

Appendix 6 Team Application Process

Applicants to The Competition must complete an approval process (review by the Management Committee) prior to submission of the acceptable application to the AGM (Rule 2A). This approval process may include, but not be limited to written questionnaire, interview and inspection of facilities. This will include an undertaking to comply with certain performance requirements, and verification of compliance with the following:

Mandatory Criteria for all Applications:

A. Team

- I. Each application **MUST** be from a team affiliated to and endorsed by an FA "Step 7" or higher club with a senior (open age) team.
- II. The Secretary and Chairman of the club, as registered with the parent County FA, **MUST** endorse the application, and accept all relevant liability for the team's activities and any consequent costs.
- III. Each application must specify the team and club's position with respect to FA Charter Standard status, including recent relevant record and successful application date or aspiration.
- IV. Each team **MUST** guarantee the use of its field and facilities on alternate weeks, i.e. weeks 1 & 3 or 2 & 4. The field and facilities **must be approved by the League Management Committee**. (Use of a facility with 2 or more Local Authority owned pitches is not acceptable) Other teams sharing the same facilities must be specified, including date and frequency.
- V. The team **MUST** provide a verifiable, on and off-field discipline record for 2 previous seasons that is acceptable to the League Management Committee.
- VI. The team **MUST** provide a Financial Plan or Budget for the ensuing season. This will be expected to include a realistic breakdown of expenditure and sources of funding, acceptable to the Management Committee against an estimation of the number of matches to be played.
- VII. Each team must have a dedicated Welfare Officer.

B. Pitch Requirements:

- I. Dimensions must be a minimum of 90m x 60m, but preferably 100m x 65m. Clubs are encouraged to go for the largest size possible.
- II. Grass pitches must be flat, well grassed and drained.
- III. It must be well maintained i.e. cut and rolled regularly.
- IV. The only synthetic pitches permitted to be used in this Competition are the 3rd Generation synthetic pitches.
- V. Line markings must be clear. Creosote or similar agents should not be used to mark out the pitch, or as a preliminary to marking.

- VI. Corner flags must be provided and be at least 5 feet in height.
- VII. Goalposts must be firmly held in the ground and upright.
- VIII. Nets must be intact and securely fastened.
- IX. Pitch must be roped or fenced off, with both touchlines as a minimum.

C. Changing Room Requirements

- I. Must be on site, within an acceptable distance from the pitch.
- II. There must be separate changing rooms for each team and a referee's room to comfortably accommodate the referee and two assistants.
- III. Rooms must be able to be locked.
- IV. Building itself must also be secure.
- V. All changing rooms must be well lit and heated.
- VI. Showers must be provided in the away team and referees changing rooms.
- VII. Showers must be easily accessible.
- VIII. There must be a minimum of 3 showers per team, with a plentiful supply of hot water.
- IX. The away team changing room must comfortably seat an entire team and substitutes, with sufficient hooks.
- X. Changing rooms must be easily accessible from a corridor not through another changing room.
- XI. There must be adequate toilet facilities per team, i.e. urinal & WC.
- XII. All rooms and shower areas must be clean and well maintained.
- XIII. There must be facilities for providing refreshments.

D. Expectations of the Competition:

- I. The team **MUST** provide players and officials with refreshments, normally after completion of each match.
- II. A basic understanding of the important Rules of The Competition will be tested at interview.
- III. All facilities must be available for inspection by the Management Committee. If one or more alternative facilities are to be available, they must all meet The Competition's requirements.
- IV. Teams can expect to be asked to provide reasons for entering The Competition, and The Management Committee will expect the supplied answer to align with the declared aims of The Competition, and the FIFA Code of Conduct.

- V. Teams can expect to be asked to provide names of their match-day officials, their relevant qualifications and relationships to players. No team will be accepted which is run solely by one or more parents. Separate names can be expected for "Manager", "Trainer", "Physio", "Administrator" etc.
- VI. Teams are expected to have signed Codes of Conduct for Players, Spectators and Officials, available for inspection by the Management Committee.
- VII. Club Chairman and Secretary will be expected to provide their expectations of the team and The Competition and underwrite potential shortfalls in team funding.
- VIII. The Competition has a website on which relevant descriptions, photographs and videos of match-day activities will be provided from time to time. It is the responsibility of teams to obtain any permission necessary from its players and officials etc., in advance of the season, or on registration. Anyone objecting should be excluded from participation.
- IX. The League will endeavour to inform teams in advance of matches where photography is the intention.