

LONDON & SOUTH EAST DIVISION ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS 2012-2013

1. These Administrative Instructions apply to all clubs playing within the London & SE Division EXCEPT where such Administrative Instruction is deemed to be in conflict with the RFU Regulations or any subsequent ruling, amendment or clarification which may be made from time to time by the RFU.
2. **Reporting of Match Results**

The Match Result of every game played in the Competition shall be reported in two ways as follows:

 - a. **By Telephone**

On the day of the match the HOME club shall notify the result by telephone to the correct number and within the times specified as circulated to all Clubs on their Administrative Instructions prior to the start of the season.
 - b. **By Match Result Card**

Both Clubs shall complete a Match Result Card as supplied which shall be posted so as to reach the Divisional Secretary not later than the Wednesday after the match.
3. **Non Playing of Matches on the Appointed Date**

RFU Regulation 13.9.2 (a) requires a club to play all and each of its fixtures on the dates fixed pursuant to the RFU Regulations. It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure the availability of a pitch at their normal home ground or elsewhere.

Where the League Secretary rules that the failure to play a match on the appointed date is unjustifiable and, therefore, in breach of RFU Regulation 13.6.11(b), the offending club shall be deducted Championship points appropriate to the Sanction Guidelines and the game shall not be replayed.

In general, the only justifiable postponement is that due to weather conditions. Except that: the Organising Committee reserves the right to allow a postponement caused by wholly exceptional circumstances totally beyond the control of the Club or its members or by virtue of local or National emergency.

4. Postponed Matches

- (a) **Prior to the day of a match**

No match shall be postponed, for whatever reason, before and without consultation with, and the consent of, the League Secretary or, if he is unavailable, a member of the Divisional Organising Committee (DOC). Such consultation shall be conducted only by and through the Nominated Club Contact.

The Home Club shall inform both the League Secretary AND the visiting Club IMMEDIATELY the first doubts about pitch fitness and/or pending inclement weather are raised and shall, at the same time, establish the intended travel arrangements and timings of the visitors.

Where the issue is the condition of the pitch, the League Secretary may require that the home Club arranges, or accepts a third party arrangement, for a pitch inspection by the appointed match referee or, where he is not available, another neutral referee.
- (b) **On the day of the match**

Where a Club wishes to postpone a match prior to the arrival of the opponents, they must consult and seek the permission of the League Secretary, or a DOC member, prior to cancellation of the match. If time permits the League Secretary may require a pitch inspection by the appointed referee or other neutral referee. The consultation must be made by and through the Nominated Club Contact, who must notify the opposition immediately. Clubs should be aware of the time that the opposition will be leaving its home base when making ground inspections and make every endeavour to avoid unnecessary travel.
- (c) **All postponed matches**
 - (i) Where a ground is pronounced unfit or is unavailable for play for any other reason and no other suitable local venue is available, and the scheduled match is the first of the two games in the season between the clubs, the venue SHALL, where time allows, be reversed if the opposition's pitch is fit and available to play. In these circumstances the scheduled home team shall remain the home team for the purposes of the Regulations and these Instructions.

Note: Where the game is in doubt in the days prior to the day of the match this arrangement to reverse venue should already be in place
 - ii) Following a first postponement, the Home Club must take all possible steps to ensure the match is played on the second date. This must include the provision of a suitable alternative pitch and, for the avoidance of doubt, this will include the opponent's pitch if it is available. This will also apply to the return fixture even if that would mean both matches between the two clubs being played at the same venue.
 - iii) A match postponed because of weather or a match not played on the scheduled date for reasons acceptable to the Organising Committee shall be played on the "Next available Weekend" (NAW) in accordance with RFU Regulation 13.6.10 (a)

For the 2012/2013 season, the Weekend between Christmas Day and New Year's Day shall not be deemed to be a 'NAW' unless both participating clubs agree. ALL other dates SHALL be a 'NAW'.

5. 'Next Available Weekend' (NAW) Protocol

Matches rearranged in accordance with RFU Regulation 13.6.10 will be scheduled as follows:
As soon as it is known that both clubs are available the rescheduled date will be CONFIRMED. With the exception of the circumstances described in the last paragraph below this date will not be changed.

If the availability of one or both clubs cannot be confirmed but remains possible, then the match will be scheduled as PROVISIONAL for that 'NAW'.

If two or more matches become available at the same time for confirmation on the same 'NAW' then the longest outstanding original

scheduled fixture will take precedence.

The committee shall have absolute discretion, subject to the right of appeal, to alter the above protocol if:
it is apparent that an alternative sequence would conclude outstanding matches earlier than might otherwise occur or;

in their opinion, it is beneficial to the competition, e.g., to prioritise end-of-season fixtures with a view to concluding promotion and relegation issues including play-offs.

6. Reporting of Postponed and/or Abandoned Matches

- a. Both Clubs shall report the postponement or abandonment of a match to the League Secretary as soon as practical stating the full reasons and, in the case of abandonment, the score and the time elapsed in the game before it was abandoned.
- b. Separately and additionally, the home Club shall notify the Results Service of any postponement or abandonment of a match using the procedures laid down from time to time by the London Results Agent.
- c. For the purposes of reporting to the Results Service in accordance with 2 (a.) above, a postponed or abandoned match, IS A RESULT on the day and shall be reported as such together with the details.

7. Nominated Non-Available weekend

For the 2012/2013 season each Club in the Competition at Level 7 and below ONLY may nominate ONE non-league Weekend to be designated "non-available for the rearrangement of a postponed/abandoned match". This nomination must be made in writing, signed by a recognized Club Official, to the Divisional Secretary not later than 30th September 2012. The Divisional Secretary will acknowledge the nomination in writing which shall be retained by the Club as evidence of such agreement. A Club cannot nominate a scheduled League Weekend or a Weekend scheduled for a play-off match.

8. Rulings, Decisions and Appeal Procedures

- a. The League Secretary is delegated by the Organising Committee to make all primary decisions with regard to any Regulation and any of these Instructions in respect of all clubs within that league.
- b. The League Secretary shall apply any sanction in writing in accordance with RFU Regulation 13.10.3 and 13.10.4.
- c. The Club will then have 7 (seven) days from the date of receipt of the written notification to request a review by the Organising Committee in accordance with RFU Regulation 13.10.5 to 13.10.9. Such request must be in writing to the Divisional Secretary stating the full grounds and accompanied by a payment of £50.00 (made payable to "London & SE RFU Competitions Account") which will be returned if the request is successful.
- d. Requests for a review not lodged within the 7 days will be adjudged to be 'out of time' and will not be heard.
- e. A club has a further right of appeal to the RFU as specified in RFU Regulation 13.10.10.
- f. Clubs should be aware that the imposed sanction may be increased as well as decreased on appeal. (This particularly applies to an appeal which is deemed to be frivolous). All costs (including travel, hire of facilities and ancillary equipment etc.) of a rejected appeal will be borne by the Club. Costs will not be invoked until the appeals process has ended.

9. Appointment of Referees

RFU Regulation 12.1.3 provides that it is the home Club's responsibility to liaise with the appointed match officials directly to ensure they are aware of the arrangements and have the appropriate directions to the venue for the match. 'Directly' shall NOT be deemed to include messages left with a third party or automated answering services without a confirmed response from the match official(s). Failure to adhere to this will be taken into account should a game be postponed because of the lack of a match official. Where the appointed referee is delayed or fails to arrive or where, during the course of a match, the referee is injured or is otherwise unable to continue, the two captains shall use their best efforts to agree to a substitute referee so allowing the match to be completed.

It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure the appointment of a referee for all matches including rearranged matches and play-offs.

10. Kick-off Time for Matches (In particularly those involving offshore clubs)

Although the London Competitions Committee has always ruled that clubs involved in offshore matches are expected to be sympathetic to the flight requirements of the visitors, that ruling does not alter the status and requirements of RFU Regulation 13.6.4 in any way.

All clubs are deemed to have a 'usual kick off time' which, in the absence of floodlights, may vary with the calendar but will, nonetheless, remain within the time-window defined in RFU Regulation 13.6.4(b)(i).

Where the two clubs mutually agree on a kick off time outside that time-window they shall do so in conjunction with the League Secretary – as the representative of the "Committee" and in accordance with RFU Regulation 13.6.4(b)(ii).

11. New Club Entries

Entry to the Competition is controlled solely by the Organising Committee. A club wishing to enter the Competition in the following season shall signify this fact in writing to the Divisional Secretary by 1st April of the current season and to the Chairman and/or Secretary of the relevant Constituent Body Competitions Sub-Committee. That Sub-Committee shall consider the application and make recommendation to the Organising Committee.

In addition; the Club must satisfy all entry requirements laid down from time to time by the Organising Committee not later than 30th April in the current season. For entry in the 2013-2014 season these requirements include; having effective registration to the Club of a minimum of 25 players of whom at least six shall be capable of playing in the front row in accordance with RFU Regulations; being able to display the ability to sustain a full League Programme of fixtures on the appointed dates; having held full membership of the appropriate Constituent Body for a period of not less than one complete season and; holding the rights to play on a suitable ground throughout the currency of a League season without interruption.