

MEMBERSHIP RULES OF THE AMATEUR FOOTBALL ALLIANCE LIMITED – Approved by the AFA Council on 16th February 2017

These Membership Rules are made pursuant to Article 6 of the Alliance's Articles of Association Where there is any inconsistency between these Rules and the Articles of Association, the provisions of the latter shall apply

1. AFA Players and Clubs Defined

- (a) An AFA player is one who does not accept payment or inducement directly or indirectly for playing football.
- (b) An AFA Club is one in which all the playing Members satisfy Rule 1(a) of the Alliance. A Member of a Club is one who has additionally complied with all the Rules of the Club and other qualifications for membership.

2. Acceptance and Expulsion of Members

- (a) A Club's candidature for new membership of the Alliance shall normally be proposed and seconded by current members of the Alliance. Applications by Clubs for membership shall be accompanied by such supporting information as may be required by the Alliance. Clubs shall be admitted as members of the Alliance in accordance with the Articles of Association.
- (b) All accepted new Member Clubs shall be on one (1) year of probationary membership from the date when the application is accepted. At the end of the probationary period (or such other period as the Council shall decide) the Council may expel the probationary new Member Club in accordance with the Articles of Association. Any obligations or liabilities incurred during the probationary membership shall be settled by the probationary club.
- (c) Any Member Club or individual Member of a Member Club whose conduct is considered by the Council to be unsporting or inconsistent with the objects of the Alliance (as set out in its Articles of Association) will be dealt with in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association.

3. Obligation of Members to affiliate

- (a) All Clubs and Competitions are required to submit to the Alliance:
 - a completed affiliation on the Whole Game System and pay the due fee by such date as the Alliance may determine
 - in the event of any change of information, whether temporary or permanent, such change on the Club's record on the Whole Game System and pay any appropriate fee, within three (3) days of the change that is required
- (b) Failure to comply with Rule 3(a) shall result in financial and/or other penalty.

4. Annual Affiliation Fee

The Annual affiliation fee shall be determined by the directors in accordance with Article 5. The fee shall be for the period commencing 1 June until 31 May following (or such other dates as the directors may prescribe) and shall be payable in advance of 1 June.

5. Competitions and their Membership

- (a) All competitions, including those run by Member Clubs are subject to the provisions of this Rule.
- (b) Affiliated Combinations of Member Clubs may be established as Cup or League Competitions for Member Clubs or for Member Clubs together with non-member clubs which are affiliated to a County Football Association or another FA-affiliated Association. Such competitions shall apply to the Alliance for affiliation and if granted shall be known as AFA-affiliated competitions and be subject to the rules and regulations of the Football Association.

- (c) Competitions run by and under the jurisdiction of the Alliance are known as AFA Cup Competitions and are subject to the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association.
- (d) All AFA-Affiliated Competitions shall apply for sanction annually and in accordance with the Rules & Regulations of The Football Association.
- (e) A late fee will be levied on Competitions failing to comply with sub-clause (d) above, and a further penalty will be imposed on Competitions and Clubs playing matches without having received sanction.
- (f) Any Member Club or Player failing to pay a fine levied by an Affiliated Competition shall be deemed guilty of Misconduct and be subject to disciplinary action taken by the Alliance.

6. Rules Governing Committee Members

The Council will approve and from time to time amend a Code of Conduct governing the conduct of Committee members.

7. Publicity

- (a) All decisions and reports of the Alliance or of any of its Committees may be published in such manner as the Chief Executive Officer may think fit or as the Council may direct.
- (b) In the absence of the Chief Executive Officer his appointed deputy shall make decisions on his behalf under this rule.

8. Admission to Members' Grounds

Each member of the Council shall be entitled to admission to the ground and stand if any of every club affiliated to the Alliance on the occasion of any match played under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Alliance.

9. Communications between the Alliance and its Members

Communications shall be sent or delivered to the last recorded or notified change of address or email address as follows:

- (a) Communications to the Alliance shall be sent or delivered by hand to the Chief Executive Officer at the Offices of the Alliance or to any other relevant officer within the Alliance.
- (b) Communications from the Alliance to:
 - any Competition shall be sent to the Secretary of the Competition
 - any Club shall be sent to the Club Secretary or to a relevant Officer of the Club declared on Whole Game System
 - any individual shall be sent to the individual concerned.

10. Interpretation

The interpretation of these Rules and any decision on matters not covered by them shall be the responsibility of the Council whose decision shall be binding on all members unless and until set aside by the vote of a General Meeting or as a result of an appeal to The Football Association.

11. References to FA Rules

In all matters which are not specifically provided for in these Rules, the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association shall apply, and all Clubs, Associations, Competitions and individuals in membership are responsible for the observance of these Rules and Regulations.

12. Appeals against Decisions made by Affiliated Competitions

An appeal by a Club or individual against a decision of an affiliated Competition may be made to an Appeal Board appointed by the Alliance. The appeal must be made in writing and lodged personally or by recorded postal delivery to the Offices of the Alliance or by email. It and the relevant appeal fee must be received within fourteen days of the date stated on the written notification of the original

decision. The disposal of the Appeal fee shall be at the discretion of the Appeal Board. In accordance with the Rules of The Football Association no further appeal to them may be made against a decision given under the provisions of this Rule of the Alliance.

13. Appeals against Decision made by The Alliance

An Appeal by an Affiliated Competition, Club or by an Individual, against a decision of the Council or a duly appointed Committee of the Alliance (except an Appeal Board set up to implement Rule 11 of the Alliance) shall be made to The Football Association in accordance with the provisions of the Rules of the Football Association.

14. Unaffiliated Football

Member Clubs of the Alliance may not allow their grounds to be used for unaffiliated football. This Rule applies equally to Full and Small-Side teams and Competitions, including one-day events.

15. Alterations to Rules

These rules may only be altered by Council in accordance with the Articles of Association.

16. Fines and fees

The fines/fees that may be applied under these rules are:

Rule	Fine/fee (£)	Maximum fine/fee (£)
3(b)	50	100 on subsequent breaches
4		Variable
5(e)	50	
11	50	