary, Welfare Officer, Media Officer and up to two Representatives from each affiliated League and a representative from the Northamptonshire Football Association.

(B) Life Vice Presidents may be elected by the Management Committee at the first meeting after the Annual General Meeting each year, person eligible shall be those who have given special service to the Association as either an Office or Vice President. Life Vice Presidents shall be entitled to attend and vote at all meetings and will remain appointed for the rest of their lives. Up to five Vice Presidents; Chairman; Vice Chairman; Representative to the Northamptonshire Football Association and representatives to the Emergency Sub Committee may be elected by the Management Committee at the first meeting after the Annual General Meeting each year, person eligible shall be those who have given special service to the Association.

(C) The Emergency Committee shall consist of the President; Chairman; Vice Chairman; Secretary; treasurer and two further representatives of the Management Committee, four to form a quorum.

(D) Candidates for election as President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, not later than 1st May in each year, the person holding office being automatically nominated. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting.

(E) The Management Committee shall meet as and when required with no more than three calendar months between each meeting. On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Committee.

In the event of any elected member failing to attend for three consecutive meetings the Management Committee shall, in the absence of a reasonable excuse, declare the seat vacant.

(F) Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.

(G) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through the Club Secretary and sent to the Secretary.

5. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

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

the jurisdiction of The FA or Affiliated Association.

(B) Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each Season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any club which may have withdrawn during the Season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the Season.

(C) Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee meetings and have one vote thereat, but no member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such member or to the Club so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest. (This shall also apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).

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

(D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition. Any action by the Competition must be taken within 28 days of the Competition being notified.

(E) Where required, hearings shall take place as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of the reply of the Club as more fully set out above.

Having considered the reply of the Club (whether in writing or at a hearing), the Management Committee shall make its decision and, in the event that the charge is accepted or proven, decide on the appropriate penalty (with reference to the Fines Tariff where applicable).

The maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £250 'open age' & £100 'youth' and, when setting any fine,the Management Committee must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

All breaches of the Laws of the Game or the Rules and Regulations of The FA shall be dealt with in accordance with FA Rules by the appropriate Association.

(F) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7.

Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 7 days.

(G) More than 50% of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any sub-committee thereof.

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

(I) A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee, and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(J) Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision.

Any Club failing to do so will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.

(K) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or Competition Match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.

(L) The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the AGM or SGM called to decide the constitution and

the commencement of the Playing Season.

(M) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail.

6. PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

(A) (i) All questions of eligibility, qualification of Players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee.

(ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other pitch issues will not be accepted by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the Competition Match. Complaints regarding the suitability of the venue should be directed to the Honorary Secretary within 5 days of the match.

(B) Except in cases where the Management 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 with the Secretary within 5 days (excluding Sundays) of the Competition Match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

(C) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole orin 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 inquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

(D) All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.

All parties must have received 7 days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend. Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should forward a deposit of £NIL and indicate such when forwarding the written response.

(E) The Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses asthe Management Committee shall direct.

(F) Any appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority within **5** days of the **sending** of the written notification of the decision causing the appeal, accompanied by a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff), which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. A copy of the appeal must also be sent to the Secretary. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority, in such respect the Sanctioning Authority may (but is not obliged to):

(i) invite submissions by the parties involved; or
(ii) convene a hearing to hear the appeal; or
(iii) permit new evidence; or
(iv) Impose deadlines as are appropriate.

Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee.

(G) No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless this is on the ground ofunconstitutional conduct.

7. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(A) The AGM shall be held not later than 30th June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least eight members are present and entitled to vote:-

(i) To receive and confirm the minutes of the preceding AGM.
(ii) To receive and adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts.
(iii) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
(iv) Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Season.
(v) Election of Officers of the Competition and the Management Committee members.
(vi) Appointment of auditors.
(vii) Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14).
(viii) Fix the date for the commencement of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition (subject to receipt of cup fixture dates from the Northamptonshire Football Association).
(ix) Fix the date for the end of the Playing Season.
(x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an AGM.

(B) A copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet, statement of accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 14 days prior to the meeting together with any proposed Rule changes.

(C) A signed copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet and statement of accounts shall be sent to the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of its adoption by the AGM.

(D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. 14 days' notice shall be given of any AGM.

(E) Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the Playing Season being concluded or who are not continuing membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the Season being concluded. This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 12.

(F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at

least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.
(G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Club.
(H) Any continuing Club may be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
(I) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM.
(J) Where a Competition is an incorporated entity, the Officers of the Competition shall ensure that the Articles of Association of the Competition are consistent with the requirements of these Rules.

8. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call a SGM. The Management Committee may call a SGM at any time.
At least seven (7) days' notice shall be given of a meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.

Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.
Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs.

9. AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

Each Club shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the Competition together with the application for membership for the coming Season, or upon indicating that the Club intends to compete. "We, (A), (name) [ ] of (address) [ ] (Chairman)/Director and (B) (name) [ ] of (address) [ ] (Secretary/Director) of [ ] Football Club (Limited) have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the [ ] Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, if elected or accepted into membership, to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7."
The agreement shall be signed by:

(i) Where a Club is an unincorporated association, the Club chairman and secretary; or
(ii) Where a Club is an incorporated entity, two directors of the Club.

Any alteration of the chairman and /or secretary of the Club on the above agreement must be notified to the County Football Association(s) to which the Club is affiliated and to the Competition Secretary.
Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

10.CONTINUATION OFMEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

(A) The Management Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a Team being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season, including but not limited to, issuing a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Notwithstanding the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 6(I), in the event of a Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50, the Management Committee shall be empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.

11. EXCLUSION OF CLUBS OR TEAM. MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEEN/A

12. TROPHY

(A) The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the cup or trophy:-
"We A [name] and B [name], the Chairman and Secretary of [ ] FC (Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of [ ] cup or trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the cup or trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before [ ]. 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."
The trophy shall never become the absolute property of any club.
The President, Chairman and Secretary for the time being and for the intents and purposes will be the legal owners of the trophies in trust of the Association. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
(B) At the close of each Competition awards shall be made to the winners and runners-up, referee, assistant referees and reserve official if the funds of the Competition permit.
(C) When a player taking part in a final tie is ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct,

the award will be withheld until such matter has been referred to the Association. This decision may be made on the day of the final tie at the discretion of the Chairman, Secretary and three other members of the Management Committee. A majority decision is required.
(D) Application to purchase additional awards may be made by writing to the Competition within five days of the match.

13. ALTERATION TO RULES

Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at a SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. Any alteration made during the Playing Season to these Rules shall not take effect until the following Playing Season.
Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by 1st June in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting are in favour.
A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or SGM shall be submitted to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA (as applicable) at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

14. FINANCE

(A) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.
(B) All expenditure in excess of £100 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.
(C) The financial year of the Competition will end on 31st May.
(D) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be audited/verified annually by a suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

15. INSURANCE

(A) All Clubs must have valid public liability insurance cover of at least ten million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times. Failure to comply with Rule 16(A) will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

16. DISSOLUTION

(A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a SGM by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant SGM.
(B) In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.
(C) The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:

(i) Any surplus assets, save for a trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or Affiliated Association or The Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the Sanctioning Authority.

(ii) If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a trophy or any other presentation shall

be returned to the donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the Sanctioning Authority may decide.

MATCH RELATED RULES

17. QUALIFICATION OFPLAYERS

(A) Contract players are not permitted in this Competition with the exception of those Players who are registered under Contract with the same Club who have a team operating at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System. It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any Player registered to the Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any Player aged 10 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

(B) A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:

(i) Completed a full and correct League registration at least 72 hours before the kick-off time of the match.

(ii) If the league in which the Club plays has a closing date for registration then after such closing date, special permission for additional players must be obtained from the secretary of the Association.

(C) A Player that owes a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) to any Club(s) shall be permitted to register and play for a Club in the Competition, save that the Player may be liable to be suspended from playing for that Club should the Player fail to comply with the terms of the Football Debt Recovery Regulations in respect of that Football Debt.

(D) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes.

In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one 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.

Players must be registered in accordance with specific league rules.

In all competitions, no player shall be eligible to play in a semi-final or final unless they are a registered player of the club by the final day of February. No player shall play for more one club in the same competition.

Where a Club has more than one registered Team, no player will be eligible to play for a lower ranked team if they have played five or more games for a higher ranked team or unless 21 days or more has passed since his last appearance. This does not include absence through suspension.

For Finals, special permission may be granted by the Management Committee for an otherwise ineligible goalkeeper to be selected should circumstances require it. Any request for special permission must be submitted in advance of the fixture with a minimum of 24 hours notice given.

With regards to Semi Finals and Finals, In cases of postponed, drawn, abandoned, or replayed matches only those players shall be allowed to play who are eligible on the date originally fixed for the tie to be played, except a player who has been suspended who may play following the expiry of any suspension.

In all rounds, it is the Clubs responsibility to ensure that selected players are eligible to play. Any Club found to have played an ineligible player will be expelled from of the Competition and be fine in accordance with the fines tariff

(E) It shall be a breach of Rule for a player to:-

(i) Play for more than one Club in the same season in the same competition

(ii) Play in a final tie unless they have played in an earlier round for that Club, no permission shall be granted within 48 hours of the match except agreed by the Emergency Committee.

(iii) The Management Committee shall have power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 15) subject to the right of appeal to the FA or the relevant County Football Association. Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a participant from being involved in this Competition. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the player is registered or intending to be registered with.

(iv) For a player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with clause (vi) but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition would be empowered to consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

(Note: Action under Clause (vi) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any case be subject to an Appeal to the Football Association. All decisions must include the period of restriction. For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the competition into disrepute can only be considered where the player has received in excess of 112 days' suspension, or 10 matches in match based discipline, in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.)

(F) A Club shall keep a list of the players it registers and a record of the games in which they have played, and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(G) 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 Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

In the event of a player without a written contract changing his status to that of a contract player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition or with a Club in another Competition his registration as a player without a written contract will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 8(A) (i).

(H) Any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a match shall be struck from the completion and may be fined as set out in the fines tariff. Opposing team shall be awarded a walkover with a score of 0 – 0. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Age on 31 August of the relevant Playing Season	Eligible Age Groups	Maximum Permitted Format	Minimum Pitch Sizes		Maximum Pitch Sizes		Recmded Goal Sizes in feet	Ball Size
			Yards	Metres	Yards	Metres		
9	Under 10	7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	4
	Under 11	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50		16 x 7	
10	Under 11	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
	Under 12		70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50		16 x 7	
11	Under 12	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
	Under 13	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	
12	Under 13	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	4
	Under 14		90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	
13	Under 14	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	4
	Under 15		90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	5
14	Under 15	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	5
	Under 16		90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	
15	Under 16	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	5
	Under 17		100 x 50	91.44 x	130 x 100	118.87 x	24 x 8	
	Under 18		100 x 50	91.44 x	130 x 100	118.87 x	24 x 8	
1	Under 17	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x	130 x 100	118.87 x	24 x 8	5
	Under		100 x	91.44 x	130 x	118.87 x	24 x	

6	18		50		100		8	
	Open Age		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x91.44	24 x 8	

(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 their head teacher (except for Sunday league competitions).

(iii) To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16.

18. CLUB COLOURS

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

Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all other Players and the Match Officials. No Player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.

Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents the colours in which they will play (including the colours of the goalkeeper jersey) at least three days before the Competition Match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the away Team shall make the change. Should a Team delay the scheduled time of kick-off for a Competition Match by not having a change of colours they will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

19. PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY, TIMES OF KICK-OFF, POSTPONEMENTS, SUBSTITUTES

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

(i) In all matches, except the Final, the club first drawn shall have choice of ground. 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 Management Committee. If through any fault of the home team a match has to be replayed, the Management Committee shall have power to order the venue to be changed.

(ii) The final ties of all Competitions shall be played at grounds selected by the Management Committee who shall have direct control of all arrangements in connection with the match.

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

(iv) Football Turf pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition providing they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA's Register of Football Turf pitches. For clubs playing at Step 7 and below a pitch must be tested (by a FIFA accredited test institute) every three years and the results passed to the FA. The FA will give a decision on the suitability for use and add the pitch to the Register.

(v) The home Club is also responsible for advising participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements in accordance with Rule 20(D).

(vi) All adult matches shall have duration of 90 minutes unless a shorter time (not less than sixty (60) minutes) is mutually arranged by the two Clubs in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves. Two matches involving the same two teams can be played on the same day providing the total playing time is not more than 120 minutes.

(vii) Youth matches should be played in accordance with the Laws appropriate to the relevant age group, as laid down by The FA, as detailed below.

(viii) Should the match be drawn at Full-Time, there is no provision for a replay, and the match will go straight to penalty kicks. The penalty kicks will be taken with procedure adopted by the International Football Association Board.

MATCH EXPENSES

(B) Match Expenses should be split between the competing clubs. The normal process being that the home team covers the costs associated with the pitch and the away team covers the costs associated with the referee. Where assistants are appointed the total match expenses should be halved between the two teams.

(ii) Where neutral grounds are used, the clubs will cover the cost of the venue, the competition will cover the cost of the officials. For Finals, the competition will cover all the costs.

(iii) In the rounds of the Gorell Barnes Cup the competing clubs will split the costs of the venue to a maximum of £50. The Association will cover the costs of the match officials in these rounds.

(iv)

Age Group	Minimum duration ofplay per half (minutes)	Maximum duration of play per half (minutes)	Maximum playing time inone day in all organised development fixtures (minutes)	Maximum playing time in one day in all tournaments and trophy events/festival	Competition structure
Under 11	20	30	80	120	Development focused with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 6 week periods (18 weeks)
Under 12	20	30	80 (if applicable)	120	Any varieties including one season long league table

Under 13 and Under 14	25	35	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 15and Under 16	25	40	100	150	Any varieties including one season long
Under 17 and Under 18	25	45	120	180	Any varieties including one season long league table

The times of kick-off shall be 7.30pm for Midweek Competitions; Saturday 10.30am for girls' competitions and Under 11s Youth Competitions; Sunday 10.30am for Youth Under 13; Sunday 2pm for Youth Under 15, Under 18 and Women's Cup. Sunday 10.30am for Adult Sunday Competitions. Under 11s Youth can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing clubs prior to the scheduled date of the match with written notification given to the Competition at least 7 days prior.

Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(ii) The home team must provide goal nets, corner flags and at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(D) Except by permission of the Management Committee all matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The Football Association and parent County Association Cup Competitions. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of the Secretary following agreement with their relevant league. Failure to fulfill a fixture on the agreed date, the match may be awarded to the opposing team. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

In the case of a revised fixture date, the Clubs must be given by the Competition 5 clear days' notice of the match (unless otherwise mutually agreed).

(E) The Secretary of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the match officials and the Secretary of the opposing Club at least 5 clear days prior to the playing of the match. If not provided, the away club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the competition.

(F) A minimum of seven players will constitute a team for a Competition match.

(G) (i) Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a fixture has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the match officials.

(ii) In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which

neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Secretary within seven days the Management Committee shall have power to order the match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and the Clubs involved agree, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand.

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

(vi) The Management Committee shall review any match that has taken place where either or both teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by the Association or Affiliated Association. In each case the team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible players in accordance with Rule 8(H) above. Where both teams were under suspension the game must be declared null and void.

(H) In all Adult Competitions a Club may use up to 5 from 5 substitute Players. A Player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace any Player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

For Under 11s - Under 18s – a Club may use up to 7 from 7 substitute Players. A Player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace any Player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than 15 minutes before the start of the match and a Player not so named may not take part in that match.

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

(I) The half time interval shall be of ten minutes' duration, but it shall not exceed fifteen minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

(J) The Clubs taking part in fixture Competition Match shall identify a team captain who has a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his/her team mates.

20. REPORTING RESULTS

(a) Clubs that use the FA Full Time system within their respective leagues are asked to text the result of the match to the Northamptonshire Football Association via the FA Full Time text service. If a Club does not receive the message, please contact Northampton Town Football Association within 24 hours of the fixture. The email address is secretary@ntfa.co.uk

(b) Result Sheet- After the match Each Team must complete a full Match Result Sheet and send this into Northampton Town Football Association within 3 days of the fixture. This can be completed via Full Time or using a League Team Sheet. Incorrect or falsified result sheets will be referred to the NTFA Committee, who will deal with as deemed necessary. Please send to secretary@ntfa.co.uk

21. MATCH OFFICIALS

(A) Registered referees (and assistant referees where approved by The FA or County FA) for all Competition Matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Authority **where possible**.

(B) In cases where the non-appearance of the Match Official or there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that Competition Match, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any open age competition and individuals under the age of 14 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any Competition Match. Referees between the ages of 14 and 16 are only eligible to officiate in competitions where the Players' age band is at least one

year younger than the age of the referee, for example a 15 year old referee may only officiate in competitions where the age banding is 14 or younger.

(C) Where assistant referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club assistant referee. Failure to comply with this Rule may result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) being imposed on the defaulting Club.

(D) The appointed referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground in all Competition Matches and that decision shall be final, subject to the determination of the Local Authority or the owners of a Ground, which must be accepted.

(E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Authority, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff and travel expenses of 35p per mile in excess of the first 20 miles. (with the exception of all finals where match officials, including the fourth official, will be offered expenses and hospitality)

Match Officials will be paid their fees and/or expenses by the home Club before/immediately after the Competition Match, unless otherwise ordered by the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(F) In the event of a Competition Match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to half fee plus expenses only. Where a Competition Match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Ground, their full fee and expenses. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(G) A referee not keeping his or her engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non- appearance, may be reported to the Affiliated Association with which he or she is registered.

(H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The FA, award marks to the referee for each Competition 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 (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.

(I) 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 FA/County FA.

(J) In all matches where assistant referee are appointed, or when instructed by the Management Committee the home club must provide barriers or roping to ensure no encroachment on the field of play or impediment to the assistant referee, failure to comply will be dealt with by the Management Committee under Rule 6(H).

(K) Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.

SCHEDULE A

FEES TARIFF		
Rule Number	**Description**	**Fee**
4 (A)	Club Entry Fee	£15.00
4 (A)	Club Entry Fee	£10.00
7 (C)	Protest/Appeal Fees	£25.00
23 (E)	Referee Fees (ADULT)	£40.00
23 (E)	Referee Fees (U11)	£25.00
23 (E)	Referee Fees (U13)	£30.00
23 (E)	Referee Fees (U15)	£35.00
23 (E)	Referee Fees (U18)	£40.00
23 (E)	Assistant Referee Fees (U11s-13s)	£12.50
23 (E)	Assistant Referee Fees (U14s-18s)	£20.00
23 (E)	Assistant Referee Fees (Adults)	£25.00
	Mileage	£0.35

FINES TARIFF		
Rule Number	**Description**	**Maximum Fine**
6 (D)	Maximum Fine that can be imposed on Adult Club	£250.00
6 (D)	Maximum Fine that can be imposed on Youth Club	£100.00
6 (I)	Failure to Pay a Fine within Required Timeframe (14 Days of Notice)	£10.00
6 (H)	Failure to Comply with an Instruction of the Management Committee (6D)	£100.00
8 (H)	Failure to be Represented at AGM	£NIL
9	Failure to be Represented at SGM	£NIL
13 (A)	Failure to Submit the Required Written Agreement Regarding the Trophy	£50.00
16 (A)	Failure to have the Required Insurance	£NIL
18 (F)	Failure to Supply List of Players of Games Played	£NIL
18 (G)	Failure to Supply List of Players of Date Registered	£NIL
18 (H)	Playing an Ineligible Player	£35.00
18 (I)(i)	Failure to Give Priority to School Activities	£NIL
20(A)(viii)	Late Kick Off	£10.00
20(A)(ix)	No Nets No Corner Flags At Least 2 Match Balls Available	£10.00 £10.00 £10.00
20 (B)	Failure to Play Matches on the Date Fixed	£100.00
20 (C)	Failure to Provide Details of a Fixture	£20.00
20 (D)	Playing Match with Less Than Required Number of Players	£NIL
20 (E)	No Captain's Armband	£NIL
21 (A)	Late Team Sheet within 3 Days	£10.00
21 (B)	Failure to Provide Result Sheet Incorrect/Incomplete Result SheetFalsified Result Sheet	£35.00
23 (C)	Failure to Provide Club Assistant Referee	£10.00
23 (D)	Failure to Pay Match Officials' Fees and Expenses	£25.00
23 (E)	Failure to Pay Match Officials Where a Match is Not Played	£10.00

23 (F)	Failure to Provide Referee's Mark	£10.00

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SCHEDULE A

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