

Staffordshire FA Handbook 2020/21



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Staff Contacts



Business Hub:

Chief Executive Officer:	Adam Evans
Head of Strategy & Investment:	Kevin Staples
Communications & Relationships Officer:	Gareth Thomas
Finance Officer:	Joanne Adams

Workforce Hub:

Senior Workforce Officer:	Daniel Hickinbottom
Referee Development Officer:	Matthew Jones
Football Workforce Coordinator:	Sare Michael

Regulatory Hub:

Senior Regulatory Officer:	Vicky Collins
Competitions & Membership Officer:	John Lilburne
Designated Safeguarding Officer:	Jan Scott
Football Administrator:	Debbie Pope

Participation Hub:

Senior Football Participation Officer:	Bethan Woolley
Football Participation Officer:	Brent Freeman
Football Participation Officer:	Gemma Turner
Football Participation Coordinator:	Jake Triggs

Contact:

Should you require any support from any members of the team at Staffordshire FA, please contact the office via support@staffordshirefa.com or on 01785 256994.

Members of Council

President

D.E. Ramsbottom Esq.

Chairman

M. Stokes Esq.

Vice Chairman

R. Tooth Esq.

Life Members

D.M. Bathurst (53)

B.G. Shenton (47)

R.M. Street (47)

Representatives

S. Alexander (-)

G. Appleby (-)

M. Barnard (6)

P. Bateman (-)

C. Bennett (1)

B. Degg (4)

J. Dyson (-)

D. Gilchrist (1)

A.J. Grocott (12)

K. Halliday (2)

W. Hancock (10)

P. Heafield (3)

T. Homer (2)

J. Houston (4)

K. Hunt (1)

A. Hurst (2)

J. Kendrick (-)

B. Lee (2)

A. Martin (4)

D. Mole (10)

L.G. Morris (5)

R. Mullin (5)

K. Patterson (-)

C. Redfern (4)

M. Sale (8)

M. Sanders (20)

A. Salt (1)

T. Sherratt (2)

M. Stokes (21)

Life Vice Presidents

B. J. Adshead (24)

M.J. Cooper (40)

J.C.W. Deans (39)

E.F. Evans (36)

R.H. Jenkinson (39)

W.K. Martin (33)

D.E. Ramsbottom (34)

P. Savage (38)

D.L. Stanton (57)

Stafford & District Sunday League

Independent Member

Mid Staffs Junior League

Leek Town FC

Inclusion Advisory Group

Uttoxeter & District Sunday League

Independent Member

Small-Sided Football/Futsal

Lichfield & Walsall District League

Affiliated Club Coaches

Potteries Junior Youth League

Staffordshire County Referees Association

Men's National League System Clubs

Cannock Chase Sunday League

Stafford Rangers FC

Stoke City FC

Women's National League System Clubs

Lichfield & District Recreational League

Staffordshire County Girls & Women's League

Walsall FC

Sentinel Football Competitions

Independent Member

Registered Players

Walsall Junior Youth League

Leek & District Sunday League

Coors Sunday League

North Staffs Junior Youth League

Port Vale FC

Staffordshire County Senior League

G. Taylor (1)
D. Stone (6)
R. Tooth (16)
M. Warren (6)
R. Webb (2)
TBC
TBC
TBC

Youth Council
North Staffs Youth League
Potteries & District Sunday League
Staffordshire Schools FA
Charter Standard Community Clubs
Flexible Football
Staffordshire Ability Counts League
Staffordshire Football Partnership Group

Meetings of Council

The dates of Meetings of Council for Season 2020 / 2021 have been agreed as follows:

Thursday 24th September 2020 (following the Annual General Meeting)

Thursday 28th January 2021

Thursday 27th May 2021

Thursday 23rd September 2021 (following the Annual General Meeting)

All Meetings to be held at Staffordshire FA, Dyson Court, Staffordshire Technology Park, Beaconside, Stafford, ST18 0LQ at 7.30pm, unless otherwise stated.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on **Thursday 23rd September 2021, 7.30pm** at Staffordshire FA, Dyson Court, Staffordshire Technology Park, Beaconside, Stafford, ST18 0LQ, unless otherwise stated.

Board of Directors

The following Directors have been elected to serve for Season 2020 / 2021:

Messrs M. Stokes (Chairman), R. Tooth, P. Heafield, K. Halliday
A.C Evans (Chief Executive)
A. Wain, M. Hancock, TBC (Independent Members)

Committees

The make-up of the Participation, Workforce and Regulatory Committees will be confirmed at a meeting in October 2020.

Participation

C. Redfern (Chairman)

Workforce

TBC (Chairman)

Regulatory

M. Warren (Chairman)

Affiliated Leagues

Coors Sunday League (1966)	Ian Sumnall Sumnall2@hotmail.com 07714 187711
Lichfield & District Recreational League	Tracey King traceykingxx@hotmail.co.uk 07882 489726
Lichfield, Walsall & District Sunday League	Thomas Hall hall-s2@sky.com 07711 828221
Mid Staffs Junior League	Jackie Pritchard j-pritchard@sky.com 07743 109979
North Staffs Junior Youth League	Lorraine Ciccotti lorraine.ciccotti@ntlworld.com 07879 002769
North Staffs Youth League	Darren Stone darren.stone@culina.co.uk 07825 847077
Potteries & District Sunday League (1964)	Roy Tooth roytooth@gmail.com 07890 422644
Potteries Junior Youth League (1998)	Jenny Bentham ntfcyouthtreasurer@outlook.com 07395 204901
Stafford & District Sunday League (1969)	John Lilburne jlilburne@hotmail.co.uk 07805 355331
Staffordshire Ability Counts League (2008)	Gemma Turner support@staffordshirefa.com 01785 256994
Staffordshire County Senior League	Chris Jackson cpjackson.referee@yahoo.co.uk 07763171456
Staffordshire County Girls & Women's League	Tiffany Heaven tiffanyheaven7@googlemail.com 07415 182418
Uttoxeter & District Sunday League (1973)	Beverley Degg beverleydegg@yahoo.co.uk 07816 068454
Walsall Junior Youth League	Alberta Wood alberta_wood@hotmail.com 07958 536532

Affiliated Small-Sided Competitions

For a full list of affiliated small-sided football competitions across Staffordshire, please contact the office via support@staffordshirefa.com or on 01785 256994.

Alternatively, please visit the Small-Sided Football page on the website:
www.staffordshirefa.com/players/ways-to-play/small-sided

Affiliated Cup Competitions

Leek & District Cup (1901)
Sentinel Competitions (1892)
Staffordshire County Police Cup (1920)
Staffordshire County Referees Challenge Cup (1959)

Affiliated Charity Competitions

Arthur Elden Memorial Trophy
Bilston Cup
Chesterton Charity Cup
Lichfield Charity Cup (1908)
Uttoxeter Charity Cup (1973)

Officers of The Association / Long Service Awards

President

1877 – 1879 T.C. Slaney
1879 – 1881 B. Woodsworth
1881 – 1887 H. Allen
1887 – 1891 H. Mitchell
1891 – 1894 T.C. Slaney
1894 – 1901 S. Barker
1901 – 1916 T.S. Sidney
1916 – 1929 H. Keys
1929 – 1933 J.E. Jones
1933 – 1938 A.C.J. Sherwin JP
1938 – 1948 F. Whitter
1948 – 1954 A.H. Oakley JP
1954 – 1961 Ald G. Owen OBE JP
1961 – 1964 W.H. Thursfield JP
1964 – 1967 J.H. Marshall
1967 – 1990 L.A. Hickman
1991 – 1999 G.H. Goode
2000 – 2006 P. Savage
2006 – 2018 D.M. Bathurst
2018 – D.E. Ramsbottom

Chairman

1948 – 1954 Ald. G. Owen OBE, JP
1954 – 1961 W.H. Thursfield JP
1961 – 1967 F. Peake
1967 – 1968 E.G. Morgan
1968 – 1970 T.B. Williamson
1970 – 1973 H. Haynes
1973 – 1979 G.H. Goode
1980 – 2000 R.N. Heath
2000 D.E. Barber
2000 – 2006 P. Hodgkinson
2006 – 2013 D.E. Ramsbottom
2013 – M. Stokes

Vice Chairman

1955 – 1956 S.W. Bailey
1956 – 1961 F. Peake
1961 – 1964 H. Brookes
1964 – 1967 E.G. Morgan
1967 – 1968 F. Peake
1968 – 1972 E.G. Wilson
1973 – 1980 R.N. Heath
1980 – 1987 S. Gutteridge

1987 – 1991 G.H. Goode
1991 – 1992 P. Savage
1992 – 1996 J. Wilkie
1996 – 2000 P. Hodgkinson
2000 – 2006 D.E. Ramsbottom
2006 – 2009 M.A. Sanders
2009 – 2013 M. Stokes
2013 – R. Tooth

Secretary

1877 – 1891 T.C. Slaney
1891 – 1915 W. Heath
1915 – 1929 A.J. Barker
1929 – 1948 J.T. Stevenson
1948 – 1954 G. Salmon
1954 – 1976 A. Heeks
1976 – 1978 H. Goodall
1978 – 1986 T. Myatt
1986 – 1996 G.S. Brookes
1996 – 2016 B.J. Adshead
2016 – A. C. Evans

Long Service Awards

The following Members of Council have been presented with Long Service Awards:

B.J. Adshead
D.M Bathurst
M.J. Cooper
J.C.W. Deans
E.F. Evans
R.H. Jenkinson
W.K. Martin
D.E. Ramsbottom
M. Sanders
P. Savage
B.G. Shenton
D.L. Stanton
M.A. Stokes
R.M. Street

The following Members, since deceased or resigned, also received Long Service Awards:

E. Adams
J.T. Adams
J.H. Addenbrooke
F.J. Archer

T. Armit
H.D. Austerberry
J. Baggaley
G. Bailey
S.W. Bailey
A.J. Barker
F. Bettaney
J.E. Blair
J.K. Blower
H.S. Boston
T.J. Botham
G.S. Brookes
H. Brookes
B.G. Brown
A. Button
G.S. Clark
F. Cooper
F. Cork
J. Conshaw
R.N. Crutchley
B. Davies
S. Davies
T. Davies
F.J.M. De Leuw
R.H. Dennison
T.L. Duddell
J.L. Duff
F. Dunning
T.D. Dunning
A.W. Dunton
W. Eaton
S.J. Eccleston
C.I. Edwards
F. Everiss
P. Ford
J.F. Furby
G.H. Gee
A.N. Goode
G.H. Goode
T. Greaves
S. Gutteridge
G.B. Haddon
F.G. Hall
N.J. Harper
W.W. Hart
H. Haynes
R.N. Heath
W. Heath

A. Heeks
A.A. Henshall
L.A. Hickman
P. Hodgkinson
H. Holmes
L. Horne
C. Illsley
J.K. Johnson
R. Keay
W.T. Kendrick B.E.M.
H. Keys
S. Kimberley
T. Kirkham
M.W. Lawrence
S. Lawson
G. Leadley
F. Lee
S. Leese
F. Leigh
A.D. Lewis
A.T. Lunn
J.W. Lycett
J. McNally
A. McPherson
H. Mayou
E.G. Morgan
T. Myatt
F. Nixon
J. Nixon
D. Oliver
S.G. Osborn
G. Owen, OBE, JP
R. Pardoe
F. Peake
H. Pepper
R. Pepper
S. Pointon
M.J. Potts
D. Procter
J. Redfern
H.S. Richards
R. Richardson
D.R. Riley
R.S. Shanahan
T.H. Sidney
G. Singh
J.T. Stevenson
G.D. Swinton

J.N. Tatters
C.H. Taylor
J. Taylor
E. Thonger
B. Thirwall
W.H. Thursfield
A. Tipper
A. Trickett
G.W. Walker
A. Weaver
H.J. Westmancoat
G. Whittaker
A.E. Whitmore
J.F. Wiseman
F. Witter
E.G. Wilson
J.E. Williams
T.B. Williamson
H.N. Wootton
F.J. Wright

Conference Dates 2020 / 2021

Staffordshire FA County Cup Competitions

Due to the impact of Covid-19, there will be no Staffordshire FA County Cup Competitions in the 2020 / 2021 Season.

External Competitions

Leek Cup

5 October	2 November	4 January	1 February
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Sentinel Sunday Cup

29 September	3 November	14 February	1 March
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Sentinel Cup

29 September	3 November	14 February	1 March
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Sentinel Shield

10 November	8 December	12 January	9 February
8 March			

Lichfield Charity Cup

29 September	3 November	1 December	5 January
2 February			

Bilston Cup

6 October	3 November	1 December	5 January
2 February	1 March,	5 April	

Standing Orders

- 1.** The Council, at its first Meeting after the Annual General Meeting, shall appoint a Chairman and a Vice Chairman.
- 2.** Each Member of Council on speaking shall rise and address him/herself to the Chairman, and not to any other Member of the Council. No speech shall exceed Five Minutes duration, except by permission of the Chairman.
- 3.** Notice of intending Motions must be given in writing to the Secretary fourteen days before the Meeting of the Council.
- 4.** The Mover of every original resolution, but not of any amendment (unless it becomes an original motion), shall have the right to reply not introducing therein any new matter, but confining him/herself strictly to the answering of previous objections, immediately after which the question shall be put from the Chair. No other Member shall be allowed to speak more than once on the same question unless permission be given to explain, or the attention of the Chairman be called to Point of Order.
- 5.** When an amendment is moved upon a proposition no further amendment shall be moved or taken into consideration until the first is disposed of, no more than Three amendments may be brought forward in succession, and the question must be put in such a manner that if one amendment be negative another may be moved upon the original proposition, but if an amendment be affirmed it shall form the proposition under consideration, whereupon further amendments may be moved, the question must ultimately be put upon the original or amended proposition, as the case may be, in order to allow its being passed as a resolution.
- 6.** When discussion arises upon amended proposition, the mover of the amendment which has displaced the original proposition may speak in reply and so in like manner respect to any further displacing amendments.
- 7.** No resolution may be rescinded at the Meeting at which it has been placed.
- 8.** Every question, other than a Motion for Urgency, shall be decided by a majority of votes. The Chairman's declaration of the result shall be prima facie decisive, but if not accepted shall be challenged at once and a recount claimed.
- 9.** If on a decision being taken the votes recorded, including that of the Chairman, are equally divided, the Chairman is entitled to give a casting vote.
- 10.** Any objection to the validity of the decision of any question shall be made at once.
- 11.** Powers and Duties of Committees. The decisions of Committees shall come before the Board of Directors for confirmation excepting where of necessity such decisions must become operative before the next Meeting of the Board of Directors. All other decisions of

Committees shall be considered recommendations and shall be subject to adoption by the Board of Directors.

12. Cup Competitions. The entire control and management of the Cup Competitions shall be vested in the Board of Directors.

13. Discipline. The Board of Directors or any Commission thereof shall act as a Disciplinary Board and a decision of such Commission shall be deemed to be a decision of The Association and binding on all Members subject to the Right of Appeal to The Football Association, whose decision shall also be binding with the provisions of The Football Association Rule No.H1.

14. A Minimum of THREE Members is needed to form a quorum for the transaction of any business.

Articles of The Association

INTERPRETATION

1. The model articles of association for a private company limited by guarantee set out in Schedule 2 of the companies (Model Articles) regulations 2008 (S12008/3229) and any amendment or replacement from time to time shall not apply to the Association but the regulations contained in the following clauses (as originally adopted or from time to time altered by Special Resolution) shall be the Articles.

2. In these Articles:

“The Act”	means the Companies Act 2006 as amended, restated or re-enacted from time to time.
“Affiliated Club”	means a football club which the Council has accepted may affiliate to the Association as an Affiliated Club.
“Affiliated League”	means a League of Affiliated Clubs which the Council has accepted may affiliate to the Association.
“Articles”	means these Articles of Association.
“Associate Member”	means an Affiliated Club or other person who the Council has resolved may be an associate member of the Association.
“Association”	means Staffordshire Football Association Limited.
“Chairman”	means the chairman of the Association appointed from time to time in accordance with Article 43.
“Board of Directors”	means the directors of the Association for the purposes of the Act as appointed from time to time under these Articles.
“Chief Executive”	means the person appointed from time to time to be the chief executive for the Association appointed in accordance with Article 62.
“clear day”	in relation to the period of a notice means that period excluding the day when the notice is giving or deemed to be given and the day for which it is given or on which it is to take effect.
“Competitions”	means a competition of Affiliated Clubs which the Council has accepted may affiliate to the Association.
“the Council”	means the Council of the Association as constituted under these Articles and any Rules made pursuant thereto.
“Council Member”	means the person appointed or elected from time to time to be members of the Council in accordance with these Articles.
“County”	means the area described in Article 3(b).
“executed”	includes any mode of execution.
“FA Representative”	means the person appointed from time to time in accordance with Article 46 to be the Association’s representative at The Football Association under the Articles of The Football Association.
“First Council Meeting”	means the first meeting of the council to be held after the Association’s first annual general meeting.

“The Football Association”	means The Football Association Limited of Wembley Stadium, Wembley, London HA9 0WS.
“He/Him”	can also mean She/Her.
“Laws of the Game”	means the laws of Association Football as settled by the Federation Internationale de Football Associations (FIFA) from time to time.
“League Representative”	means a Council Member elected pursuant to Article 35 and in accordance with Article 36.
“Life Members”	means the persons appointed from time to time to be in the life members of the Association in accordance with Article 45.
“Life Vice Presidents”	means the persons appointed from time to time to be the life vice presidents of the Association in accordance with Article 44.
“members”	means those Affiliated League, Competitions, clubs, Associate Members and individuals admitted into membership of the Association in accordance with Article 5.
“Membership Rules”	means the membership rules of the Association created and amended from time to time pursuant to Article 8.
“office”	means the registered office of the Association.
“President”	means the person elected from time to time for a single period of four years only to be the president of the Associations in accordance with Article 42.
“Rules”	means the rules, regulations, standing orders and byelaws of the Association as amended from time to time;
“Rules of The Football Association”	means the rules of The Football Association as amended from time to time.
“secretary”	means the company secretary of the Association or any other person appointed to perform the duties of the company secretary of the Association pursuant to the Act, including a joint, assistant or deputy secretary.
“Senior Clubs”	means those Affiliated Clubs in full membership of The Football Association.
“Staffordshire Referees Association”	means the representative body for the referees recognised by the Directors as operating within the County from time to time.
“Standing Committees”	means the Standing Committees of the Council as created in accordance with Article 49 as amended from time to time in accordance with Article 50.
“United Kingdom”	means Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
“Vice-Chairman”	means the person elected from time to time to be the Vice Chairman of the Association in accordance with Article 43.

Unless the context otherwise requires, words or expressions contained in these Articles bear the same meaning as in the Act but excluding any statutory modification thereof not in force when these Articles become binding on the Association.

References to writing include references to any visible substitute for writing and to anything partly in one form and partly in another form.

Words denoting the singular number include the plural number and vice versa; words denoting the masculine gender include the feminine gender; words denoting persons include bodies corporate (however incorporated) and unincorporated, including unincorporated associations of persons and partnerships.

Headings are inserted for convenience only and do not affect the construction of these Articles.

OBJECTS

3. The Objects for which the Association is established are:
- (a) to promote, foster, develop and support the Game of Association Football (“the Game”) in every way, without discrimination, and to take all steps as shall be thought necessary or advisable for preventing infringements of the Laws of the Game as they apply from time to time, or any improper methods or practices in the Game, and for protecting the Game from abuses;
 - (b) to make, adopt, vary and publish rules, regulations and bye-laws and conditions for the regulation of the Game or otherwise within the County Boundaries of Staffordshire as defined on 31st March 1925 or such other area (“the County”) as shall be determined from time to time by The Football Association, and to take all such steps as shall be thought necessary or advisable for enforcing such rules, regulations, bye-laws and conditions;
 - (c) to promote, foster, develop and support the principle of fair play in the Game by encouraging everyone involved in the Game to show respect to each other and to behave in a sporting manner both on and off the field of play;
 - (d) to promote, foster, develop and support organisations designed in any way to promote, foster, develop and support the Game, including playing the Game, the training and regulation of players, coaches and referees, the promotion of sportsmanship, the promotion of security in relation to spectating and the advancement of science and medicine as they apply to the Game, and in any way in relation to all other aspects of the Game, including by subscribing for shares, loan stock, warrants and other instruments in such organisations, or becoming involved as a member or affiliate of such organisations, or facilitating the drafting and adoption of the constitution or memorandum and articles of association of such organisations or by making payments by way of grant or otherwise to such organisations;
 - (e) to maintain, continue and provide for the affiliation and registration of competitions, clubs and other organisations for promoting or playing the Game;
 - (f) to maintain, continue and provide for the affiliation and registration of players, referees, coaches and others involved in the Game;
 - (g) to promote, provide for, regulate and manage competitions and matches, in the County or elsewhere, and to do or provide for all or any such matters and things as may be considered necessary for or ancillary to such promotion, provision, regulation or management, including for the comfort, conduct, conveyance, convenience or benefit of players and of the public, and of any other persons concerned or engaged in such competitions or matches;

- (h) to provide for the proper custody, insurance, protection, exhibition, awarding, distribution or loan of or other dealing with all or any of the cups, shields, and other prizes of or relating to the Association;
 - (i) to provide for representation at general meetings and on the Council of The Football Association of persons involved in the Game within the County by such means and in such manner as shall be determined from time to time under the rules, regulations or bye-laws, conditions or articles of association;
 - (J) to provide for, make and vary all such rules, regulations and bye-laws as they relate to persons involved in the Game in the County from time to time;
 - (k) to provide by rules, regulations, conditions, bye-laws, or otherwise, for deciding and settling all differences that may arise between associations, clubs, competitions, players or any persons who are members of or who are employed or engaged by any such association, competition or club, or any other person in reference to due compliance with the Laws of the Game (as from time to time prescribed by The Football Association) or the rules, regulations, conditions or bye-laws of the association or of The Football Association, or in reference to contracts, or to any other matter or dispute or difference arising between such, or persons, or any of them, and whether the Association is concerned in such dispute or difference or not, and to make such provisions for enforcing any award or decision as shall be thought proper;
 - (l) to co-operate with or assist any association or club or competition or other person involved in the Game in any way which the Association shall think proper, and to enter into or adopt any agreement or arrangements with such;
 - (m) to co-operate with The Football Association in all matters relating to the Game, including compliance with the Rules of The Football Association and the rules and regulations of any body to which The Football Association is affiliated; and
 - (n) to adopt and carry out all such rules and regulations, conditions, bye-laws, agreements and arrangements of The Football Association, as are now in existence and from time to time, and to comply with or to enforce the due compliance with the same unless and until the same shall have been duly varied in accordance with the terms thereof.
4. The objects stated in each part of Article 3 shall not be restrictively construed but shall be given the widest interpretation. In Article 3, the word “association” shall, except where used to refer to the Association, mean any partnership or other body or person, whether corporate or unincorporated, and whether domiciled in the United Kingdom or elsewhere. Except where the context expressly so requires, none of the objects stated in Article 3, shall be limited by, or be deemed subsidiary or auxiliary to, any other object stated in Article 3.

MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

5. The members as at the date of adoption of these Articles and such other persons as are admitted to membership by the Council in their absolute discretion in accordance with the Articles shall be the members of the Association. Every person who wishes to become a member shall deliver to the Association an application for membership in such form as the Council requires executed by him. The provisions of section 113 of the Act shall be observed by the Association and every member shall sign a

written consent to become a member or sign the register of members on becoming a member. For the purposes of registration, the number of members is declared to be unlimited. Every corporation and unincorporated association which is admitted to membership may exercise such powers as are prescribed by section 323 of the Act. Council Members shall be members but any person who ceases to be a Council Member shall automatically cease to be a member and his name removed from the register of members.

6. A member may withdraw from membership of the Association on seven days' clear notice to the Association. Membership shall not be transferable in any event and shall cease immediately on death or dissolution or on failure of the member to comply or to continue to comply with any condition of membership set out in these Articles or the Rules or the Membership Rules.
7. The Directors may from time to time make, vary and revoke Rules relating to the levels of subscriptions or affiliation fees to be paid by the different categories of members.
8. Subject to Article 5, the Council may from time to time make, vary and revoke Membership Rules relating to all aspects of membership of the Association including (without limitation)
Membership Rules:
 - (a) setting out different categories of membership of the Association including Rules for Associate Members;
 - (b) setting out rights, privileges and obligations of the different categories of members;
 - (c) relating to the organisation of members including (without limitation) rules of, finances of and financial and other records and minute books to be kept by the members;
 - (d) setting out which office holder(s) of a member may represent the member at general meetings of the Association;
 - (e) setting out disciplinary procedures for members and players.
9. It shall be the duty of the Directors, if at any time they shall be of the opinion that the interests of the Association so require, by notice in writing sent by prepaid post to a member's address, to request that member to withdraw from membership of the Association within a time specified in such notice. No such notice shall be sent except on a vote of the majority of the Directors present and voting, which majority shall include one half of the total number of the Directors for the time being.
10. If, on the expiry of the time specified in such notice, the member concerned has not withdrawn from membership by submitting written notice of his resignation, or if at any time after receipt of the notice requesting him to withdraw from membership the member shall so request in writing, the matter shall be submitted to a properly convened and constituted meeting of the Directors. The Directors and the member whose expulsion is under consideration shall be given at least 14 days' notice of the meeting, and such notice shall specify the matter to be discussed. The member concerned shall at the meeting be entitled to present a statement in his defence either verbally or in writing, and he shall not be required to withdraw from membership unless half of the Directors present and voting shall, after receiving the statement in his defence, vote for his expulsion, or unless the member fails to attend the meeting without sufficient reason being given. If such a vote is carried, or if the member shall fail to attend the meeting without sufficient reason being given, he shall

thereupon cease to be a member and his name shall be removed from the register of members.

11. The members shall pay any subscription, affiliation and other fees set by the Directors. Any member whose subscription or affiliation fee is more than one month in arrears shall be deemed to have resigned his membership of the Association.

GENERAL MEETINGS

12. The Association shall hold a general meeting in every calendar year as its annual general meeting at such time and place as may be determined by the Directors and shall specify the meeting as such in the notices calling it. The annual general meeting shall be held for the following purposes:
 - (a) to receive from the Directors a full statement of account;
 - (b) to receive from the Directors a report of the activities of the Association since the previous annual general meeting;
 - (c) to announce the appointment of the Council Members appointed pursuant to paragraphs (h) to (v) inclusive of Article 35;
 - (d) to appoint the Association's auditors; and
 - (e) to transact such other business as may be brought before it in accordance with these Articles.

All general meetings other than the Annual General Meetings shall be called Extraordinary General Meetings.

13. The Directors may call general meetings and, on the requisition of one tenth of the members pursuant to the provisions of the Act, shall within 21 days proceed to convene a general meeting for a date not later than 28 days after the date of the notice convening the meeting. Such requisition must state the object of the meeting. If there are not within the United Kingdom sufficient Directors to call a general meeting, any Director or the secretary may call a general meeting.

NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETINGS

14. An annual general meeting and a general meeting called for the passing of a special resolution shall be called by at least 21 clear days' notice. A general meeting may be called by shorter notice if it is so agreed:
 - (a) in the case of an annual general meeting, by all the members entitled to attend and vote thereat; and
 - (b) in the case of any other meeting, by a majority in number of the members having a right to attend and vote being a majority together holding not less than 90% of the total voting rights at the meeting of all of the members.
15. The notice shall specify the time and place of the meeting and, in the case of special business, the general nature of such business. All business shall be deemed special that is transacted at a general meeting and also all business that is transacted at an annual general meeting with the exception of:
 - (a) the consideration and adoption of the accounts and balance sheet and the reports of the Directors and auditors and other documents required to be annexed to the accounts;
 - (b) the appointment of auditors (and the fixing of their remuneration) where special notice of the resolution for such appointment is not required by the Companies Act.

The notice shall, in the case of an annual general meeting, specify the meeting as such and, in the case of a meeting to pass a special resolution, specify the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution.

16. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of notice of a meeting by, any person entitled to receive notice shall not invalidate any resolution passed or the proceedings at that meeting.

PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL MEETINGS

17. No business shall be transacted at any meeting unless a quorum of 20 members (excluding associate members) is present in person, by proxy, or in case of a corporate member by representative.
18. If such a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting, or if during a meeting such a quorum ceases to be present, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and place or to such time and place as the Directors may determine and if at such adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for holding the meeting the members present shall be a quorum.
19. The President, or in his absence the Chairman, or in his absence the Vice Chairman shall preside as chairman of the meeting, but if neither the President, the Chairman nor the Vice Chairman be present within 15 minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting and willing to act, the Directors present shall elect one of their number to be chairman of the meeting and, if there is only one Director present and willing to act, he shall be chairman of the meeting.
20. If no Director is willing to act as chairman of the meeting, or if no Director is present within 15 minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, the members entitled to vote and present in person, by proxy or in the case of a corporate member by representative, shall choose one of their number to be chairman of the meeting.
21. The chairman of the meeting may, with the consent of a meeting at which a quorum is present (and shall if so directed by the meeting), adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place, but no business shall be transacted at an adjourned meeting other than business which might properly have been transacted at the meeting had the adjournment not taken place. When a meeting is adjourned for 14 days or more, at least 7 clear days' notice shall be given specifying the time and place of the adjourned meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted. Otherwise it shall not be necessary to give any such notice.
22. The chairman of the meeting may at any time without the consent of the meeting adjourn any meeting (whether or not it has commenced, or a quorum is present) either without fixing a day for the meeting or to another time or place where it appears to him that:
 - (a) members wishing to attend cannot be conveniently accommodated in the place appointed for the meeting;
 - (b) the conduct of persons present prevents or is likely to prevent the orderly continuation of business; or;
 - (c) an adjournment is otherwise necessary so that the business of the meeting may be properly conducted.
23. If an amendment shall be proposed to any resolution under consideration but shall in good faith be ruled out of order by the chairman of the meeting, the proceedings on the substantive shall not be invalidated by any error in such ruling. With the consent

of the chairman of the meeting, an amendment may be withdrawn by its proposer before it is voted upon. In the case of a resolution duly proposed as a special resolution, no amendment thereto (other than a mere clerical amendment to correct a typographical error) may in any event be considered or voted upon.

24. A resolution put to the vote of a meeting shall be decided on a show of hands unless before or on the declaration of the result of, the show of hands a poll is duly demanded. Subject to the provisions of the Act, a poll may be demanded:
 - (a) by the chairman of the meeting; or
 - (b) by at least 5 members present in person, by proxy or in the case of a corporate member by representative and having the right to vote at the meeting.
25. Unless a poll is duly demanded a declaration by the chairman of the meeting that a resolution has been carried, or carried unanimously, or by a particular majority, or lost, or not carried by a particular majority and an entry to that effect in the minutes of the meeting shall be conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against the resolution.
26. The demand for a poll may, before the poll is taken, be withdrawn but only with the consent of the chairman and a demand so withdrawn shall not be taken to have invalidated the result of a show of hands declared before the demand was made.
27. A poll shall be taken at such time and place and in such manner as the chairman of the meeting directs and he may appoint scrutineers (who need not be members) and fix a time and place for declaring the result of the poll. The result of the poll shall be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting at which the poll was demanded.
28. In the case of an equality of votes, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, if the chairman of the meeting is a member of the Association then he shall be entitled to a casting vote in addition to any other vote he may have.
29. A poll demanded on the election of a chairman of the meeting or on a question of adjournment shall be taken forthwith. A poll demanded on any other question shall be taken either forthwith or at such time and place as the chairman of the meeting directs not being more than 14 days after the poll is demanded. The demand for a poll shall not prevent the continuance of the meeting for the transaction of any business other than the question on which the poll was demanded. If a poll is demanded before the declaration of the result of a show of hands and the demand is duly withdrawn, the meeting shall continue as if the demand had not been made.
30. No notice need be given of a poll not taken forthwith if the time and place at which it is to be taken are announced at the meeting at which it is demanded. In any other case at least 7 clear days' notice shall be given specifying the time and place at which the poll is to be taken.
31. A resolution in writing executed by or on behalf of such number of members who would have been entitled to vote for the resolution had it been proposed in general meeting at which all of the members were present and voting shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a general meeting duly convened and held and may consist of several instruments in the like form each executed by or on behalf of one or more members.

VOTES OF MEMBERS

32. Subject to Article 28, on a show of hands every member who is present in person shall have one vote and on a poll every member present in person by proxy or in the

case of a corporate member by representative shall have one vote. Associate members shall not be entitled to receive notice of, attend or vote at general meetings.

- (a) Proxies may only validly be appointed by a notice in writing which:
 - (i) states the name and address of the member appointing the proxy;
 - (ii) identifies the person appointed to be that member's proxy and the general meeting in relation to which that person is appointed;
 - (iii) is signed by or on behalf of the member appointing the proxy, or is authenticated in such manner as the Directors may determine; and
 - (iv) is delivered to the Association in accordance with the Articles and any instructions contained in the notice of the general meeting to which they relate.
 - (b) A person who is entitled to attend, speak or vote (either on a show of hands or on a poll) at a general meeting remains so entitled in respect of that meeting or any adjournment of it, even though a valid proxy notice has been delivered to the Association by or on behalf of that person.
 - (c) An appointment under a proxy notice may be revoked by delivering to the Association a notice in writing given by or on behalf of the person by whom or on whose behalf the proxy notice was given. A notice revoking a proxy appointment only takes effect if it is delivered before the start of the meeting or adjourned meeting to which it relates.
33. If any votes are given or counted at a general meeting which shall afterwards be discovered to be improperly given or counted, the same shall not affect the validity of any resolution or thing passed or done at the said meeting, unless the objection to such votes be taken at the same meeting, and not in that case, unless the chairman of the meeting shall then and there decide that the error is of sufficient magnitude to affect such resolution or thing.
34. No objection shall be raised to the qualification of any voter except at the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote objected to is tendered, and every vote not disallowed at the meeting shall be valid. Any objection made in due time shall be referred to the chairman of the meeting whose decision shall be final and conclusive.

THE COUNCIL

35. The Council shall comprise:
- (a) The President
 - (b) The Chairman
 - (c) The Vice Chairman
 - (d) The Life Vice Presidents
 - (e) The Past Presidents
 - (f) Up to three Life Members
 - (g) The Chief Executive Officer
 - (h) One representative from the Staffordshire County Referees' Association
 - (i) One representative from each Affiliated League with at least eight Affiliated Clubs in Membership and the Sentinel Football Competitions
 - (j) One person to represent all Clubs playing in the National League System Step 1 to 7 inclusive who are not part of (i) above
 - (k) One representative from the Staffordshire Schools Football Association
 - (l) One representative from Small-Sided Football/Futsal
 - (m) One representative from Disability Football

- (n) One representative from each of the Senior Football Clubs
- (o) One representative from Recreational Football
- (p) One Representative from all Charter Standard Community Clubs
- (q) One representative from all Registered Players
- (r) One representative from all Affiliated Club Coaches
- (s) One representative from the Women's Football Pyramid
- (t) One representative from the Youth Council
- (u) One representative from the Inclusion Advisory Group
- (v) One representative from the Staffordshire Football Partnership Group
- (w) Up to four independent persons appointed following advertising

APPOINTMENT TO COUNCIL

36. Each organisation or group of organisations, entitled to nominate a person to be a Council Member pursuant to paragraphs (h) to (m) of Article 35, shall submit to the Council for approval by such time as the Board shall prescribe, the name or names of the person or persons (as the case may be) they propose to nominate as a Council Member or Council Members (as the case maybe). Those persons proposed to be nominated as Council Members pursuant to paragraphs (h) to (v) of Article 35 must be nominated on the nomination form prescribed by the Directors and such form must be submitted to the secretary by such time or times as the Directors shall prescribe. Those persons nominated pursuant to paragraphs (h) to (v) of Article 35 if approved by Council shall serve for a one-year term from the Annual General Meeting in each year and shall be eligible for reappointment.
37. In the event of a casual vacancy occurring in relation to any Council Member appointed in accordance with Article 36, the organisation or group of organisations concerned shall have power (but shall not be obliged) to appoint a substitute Council Member, suitably qualified to represent that organisation or group of organisations until such time as the person who was replaced was due to retire and such person shall be eligible for re-election in accordance with these Articles.
38. The Council Members shall remain in office until their successors have been elected and appointed. Subject to Article 37, the Council shall have the power to fill any other vacancy which may occur on Council during the year. A Council Member so appointed to fill a vacancy shall hold office until such time as the person who was replaced was due to retire and such person shall be eligible for re-election in accordance with these Articles.
39. All Council Members, without exception, are required to sign the Association's Code of Conduct and to comply with any Safeguarding regulations as stipulated by The Football Association. Failure by any Council Member to do so within three months of becoming a Council Member will disqualify that Member from their membership of the Association.
40. A Council Member may also be disqualified from his membership of the Association if:
- (a) he becomes bankrupt or makes any arrangement or composition with his creditors generally; or
 - (b) he is, or may be, suffering from mental disorder and either:
 - (i) he is admitted to hospital in pursuance of an application for admission for treatment under the Mental Health Act 1983 or, in Scotland, an application for admission under the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1960; or

- (ii) an order is made by a court having jurisdiction (whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere) in matters concerning mental disorder for his detention or for the appointment of a receiver, curator bonis or other person to exercise powers with respect to their property or affairs; or
 - (c) he resigns his office by notice to the Association; or
 - (d) he is absent for three or more consecutive Council meetings or meetings of Standing Committees of which he is a member without sufficient reason or without permission of the Board of Directors, who have the power to resolve that his office be vacated; or
 - (e) he is suspended from holding office or from taking part in any football activity relating to the administration or management of the Association by a decision of The Football Association; or
 - (f) he is removed from office by a resolution duly passed pursuant to section 168 of the Act; or
 - (g) he is removed from office by a three-quarters majority of those Council Members present and voting at the Council meeting at which a resolution to remove them is proposed.
41. No person shall be elected to serve as a Council Member if they are a member of the council of any other county football association, either at the time of nomination or after election.

PRESIDENT AND PAST PRESIDENTS

42. No person may be nominated to be President unless he is a current Council Member who has served on the Council for 15 years in aggregate. Nominations for the office of President shall be made on the prescribed form and must be sent together with the names of the proposers and seconders to the secretary on or before the 31st March in the year of election. Any member of the Council may propose or second a nomination for President. Such person shall hold office for a single maximum four-year term only, from the meeting at which he is elected. The President shall be elected at the Council meeting prior to the annual general meeting in the year of election. Past Presidents shall be entitled to remain on Council for the rest of their lives without the need to be reappointed. A person shall be deemed to have resigned as a Past President if, in the opinion of Council, he ceases to take an active role on the work of the Council.

CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

43. A person can only become Chairman if they are a Council Member (excluding Life Vice Presidents) and have served on the Council for 5 years, or Vice Chairman if they are a Council Member and have served on the Council for 4 years. The Council shall decide which Council Member shall be appointed as Chairman and which as Vice Chairman. The person appointed as the Chairman shall hold office for a two-year term from the Council meeting at which he is appointed but is eligible for reappointment for a maximum of 4 further two-year terms. The person appointed as the Vice Chairman shall hold office for a two-year term from the Council meeting at which he is appointed but is eligible for reappointment for a maximum of 4 further two-year terms.

LIFE VICE PRESIDENTS

44. The Life Vice Presidents (previously appointed by Council) shall remain as Life Vice Presidents but shall relinquish any role relating to being a Council Member representing an affiliated organisation. Life Vice Presidents cannot become the Association Chairman, Vice Chairman or a member of the Board of Directors. They shall be entitled to receive notice of, attend and vote at all Council meetings. They shall be entitled to remain on Council for the rest of their lives without the need to be re-appointed. No further Life Vice Presidents shall be appointed until there is only one or none remaining in which event an election shall be held to bring the number of Life Vice Presidents up to a maximum of two.

LIFE MEMBERS

45. A Council Member shall only be eligible to become a Life Member if they have been a Council Member for at least 30 years. Life Members are entitled to remain on the Council for life without having to be re-elected. However, there can only be three Life Members at any one time.

F. A. REPRESENTATIVE

46. The Council shall decide every 3 years, at the Council meeting prior to the annual general meeting, which person should be the Association's FA Representative. To comply with The Football Association's requirements, the person so elected for the first time must be under the age of 65 years and can only serve for a maximum of 9 years. Such person shall be appointed for a three-year term but will become eligible for two further terms following the appropriate Council meeting and upon such conditions as the Council thinks fit. Any person so appointed may be removed at any time by the Council. In the event of a casual vacancy arising in the office of FA Representative, the Council shall be entitled to appoint a replacement at the next Council meeting after the vacancy has arisen.

POWERS OF COUNCIL

47. The Council has the power to appoint and remove Directors in accordance with these Articles.

STANDING COMMITTEES

48. The Board of Directors has the power to regulate and manage all football matters referred to it including (without limitation) all disciplinary, selection, referees, league sanctions and other matters pertaining to the regulation and conduct of football in the County.
49. Pursuant to Article 48, following the annual general meeting the Board of Directors shall appoint such persons, whether or not Council Members, as they think fit to Standing Committees of the Council to hold office until the first Council meeting following the next annual general meeting.
50. The Board of Directors may in its absolute discretion at any time amend the number of Standing Committees and may at any time dispense with the need for any of those Standing Committees and may also amend the name of any Standing Committee at any time.
51. Each Standing Committee shall decide which of its number shall be chairman and which vice chairman of that Committee. Each Standing Committee shall conduct its

business in accordance with any terms of reference and standing orders set by the Board of Directors from time to time.

52. The President, Chairman and Vice Chairman shall be members of all Standing Committees ex officio and are entitled to receive notice of all meetings of Standing Committees and shall be entitled to attend, speak and vote at all such meetings.
53. The Chief Executive and the secretary shall be entitled to receive notice of all general meetings, all meetings of Council, all meetings of the Standing Committees and all Directors' Meetings and shall be entitled to attend, speak and vote at all such meetings.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

54. Council Members are entitled to attend all Council meetings and general meetings and subject to the provisions of these Articles are entitled to vote at such meetings.
55. The Chief Executive may, and on the request of any 12 Council Members shall, call Council meetings. The notice shall be sent to all the Council Members individually. At least 7 days' notice shall be given of Council meetings. The accidental omission to give notice of a Council Meeting to, or the non-receipt of notice of a meeting by, any Council Member shall not invalidate any resolution passed or the proceedings at that meeting. The Council shall meet at least three times in any year. No business shall be transacted at any meeting unless a quorum of 20 Council Members is present.
56. The Council shall have the power to make standing orders for the conduct of Council meetings and the Council may otherwise regulate their proceedings as they think fit. Council Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with those standing orders. Each Council Member shall have one vote.

MINUTES

57. The Council shall cause minutes to be made in books kept for the purpose:
 - (a) of all appointments it makes; and
 - (b) of all its proceedings.

DIRECTORS

58. Subject to Article 8 the affairs of the Association shall be governed by the Directors who may authorise all such acts and the exercise of all such powers of the Association by the Directors, on whom executive management powers are conferred as Directors, as may be required to give effect to the objects as described in the provisions of the Memorandum of Association, and which are not by statute or these Articles required to be done or exercised by the Association in general meeting or by the Council.
59. In the absence of any expression to the contrary in the Articles, rules or any regulations, or standing orders, or decisions of the Directors, a matter shall be carried if supported by a simple majority of the Directors present and voting.

NUMBER OF DIRECTORS

60. Unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution, the number of Directors shall be subject to a maximum of five but not less than four, together with the option of three additional persons being appointed as Independent Directors by the Board following advertisement and interviews.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

61. The directors shall comprise:
 - (a) the Chief Executive / Company Secretary;
 - (b) the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Association;
 - (c) up to two further persons elected by Council;
 - (d) up to three Independent Directors if so appointed by the Board
62. The Directors shall decide who shall be appointed as the Chief Executive for such term and upon such conditions as they think fit. Any person so appointed may be removed by the Directors at any time. The Directors may fill any casual vacancy in the position of Chief Executive.

ELECTIONS TO THE BOARD

63. At the first Council Meeting following the annual general meeting in each year, one of the Directors appointed by the Council pursuant to Article 61(c) shall retire but shall be eligible for re- election. The Director to retire shall be the longest in office since their last appointment or re-appointment. As between Directors who have served for an equal length of time the Director to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree) be determined by lot. Election of Directors to fill the places of those retiring shall be held pursuant to Articles 64 to 68.
64. Only Council Members (other than Life Vice Presidents) are eligible for election as a Director other than any Independent Directors and only Council Members may participate in the election of Directors other than Independent Directors. The Chief Executive shall send, on request, to Council Members a nomination paper on or before such date as the Directors shall prescribe each year. Such nomination paper must be completed and returned to the Chief Executive not later than such date as the Directors shall prescribe each year.
65. Any Council Member may nominate another Council Member to be a Director using the form provided, which must be seconded by another Council Member and signed by the candidate. Council Members may only nominate or second one candidate.
66. A voting paper listing the names of candidates will be provided to each Council Member at such time as the Board shall prescribe each year. The name of any person nominated as a Director who has failed to be re-appointed to the Council at the annual general meeting shall be withdrawn from the ballot.
67. In the event that a ballot is necessary, such ballot shall take place at the first Council Meeting following the annual general meeting in such manner as the Directors shall prescribe.
68. The requisite number of candidates recording the highest number of votes shall be declared elected at the first Council meeting following the annual general meeting to fill the vacancies that have arisen, such persons to serve for a two-year term from that Council meeting.

DELEGATION OF DIRECTORS' POWERS

69. The Directors may delegate any of their powers to any committee consisting of one or more Directors. They may also delegate to any managing Director or any Director holding any other executive office such of their powers as they consider desirable to be exercised by him. Any such delegation may be made subject to any conditions the Directors may impose, and either collaterally with or to the exclusion of their own powers and may be revoked or altered. Subject to any such conditions, the

proceedings of a committee with two or more members shall be governed by the Articles regulating the proceedings of Directors so far as they are capable of applying.

APPOINTMENT AND RETIREMENT OF DIRECTORS

70. Without prejudice to the provisions of section 168 of the Act, the members may by ordinary resolution remove any Director before the expiration of his period of office, and may by an ordinary resolution appoint another suitably qualified person in his stead; but any person so appointed shall retain his office so long only as the Director in whose place he is appointed would have held the same if he had not been removed.
71. The Directors may appoint a person who is willing to act to be a Director to fill a casual vacancy provided that the appointment does not cause the number of Directors to exceed any number fixed by or in accordance with these Articles as the maximum number of Directors. A Director so appointed shall hold office until the person he has replaced was due to retire but shall be eligible for re-election. Any Independent Director appointed by the Board is to hold office for a single year but could be re-appointed if necessary.
72. If any Director is not re-appointed, he shall retain office until the meeting appoints someone in his place, or if it does not do so, until the end of the meeting.

DISQUALIFICATION AND REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS

73. The office of a director shall be vacated if:
 - (a) he ceases to be a Council Member;
 - (b) he ceases to be a director by virtue of any provision of the Act or he becomes prohibited by law from being a director; or
 - (c) he becomes bankrupt or makes any arrangement or composition with his creditors generally; or
 - (d) he is, or may be, suffering from mental disorder and either:
 - (i) he is admitted to hospital in pursuance of an application for admission for treatment under the Mental Health Act 1983 or, in Scotland, an application for admission under the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1960; or
 - (ii) an order is made by a court having jurisdiction (whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere) in matters concerning mental disorder for his detention or for the appointment of a receiver, curator bonis or other person to exercise powers with respect to his property or affairs; or
 - (e) he resigns his office by notice to the Association; or
 - (f) he is absent for three or more consecutive Board meetings without sufficient reason or without permission of the Chairman of the Board of Directors; or
 - (g) he is suspended from holding office or from taking part in any football activity relating to the administration or management of the Association by a decision of The Football Association; or
 - (h) he is removed from office by a resolution duly passed pursuant to section 168 of the Act; or
 - (i) he is removed from office by three-quarters majority of Council Members present and voting at the Council meeting at which the resolution to remove him is proposed.

DIRECTORS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS' EXPENSES

74. The Directors and Council Members may be paid all reasonable travelling and other expenses properly incurred by them in connection with their attendance at meetings of Directors or committees of Directors or general meetings or other meetings of the Association or otherwise in connection with the discharge of their duties save where the Rules provide otherwise. The Association may also fund a Director's expenditure for the purposes permitted under the Act and may do anything to enable a Director to avoid incurring such expenditure as provided in the Act.

DIRECTORS APPOINTMENTS AND INTERESTS

75. Subject as otherwise provided in the Act or these Articles, a Director may be in any way, directly or indirectly, interested in any contract or arrangement or transaction with the Association and he may hold and be remunerated in respect of any office or place of profit (other than the office of auditor of the Association) under the Association and he (or any firm of which he is a member) may act in a professional capacity for the Association and be remunerated and in any such case (save as otherwise agreed) he may retain for his own absolute use and benefit all profits and advantages accruing to him in consequence of so acting.
76. A Director must declare to the other Directors any situation of which he is aware in which he has, or could have, a direct or indirect interest that conflicts, or possibly might conflict, with the interests of the Association unless it relates to a contract, transaction or arrangement with the Association or the matter has been authorised by the Directors or the situation cannot be reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest.
77. The Directors may (subject to such terms and conditions, if any, as they may think fit to impose from time to time, and subject always to their right to vary or terminate such authorisation) authorise, to the fullest extent permitted by law any conflict or potential conflict disclosed under Article 76. Provided that for this purpose the Director in question and any other interested Director are not counted in the quorum for any resolution at any board meeting pursuant to which such conflict or potential conflict is authorised and it is agreed to without their voting or would have been agreed to if their votes had not been counted.
78. A Director shall not, by reason of his office, be accountable to the Association for any benefit which he derives from any matter where the conflict or potential conflict has been authorised by the Directors pursuant to Article 76 (subject in any such case to any limits or conditions to which such authorisation was subject).
79. A Director who becomes aware that he is in any way, directly or indirectly interested in a proposed or existing contract, transaction or arrangement with the Association must declare the nature and extent of that interest to the other Directors unless it cannot be reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest.
80. Save as herein provided, or otherwise agreed in writing by all of the Directors, a Director shall not vote in respect of any contract, transaction or arrangement with the Association in which he has an interest which is to his knowledge a material interest otherwise than by virtue of being a member. A Director shall not be counted in the quorum at the meeting in relation to any resolution on which he is debarred from voting.
81. Subject to the provisions of the Act and always to the provisions of Article 76 a Director shall (in the absence of some other material interest than is indicated below)

be entitled to vote (and be counted in the quorum) in respect of any resolution concerning:

- (a) the giving of any security, guarantee or indemnity in respect of a debt or obligation of the Association or any subsidiary for which he himself has assumed responsibility in whole or in part under a guarantee or indemnity or the giving of security; or
 - (b) any arrangement for the benefit of Directors or employees of the Association or Directors or employees of any subsidiary which does not award him any privilege or benefit not generally awarded to the other persons to whom such arrangement relates.
82. If any question shall arise at any time as to the materiality of a Director's interest or as to the entitlement of any Director to vote and such question is not resolved by his voluntarily agreeing to abstain from voting, such question shall be referred to the chairman of the meeting (or if the Director concerned is the chairman to the other Directors at the meeting) and his or their ruling (as the case may be) shall be final and conclusive except in a case where the nature or extent of the interests of such Director has not been fairly disclosed.
83. Subject as otherwise provided in the Act or these Articles, a Director may be in anyway, directly or indirectly, interested in any contract or arrangement or transaction with the Association and he may hold and be remunerated in respect of any office or place of profit (other than the office of auditor of the Association) under the Association and he (or any firm of which he is a member) may act in a professional capacity for the Association and be remunerated and in any such case (save as otherwise agreed) he may retain for his own absolute use and benefit all profits and advantages accruing to him in consequence of so acting.

DIRECTORS GRATUITIES AND PENSIONS

84. The Directors may provide benefits, whether by the payment of gratuities or pensions or by insurance or otherwise, for any Director who has held but no longer holds any executive office or employment with the Association or with any body corporate which is or has been a subsidiary of the Association or a predecessor in business of the Association or of any such subsidiary, and for any member of his family (including a spouse or former spouse) or any person who is or was dependent on him, and may (as well before as after he ceases to hold such office or employment) contribute to any fund and pay premiums for the purchase or provision of any such benefit.

PROCEEDINGS OF DIRECTORS

85. The Directors shall regularly report to the Council on all their activities.
86. The Board may at its discretion, award honoraria to such persons as it thinks fit.
87. Subject to the provisions of these Articles, the Directors may regulate their proceedings as they think fit. A Director may, and the secretary at the request of the Director shall, call a meeting of the Directors. It shall not be necessary to give notice of a meeting to a Director who is absent from the United Kingdom. Questions arising at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes. In the case of an equality of votes, the chairman of the meeting shall be entitled to a casting vote in addition to any other vote he may have.
88. Any Director may participate in a meeting of the Board, or of a committee of Directors, by way of video conferencing or conference telephone or similar

equipment which allows every person participating to hear and speak to one another throughout such meeting. A person so participating shall be deemed to be present in person at the meeting and shall accordingly be counted in the quorum and be entitled to vote. Such a meeting shall be deemed to take place where the largest group of those participating is assembled, or if there is no such group, where the chairman of the meeting is.

89. A meeting of the Directors at which a quorum is present shall be competent to exercise all the authorities, powers and discretions by or under the regulations of the Association for the time being vested in the Association generally. The quorum for the transaction of the business of the Directors shall be three.
90. The continuing Directors or a sole continuing Director may act notwithstanding any vacancies in their number, but, if the number of Directors is less than the number fixed as the quorum, the continuing Directors or Director may act only for the purpose of calling Council Meetings, filling vacancies or of calling a general meeting.
91. The Board of Directors shall appoint their own chairman. If the chairman is not present within five minutes after the time appointed for the meeting, the Directors present may appoint one of their number to be chairman of the meeting.
92. All acts carried out by a meeting of Directors, or of a committee of Directors, or by a person acting as a Director shall, notwithstanding that it be afterwards discovered that there was a defect in the appointment of any Director or that any of them were disqualified from holding office, or had vacated office, or were not entitled to vote, be as valid as if every such person had been duly appointed and was qualified and had continued to be a Director and had been entitled to vote.
93. A resolution in writing signed by all the Directors entitled to receive notice of a meeting of Directors or of a committee of Directors shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of Directors or (as the case may be) a committee of Directors duly convened and held and may consist of several documents in the like form each signed by one or more Directors.
94. Save as otherwise provided by the Articles, a Director shall not vote at a meeting of Directors or of a committee of Directors on any resolution concerning a matter in which he has, directly or indirectly, an interest or duty which is material and which conflicts or may conflict with the interests of the Association.
95. A Director shall not be counted in the quorum present at a meeting in relation to a resolution on which he is not entitled to vote.
96. The Association may by ordinary resolution suspend or relax to any extent, in respect of any particular matter, any provision of the Articles prohibiting a Director from voting at a meeting of Directors or of a committee of Directors.
97. Where proposals are under consideration concerning the appointment of two or more Directors to offices or employments within the Association or any body corporate in which the Association is interested the proposals may be divided and considered in relation to each Director separately and (provided he is not for another reason precluded from voting) each of the Directors concerned shall be entitled to vote and be counted in the quorum in respect of each resolution except that concerning his own appointment.
98. If a question arises at a meeting of Directors or of a committee of Directors as to the right of a Director to vote, the question may, before the conclusion of the meeting, be referred to the chairman of the meeting and his ruling in relation to any Director other than himself shall be final and conclusive.

SECRETARY

99. Subject to the provisions of the Act, the secretary shall be appointed by the Directors for such term, at such remuneration and upon such conditions as they may think fit; and any secretary so appointed may be removed by them. For the avoidance of doubt the Chief Executive may be appointed as the secretary.

MINUTES

100. The Directors shall cause minutes to be made in books kept for the purpose:
- (a) of all appointments made by the Directors; and
 - (b) of all proceedings at meetings of the Association, which shall include without limitation proceedings of the Council, and of the Directors, and of committees of Directors, including the names of the Directors present at each meeting. Any such minutes of any meeting, if purporting to be signed by the chairman of such meeting, or by the chairman of the next succeeding meeting, shall be sufficient evidence without any further proof of the facts therein stated.

ACCOUNTS

101. The Directors shall cause accounting records of the Association to be kept in accordance with section 386 of the Act and any regulations made pursuant thereto (or as the same may be hereafter amended or altered). No member shall (as such) have any right of inspecting any accounting records or other book or document of the Association except as conferred by statute or authorised by the Directors or by ordinary resolution of the Association. Once at least in every year the accounts of the Association shall be examined and the correctness of the income and expenditure account and balance sheet ascertained by one or more appropriately qualified auditor or auditors. Auditors shall be appointed and their duties regulated in accordance with the Act.

NOTICES

102. Any notice to be given to or by any person pursuant to the Articles shall be in writing or by electronic communication except that a notice calling a meeting of the Directors need not be in writing.
103. The Association may give any notice to a member either personally, electronically or by sending it by post in a prepaid envelope addressed to the member at his registered address or by leaving it at that address. A member whose registered address is not within the United Kingdom at which notices may be given to him shall be entitled to have notices given to him at that address, but otherwise no such member shall be entitled to receive any notice from the Association.
104. A member present at any meeting of the Association shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting and, where requisite, of the purposes for which it was called.
105. Proof that an envelope containing a notice was properly addressed, prepaid and posted shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given. A notice shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to be given at the expiration of 48 hours after the envelope containing it was posted.

DISSOLUTION

106. If upon the winding-up or dissolution of the Association there remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, the same shall be paid to or distributed among the members of the Association equally.

RULES

107. The Association and its members shall be bound by and subject to and shall act in accordance with the rules and the rules of The Football Association and any regulations, standing orders, decisions, rulings or other findings or orders of any nature made pursuant to the rules or the rules of The Football Association. In the case of any difference between provisions under these Articles, the rules and the rules of The Football Association, the rules of The Football Association and any provisions made pursuant to them shall take precedence.

INDEMNITY

108. Subject to the provisions of the Act but without prejudice to any indemnity to which a Director may otherwise be entitled, every Director or other officer or auditor of the Association shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Association against any liability incurred by him in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgement is given in his favour or in which he is acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to him by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the Association.

ALTERATIONS TO THE ARTICLES

109. Any proposal to alter the Articles not being such as by statute requires a special resolution or to wind-up the Association shall require the approval of the Association in general meeting and the same may be passed or approved by a resolution of the Association passed by a majority of not less than three-quarters of the members of the Association for the time being entitled to vote who may be present in person in accordance with the Act and (in the case of a winding-up) in accordance with the provisions of the Insolvency Act 1986 (as amended from time to time).

RULES, STANDING ORDERS AND BYE-LAWS

110. The Directors have the authority, subject to approval by Council, from time to time to make, repeal and amend regulations for the better administration of the Association.
111. The Council has the power to make, repeal and amend regulations for the sanction and control of leagues and competitions, regulations for disciplinary proceedings of players and members, and regulations relating to referees.
112. Any such rules made pursuant to Articles 110 and 111 must be consistent with and subject to the rules of The Football Association.

MEMBERS' LIABILITY AND APPLICATION OF PROPERTY

113. The liability of the members is limited
114. The income and property of the Association shall be applied solely towards the promotion of its objects as set forth in these Articles and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of distribution, bonus or otherwise by way of profit to the members of the Association save that the provisions of Article 116

shall apply on the winding-up or dissolution of the Association. Provided that nothing herein shall prevent any payment in good faith by the Association:

- (a) of reasonable and proper remuneration to any Director, member, officer, employee or consultant of the Association for any services rendered to the Association and of reasonable and proper travelling, conference and study expenses necessarily incurred in carrying out the duties of any such Director, member, officer, employee or Staffordshire County Football Association consultant of the Association;
 - (b) to any Director who is a Solicitor, Accountant or other person engaged in a profession of all reasonable professional and other charges for work done by him or his firm when instructed by the other Directors to act in that capacity on behalf of the Association;
 - (c) of interest on money lent by any member or Director of the Association at a commercial rate of interest;
 - (d) to any Director of reasonable and proper out-of-pocket expenses or other costs as permitted further to Article 74;
 - (e) of reasonable and proper rent for premises demised or let by any member or Director of the Association;
 - (f) of any premium in respect of the purchase and maintenance of indemnity insurance in respect of liability for any act or default of the Directors (or any of them) in relation to the Association.
115. Every member of the Association undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required (not exceeding £10.00) to the Association's assets if it should be wound-up while he is a member or within one year after he ceases to be a member, for payment of the Association's debts and liabilities contracted before he ceases to be a member, and the costs, charges and expenses of winding-up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves.
116. If upon the winding-up or dissolution of the Association there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever the same shall be paid to or distributed among the members of the Association equally.

Membership Rules

These Rules are made pursuant to the Association's Memorandum and Articles of Association [and may only be changed in accordance with Article 8]. If there is any conflict between these Rules and the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Memorandum and Articles of Association shall prevail.

1. MEMBERSHIP

- a. All affiliated Associations, Leagues or independent Competitions shall be Members of the Association. Affiliated Associations, Leagues or independent Competitions shall forward to the Secretary on or before 31 August in each year a return in accordance with the Form marked "D" in the Schedule annexed to The Football Association Rules.
- b. All properly constituted Clubs in the County of Stafford playing under the Rules of The Football Association shall be eligible for Membership, subject to the approval of the Directors of this Association. The Secretary of each Club shall annually forward to the Secretary of this Association, on or before 30 June, a return in accordance with Form "A" in the Schedule annexed to these Rules, also a copy of the Balance Sheet, duly audited within Seven Days after its Annual General Meeting. All Clubs shall be required to keep a Minute Book containing full records of all their Meetings and showing the date of election of Members.
- c. Membership of the Staffordshire Football Association Limited is dependent upon taking out Public Liability Insurance and Personal Accident Insurance. In the case of Adult Clubs the Personal Accident Insurance shall provide their Members with a Minimum Benefit of £125.00 per week.
- d. Membership of the Staffordshire Football Association Limited is dependent upon each Playing Member of a Club completing an approved Registration Form.

2. LONG SERVICE

- a. A Long Service Award shall be presented to Members of Council on the completion of 15 Years active service (the definition of the term "active service" being that 50% of Meetings must be attended in the period required for qualification - except in the case of illness).
- b. A Long Service Award shall be presented to Players and Officials on the completion of 15 Years unbroken active service in either or both capacities with an individual Club or Competition. The Club or Competition must make the request together with the necessary details.
- c. A Long Service Award shall be presented to Referees on the completion of 15 Years unbroken active service as a Referee affiliated to this Association.

3. REPRESENTATIVES AT GENERAL MEETING

Each Member shall appoint its own representative to the General Meetings but in the event of a change in the representative at any Meeting, the Secretary of the Association must be advised by letter of such change by the Secretary of the body to whom the representatives belong.

4. POWERS

The Directors shall have the power to deal with any matter not provided for in the Laws and Rules of this Association.

5. ALTERATIONS TO RULE

No alteration shall be made in these Rules except in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

6. OFFENCES AGAINST THE RULES

The Council may call upon Clubs or Individuals charged with offending against the Laws or Rules to prove to the satisfaction of the Council that the offence has not been committed and failing such satisfactory proofs, the Club or Individuals shall be judged guilty of the offence. The Council shall have power to call upon any Club or Individual to produce the Books, Letters or Documents, and evidence of any kind that the Council may desire.

7. PUNISHMENTS

Any Affiliated or Associate Association, Combination, Club, Player, Official, or Member being proved guilty of any breach of the Laws or Rules of Misconduct shall be dealt with in such a manner as the Council may decide; and any other Association, Combination, Club, Player, Official, or Member taking part in Football against such offender shall be liable to be similarly dealt with.

8. DECISIONS AND APPEALS

Resolutions and decisions of the Council and the Directors shall be binding on all affiliated Associations or Competitions and all Members thereof, until they are rescinded or varied in accordance with Standing Orders. The Council's decision shall be final in respect of the Cup Competitions and the Charity Fund. Any District Association, League, Competition, Club or Individual wishing to appeal against a decision of a Committee or Council of this Association shall forward to the Chief Executive of The Football Association (Wembley Stadium, PO Box 1966, London, SW1P 9EQ) within 14 DAYS from the date of the Meeting at which the Committee or Council FIRST gave its decision, and by Registered Letter, a notice setting forward the grounds of the Appeal, together with the sum of £35.00 (Thirty Five Pounds). At the same time an exact copy of the notice must be sent to the Secretary of this Association, also by Registered Letter. In the case of an Association or Club, the Appeal must be signed by the Chairman or his deputy and the Secretary. Appeals cannot be made arising out of the Competitions of this Association when the Rules provide that the decision of the Association shall be final. The Appeals Board appointed by The Football Association to hear the Appeal shall have power to order the Fee to be forfeited if it thinks fit and may, in addition order the appellant concerned to pay the cost of the hearing of the Appeal.

9. COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

All Complaints and Appeals shall be in writing and sent to the Discipline Manager within Fourteen Days of the Competition notifying the Club in writing. No Complaint or Appeal will be entertained by the Association if full details of the grounds or the reasons for the Appeal are not lodged. The Complaint or Appeal must be accompanied by a Deposit of £25.00 which shall be forfeited if the Complaint or Appeal is not sustained. The Council shall also have power to compel any party to the Complaint or Appeal to pay such expenses as they

deem fit. All Complaints relating to nonfulfillment of match fixtures must be made within 28 Days from the date upon which such fixtures should have been played.

10. PUBLICATION OF DECISIONS

The Association through its Secretary, shall be entitled to publish in the public press, or any other manner, report its proceedings, acts and resolutions, whether the same shall nor shall not reflect on the character or conduct of any Association or Competition, Club, Official, Player or Spectator, and every such Association or Competition, Club, Player or Spectator shall be deemed to have assented to such publications.

11. CONDUCT OF OFFICIALS AND BETTING

- a. Every Association or Club is responsible to the Council for the actions of its Players, Officials and Spectators, and is required to take all precautions necessary to prevent Spectators threatening or assaulting Officials and Players during, or at the conclusion of Matches.
- b. No Official of an Association or Club, Referee or Assistant Referee or Player shall bet on any Football Match, and Associations and Clubs are also required to prevent betting and the use of objectionable language.
- c. An Official of an Association or Club, Referee, Assistant Referee or Player, proved to have taken part in Coupon Football Betting (Authorised and Registered Football Pools excepted) shall be permanently suspended from taking part in Football or Football Management.

12. CLUB FINANCE

All books and vouchers, for at least TWO Seasons preceding the current Season, must be retained by the Club and be ready for production whenever required by this Association. The Association shall call for the books of AT LEAST TWO Clubs who are not FULL MEMBERS of The Football Association each Season. All Clubs applying for RE- AFFILIATION shall submit with their Form "A" a Statement of Accounts for their last Financial Year.

13. COUNTY COMPETITIONS

All Clubs whose parent body is this Association will be required to enter whichever of the County Competitions is considered suitable by the Council.

14. GATE RECEIPTS AND ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS

All Gate Receipts in which the Association is interested shall be checked at the conclusion of the Match by Two Members of the Board of Directors, who shall certify the correctness of same and at the first Meeting of the Council thereafter, a report of the net receipts shall be made, the funds of which shall be deposited in such Bank as the Council may decide and all cheques shall be signed by Two Members of the Board of Directors. The Accounts shall be audited annually and a certified Balance Sheet shall be sent to each Member at least One Week prior to the Annual General Meeting.

15. REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES

- a. The Council may call upon the services of any Player registered with the Clubs in Membership of this or any affiliated or Incorporated Association if required for a Representative Match.

- b. Any Player selected to attend a Match arranged by the Association and (without good and sufficient cause) refusing to comply with the arrangements of the Council for the playing of the Match, or failing to attend such Match, may be adjudged by the Council to have been guilty of Misconduct, and any Club or Official who may be deemed to have encouraged or instigated such Player to commit a breach of Instruction or Rule, shall be deemed guilty of a similar offence.
- c. The Council may also require a Member Club to place its ground at the disposal of the Association.

16. REFEREES

The Council shall have power to appoint Referees in all or any of the Matches played by Clubs under its jurisdiction and for this purpose may appoint a Committee or delegate the appointing of Referees to the Leagues and Competitions under its control and include such representatives as may be considered necessary.

17. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

Please see Football Association Rule C 2.

18. PLAYERS WITH WRITTEN CONTRACTS

Please see Football Association Rule C 2.

19. PLAYING SEASON

- a. Between the period from the official commencement of the Season to 30 September and the period 15 March and 31 May in any playing Season, Leagues and Competitions (other than the Staffordshire Senior Cup, Vase, Walsall Senior Cup and Youth) Mid-Week fixtures shall be subject to the following conditions:
 - i. Leagues and Competitions sanctioned by this Association normally playing on Saturdays shall play their Mid-Week fixtures on Mondays and Wednesdays.
 - ii. Leagues and Competitions sanctioned by this Association normally playing on Sundays shall play their Mid-Week fixtures on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The only exception to this shall be for Leagues and Competitions normally playing on a Mid-Week Day shall have priority on that Day.
- b. The Close Season shall be defined as the period between First (1st) June and Thirtieth (30th) June inclusive each year, save where Council makes an order to the contrary. No Matches other than those permitted and played in accordance with Sub-Paragraphs (I), (ii) and (iii) of Paragraph c) of this Rule may be played during the Close Season. No Matches other than the following may be played during the Close Season: -
 - i. Small side Matches as specified in Rule B7 and those organised in connection with Works' Clubs Sports Days on private grounds and at fetes and similar sports functions.
 - ii. Matches between Army, Navy and Royal Air Force Teams and Teams of the Auxiliary Forces in Competitions whilst in camp. Such Competitions shall be strictly confined to the Units concerned and gate money shall not be taken.

iii. Matches involving Members of Boys Brigades, Scouts and kindred organisations in Competitions whilst in Camp.

iv. Matches in any Competitions for National Representative Teams or Clubs played under the auspices of FIFA or UEFA.

20. UNAUTHORISED FOOTBALL

- a. Any Player or Club competing in any Football Competition, the proceeds of which are not devoted to a recognised Club or Football Association, or Charitable Institution, shall be liable to suspension for such time as this Association may think fit, unless permission has been first obtained.
- b. No Player registered with any affiliated Competition last Season who has since 30 June (subject to the provisions of F. A. Rule B.4) taken part in any Football Competition not sanctioned by this or a recognised Association, shall be allowed to take part in any affiliated Competition this Season unless and until they have been dealt with by this Association.
- c. Clubs and Players under the jurisdiction of this Association shall not play with or against any Club which is not a Member of this Association or some other recognised Association.

21. STAFFORDSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION LIMITED CHARITY FUND

The object of the Fund is to make grants to Players, Officials and Employees of the Staffordshire Football Association Limited who are incapacitated from earning their living, or to the widows and orphans of such persons, and to such other persons who, by virtue of service to the Association, are, in the opinion of the Council, deserving of such consideration.

Subscriptions

Season 2020 / 2021 – No Membership Fees or County Cup Competitions

Due to the impact of Covid-19, Staffordshire FA have taken the following steps with regards to Club Membership Subscriptions and County Cup Competitions:

- **No Staffordshire FA Membership Fees for the 2020/21 Season**
to support Clubs with the financial challenges presented by Covid-19.
- **No County Cup Competitions for the 2020/21 Season**
to alleviate pressure on league fixture planning, and to reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19 across the County.

Staffordshire FA Membership Fees

For the 2020/21 Season, the Staffordshire FA membership fees have been removed and the only fees that member clubs will pay is their public liability insurance and personal accident insurance, which is provided by Sportsguard. The insurance provider has also considered the premature end to the 2019/20 Season and have discounted their insurance fees for the 2020/21 Season on a pro-rata basis.

Staffordshire FA County Cup Competitions

As we continue to work closely with all leagues across the county, planning fixtures and competitions accordingly, and all hoping for no more disruptions or lockdowns, one of the key areas we have had to review is the potential impact of the County Cup competitions – both on league fixture planning, and also the potential impact of spreading the virus across the County. The Board of Directors have had to consider various internal factors on these fronts, in addition to other external factors beyond our control, and we have made the difficult decision to not run any County Cup competitions during the 2020/21 Season.

Factors taken into consideration:

- Each of the respective leagues that our member clubs play in – which is a combination of County leagues and external leagues – will have their own individual challenges with regards to ensuring that their league fixtures can be completed this season, particularly if the 2020/21 Season is impacted again by Covid-19.
- Whilst most leagues are planning to kick-off in September, this is not the case across the board, with some leagues planning to kick-off in October, or possibly later.
- Entries into the competitions are usually administered in June/July, based on the league constitutions and cross-referencing with affiliation data. Due to the current situation this process has not taken place.
- The FA have requested that club in Steps 1-6 of the National League System be granted dispensation not to play in the County Cup competitions this season and to allow them to concentrate on ensuring that all league campaigns are completed.

- We are currently at a point in the Covid-19 pandemic where the infection rate seems to be levelling off to a point nationally, however, as we have seen in some areas across the country, local lockdown presents a real threat to the game. Any type of lockdown would leave us with insufficient time to complete competitions, particularly as September is now out of the question.
- Staffordshire is a 'long' County in geographical terms, with the potential for teams to travel over 50 miles from one end of the County to the other. As we are all quite rightly being asked to do our bit with regards to reducing the spread of the virus, asking large groups of people to travel many miles to different parts of the County and potentially increase the risk of spreading the virus, would undoubtedly sit uncomfortably with many people, including ourselves.
- In addition to all the above, we also have no idea what impact the colder winter months will have on both the virus infection and death rates.

For the 2020/21 Season, we feel that it is important that leagues concentrate on a return to the game locally, and with most, if not all, leagues amending their traditional playing seasons and looking at a home and away season, there will be little room for error when it comes to successfully completing fixtures.

Club Membership Guidance

Club Membership guidance document can be accessed via the Staffordshire FA website:
www.staffordshirefa.com/leagues-and-clubs/club-management/membership

Affiliated Tournaments

One-Day Tournaments: £30.00 (Members), £100.00 (Non-Members)
Two-Day Tournaments: £50.00 (Members), £150.00 (Non-Members)