

IMPORTANT. - Ignorance of any rule cannot be accepted as an excuse in mitigation of an offence.

## RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. **Title.** – The Kent County Football Association Limited (in affiliation with The Football Association).
2. **Membership.** – Open to any properly constituted League, Competition, or Club, playing Association Football according to the Laws of the Game and Rules and Regulations of the Football Association, with headquarters in Kent (except as provided in Rules 3 and 4) and approved by the Council.
3. **Headquarters of a Club, Etc.** – Headquarters is playing ground, except in following cases:
  - (a) Clubs connected with Public Offices, Banks, Railways, Business Houses and similar institutions.
  - (b) Clubs having no recognised playing ground.
  - (c) Clubs unable to obtain suitable and convenient grounds within the area of the Association. In the case of these exceptions a club is within the area of the Association if ordinary Committee and General Meetings of the Club are held in the County.
4. **Admission of Clubs of Other Associations.** – Clubs of other affiliated Associations may enter Kent FA Competitions with the consent of their Association and the approval of this Association provided they also affiliate with the Kent FA.
5. **Annual Subscriptions.** – Payable on or before 1st July in each year accompanied by appropriate form as follows:–

The Annual Subscription of all Affiliated Leagues, Competitions and Clubs shall be as determined from time to time by the Council. VAT, at the current rate will be added where applicable.

Until the specified fee has been paid play is forbidden, and if unpaid by July 1st the Annual Subscription will be doubled.

A Club in affiliation with the Association shall be deemed in continuous membership and shall be responsible for payment of fees specified in this rule so long as it is in being as a properly constituted club unless notice of resignation has been tendered to the Association in writing not later than 31st May in the current year to take effect on 30th June. Notwithstanding this provision a club, whose "parent" association is this Association, shall not be entitled to withdraw from membership without prior permission from the Association.

A League Competition or Club shall not play with or against an unaffiliated Club (or combination of clubs) and shall be required to state on its cards and stationery that it is affiliated to the Association. An affiliated club shall not allow its ground, equipment or appurtenances to be used for unaffiliated or irregular football of any kind.

Clubs of Intermediate, Junior and Youth status will participate in the Association Insurance Scheme for Public Liability at a cost decided annually by Council. Clubs with teams classified as Intermediate, Junior or Youth status shall pay to the Association a premium, per team, for player insurance. This premium may be paid by instalments as approved by Council.

Leagues and Competitions are held responsible for all competing Clubs being duly affiliated and Must forward Forms "D" or "E" to the Secretary of the Association on or before 1st August in each year except that if no change is being made either in the rules or clubs the return shall be forwarded by 1st September. An extension of time beyond either of these dates may be granted upon application if considered desirable by the Association in the circumstances of a particular League or Competition.

Works and Inter-Departmental or Shop Competitions, limited to regular employees of a Works or Firm, and not comprising properly constituted Clubs, but formed by teams

representing shifts, Workshops or similar Works Units, within the compass of one Firm or Works, may be sanctioned by the Association (but without the voting powers and other rights of members) on payment of the annual fee.

6. **Misconduct.** – The Council may expel from membership, suspend for a definite or indefinite period or deal with in such manner as 'it shall deem fit any League, Competition, Club, Official, player, member or other person subject to its jurisdiction who is proved to the satisfaction of the Council guilty of misconduct, of a violation of the laws of the game, of a breach of the rules, regulations or bye-laws of The Football Association or of this Association. It shall be an offence for any League, Competition or Club to recognise or to play with or against an offender so dealt with during suspension or after notice of expulsion and failure to observe this requirement will be dealt with by the Council in such manner as the latter may deem fit. A player, official or a member of any League, Competition or Club or an official or person subject to the jurisdiction of the Association suspended or expelled by the Council shall be ineligible for membership of any other League, Competition or Club under the jurisdiction of the Association without the special permission of the Council. The expenses incurred in the hearing of any of these cases shall be borne as ordered by the Council. A player, official, League, Competition or Club, failing to attend in person or through an accredited representative, as the case may be, when summoned to appear before the Council, will, in the absence of a satisfactory explanation, be suspended until attendance is made. The Kent County Football Association operates a Child Protection Policy in accordance with the provisions of the Football Association guidelines and its own policy statement.
7. **Right of Appeal.** – Appeals against decision of the Association may be made in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Football Association. Every appeal under such rule must be lodged in duplicate within fourteen (14) days of the decision and accompanied by the requisite deposit. The Notice of the Appeal must (i) identify the specific decision(s) being appealed; (ii) Set out the ground(s) of appeal and the reason why it would be substantially unfair not to alter the original decision (iii) set out a statement of facts upon which the appeal is based. In all matters arising from or relating to the County Cup Competitions a decision of the Councillor the Cup Competition's Committee including any sub-committee of the latter, is final and binding and not subject to any form of appeal.  
Any appeal from a decision of a Joint Commission, constituted of representatives of this and another Association or Associations, on matters subject to joint jurisdiction, can only be made in accordance with F.A. Rule to The Football Association. The operation of any sentence or decision shall not be suspended or varied pending the hearing of an appeal except with the authority of the Chairman of the Council, acting for the Council.
8. **Websites.** – Members in affiliation with the Association or individual Members of the Association owning or maintaining Websites or similar related computer retained information or being part of any other Websites that can be established as being connected or associated with the said Club or Member will be held responsible for the contents contained therein.  
The Council of the Association shall be empowered to expel any Member or individual or impose any other penalties as is deemed expedient on any Member or individual acting in manner within a Website which is deemed to be insulting, derogatory or not considered within the best interests of the game.
9. **Claims and Complaints.** – No claim or complaint by a League, Competition, Club, official or individual against another shall be entertained unless it is forwarded in writing and in duplicate to the Secretary within 7 days of the date of the event or incident to which such claim or complaint refers accompanied by a deposit of £10.00 which shall be forfeited in whole or in part or returned at the discretion of the Council. The Council shall have the power to apportion the expenses between the interested parties as they deem fit.

A report with or without a claim for compensation arising from the non fulfilment of a fixture or guarantee must be made within 28 days on which the incident out of which the complaint has arisen occurred.

10. **Scratch and Benefit Matches, Etc.** – Applications for scratch or benefit matches either in support of charities or for players or members must be made on Form B (obtainable from the Chief Executive), at least 14 days prior to the event. A full statement of receipts and payments (with vouchers) must be forwarded to the Chief Executive not later than 14 days after the event.  
Such application must be made by the club on whose ground the match is to be played or by such other affiliated organisation as is promoting and conducting the effort for which permission is required. In any match played for a charity or similar object under this rule, a trophy, medals or similar tokens shall not be presented. No League, Competition or Club or player may compete for or receive any prize or memento of any kind without the Association's prior permission.
11. **Referees.** – Referees are required to be officially recognised and registered in all competitions or matches under the control of the Association, or under the control of any combination of clubs sanctioned by the Association. A Referee who is not on the Official Register of the Association or that of another affiliated Association may not act (F. A. Rules). Referees may, at the discretion of the Council, be re-examined. (See Rules of Referees Committee.)  
The management of any Competition under the control of the Association will be deemed guilty of misconduct if this rule is not strictly adhered to.
12. **Inter-County and Representative Matches.** – Any player selected to attend any Inter County or other match arranged by this Association and (without good and sufficient cause) refuses to comply with the arrangements of the Council for playing in the match, or fails 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. Any player selected to play for a County Representative side must not play for any other Club on the day of the match for which he or she has been selected.
13. **Association Badge.** – The official badge of the Association shall be a "rampant horse" in white on a blue shield, and with the words Kent FA at the top of the shield. The badge may be worn by those to whom permission is granted by the Council, but it shall not be incorporated in any trophy, medal, or memento or badge without the special consent of the Council. A County tie may be awarded to a player who has played in a County team and a County cap to a player who has played not less than five times in the County Senior team.
14. **Publication of Proceedings.** – The Association shall be entitled to publish in the public Press, or in any other manner it shall think fit, reports of its proceedings, acts, and resolutions, whether the same shall or shall not reflect on the character of any Club, Official, Player, or Spectator, and every such Club, Official, Player or Spectator shall be deemed to have assented to such publication.
15. **Cup Competition Rules, Etc.** – The Council is empowered to make or vary and has sole control over such rules, regulations and bye-laws as refer to the County Cup Competitions, the Benevolent Fund and Match Officials as it may deem expedient and necessary.
16. **Application of the Rules of the F.A.** – Any question not provided for in these rules shall be governed by the rules of The Football Association. This rule shall apply to all Competitions under the management and/or jurisdiction of the Association.