



Guide Notes For Member Clubs Season 2022/2023 v1

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League Officers and Board Members

President	Raymond Brown	
Vice President	Tony Day	
Vice President	Peter Hunter	
Vice president	Derek Peck	
Chair	Denise Richmond	chair@scefl.com
Vice Chair	John Moules	vchair@scefl.com
General Secretary	Andy Short	secretary@scefl.com
Treasurer	Lee Dyson	treasurer@scefl.com
Fixtures Officer	Matthew Panting	matthewpanting@btinternet.com
Registrations officer	Douglas Francis	registration@scefl.com
Referees Officer	Ian Bentley	referees@scefl.com
Assistant Referees Officer	Don Macleod	referees@scefl.com
Development League Director	Matt Smith	chairman@sheppeyunitedfc.co.uk
Development League Referees Officer	Ricky Adams	developmentref@scefl.com
Referee Observers coordinator	Alan Escudier	assessors@scefl.com
Discipline Officer	Alf Levy	discipline@scefl.com
Ground Grading Officer	John Moules	vchair@scefl.com
Website and Results Officer	Dean Sawyer	website@scefl.com
Welfare & Safeguarding Officer	Ian Birrell	ibirrell@hotmail.co.uk

Board of Directors

Denise Richmond, John Moules, Andy Short, Lee Dyson, Matthew Panting, Ian Bentley, Matt Smith, Rob Marriott (Deal Town), Steve Lewis (Lordswood), Lance Roberts (Lewisham Borough), Richard Leach (Sporting Club Thamesmead).

Admission Prices

The minimum charge for admission to all matches shall be as follows:

Premier Division	£6 including VAT
First Division	£5 including VAT

Clubs may, at their discretion, vary the operation of Rule 20 in respect of juveniles and senior citizens or other concessions they deem appropriate. Admission charges must be the same for home and visiting supporters, excluding home concessions as appropriate. With the permission of the Board, Clubs can have a maximum of three promotional days each playing season during which they can vary admission charges for adults including allowing free admission.

Adverse Weather Procedures Guidance (postponements)

Each club must take every precaution to ensure that its ground is in a fit playing condition.

When the regional weather conditions are known to be extreme (e.g. prolonged severe frost, clear water logging or heavy snow) then the following can be applied, the match day referee should be advised accordingly.

Remote Pitch Inspection Procedure

Unless there has been drastically bad overnight weather, concerned clubs should be booking in their remote pitch inspection appointment the day before a game either via email matthewpanting@btinternet.com (League Fixture Secretary) or text 07368 433929 and request a remote pitch inspection appointment. A time will be booked and sent in reply (between 9am-11am for Saturdays and 2pm-4pm for midweek). Where there is drastically bad overnight weather, then concerned clubs can request a booking for a remote pitch inspection appointment on the day of a game.

Clubs are then requested to video call on WhatsApp at their scheduled appointment time, It is important that clubs stick to the allotted time. During the call they can show 'live' to the Fixture Secretary the condition of the pitch and their reasons for postponement.

Pitch inspection forms do not need to be completed in this instance.

This system is not being put in place to replace referee inspections. Clubs should still make every effort to have a referee inspect their pitch where possible.

All clubs should inform the League Fixture Secretary matthewpanting@btinternet.com, the Referees Officer referees@scefl.com and the Website Officer website@scefl.com of any scheduled pitch inspections, and subsequently whether the pitch passes or fails such inspection.

Games can still be postponed at the discretion of the league following consultation and agreement with the Fixtures Secretary where regional weather conditions are known to be extreme and in such circumstances there will be no requirement for any inspection.

Referee Pitch Inspection Procedure

In all other circumstances then rules 8.15 and 14.2 will apply and subject to the time and travelling distance, the match Referee should be called in to make a decision. In the event of the match Referee being unable to carry out the inspection, the Home Club must select an alternative Referee from a list of suitably qualified SCEFL Match Officials supplied by the league as follows:-

Premier Division – One of the Level 4 referee's on the panel or a level 5 if approval is granted.
Division One – One of the level 4's or 5's on the panel.

Should it not be possible to identify an appropriate Match Official, the SCEFL Referees team will determine a suitable person to carry out the inspection.

It is mandatory that either the SCEFL appointed referee or another SCEFL referee from the panel (at the appropriate level) is present at the ground to carry out any inspection.

Prior to reaching a decision the Referee who is making the inspection must:

- Consult with the match Referee prior to the inspection
- Consult with the match Referee during/after the inspection to mutually agree on a decision prior to notifying the Home Club Secretary or Club Chairperson and the appropriate League Secretary (or Chairperson if the Secretary is not available).

Prior to reaching a decision the Referee who is making the inspection should consider the following:

- Whether or not the ground (playing area) is dangerous (e.g. ice / frost).
- Whether or not that the spectator standing areas are dangerous (e.g. ice / frost).
- Whether or not conditions are or could turn farcical.

- The likelihood of completing the game.
- The views of the Home Club Groundsman in terms of local knowledge and draining capabilities in the event of standing water.
- The existing condition of the playing surface in conjunction with the prevailing weather conditions as previously confirmed with the local weather authority.
- **Be seen to be active!** Adhere to deadlines, keep all informed; especially the away Team Manager if he/she is on route and can be contactable (Home Club will have the Secretary's mobile number). If they are within a reasonable time/distance from the ground it is only courtesy that you await their arrival.
- **Inspect thoroughly!** A professional approach **must be adopted** when carrying out an inspection. It is not acceptable just to take a cursory look at the field of play in normal dress (i.e. Suit / Blazer etc.). Sports kit should be worn, along with appropriate footwear (i.e. football boots). All areas of the pitch should be inspected. A ball should be used to determine whether the surface is playable (for movement and bounce), if appropriate, playing staff may be able to assist you in this practical session.
- **Fog creates its own problems.** Use perspectives from ground level and the back of a stand – check forecast (remember that there is a responsibility to paying spectators)
- When dealing with such elements as frost or ice – remember that the highest temperature of the day is usually around midday. Get a forecast if necessary of the projected temperature for the time when the match is due to conclude.
- The person power available to the Home Club to carry out any necessary work to make the ground playable.
- The time the visiting Club are due to commence their journey.
- Liaise with Managers **BUT** the decision as to whether the match is played is **yours**.

If after consultation with the match Referee, the ground is declared fit and the away Clubs instructed to travel, then only in exceptional circumstances should the match Referee reverse the decision.

If an early inspection has not been carried out and the match Referee arrives at the ground to find the playing conditions in doubt due to unexpected deterioration in the weather, he/she should first consider as many of the above points before committing to a decision.

In the event of a pitch inspection being carried out by the match Referee, a fee of half the Referee's fee should be offered and paid by the Home Club. If the appointed Match Officials have reported to the ground they are entitled to half their match fee if the match is not played.

If the game is postponed following the inspection, either by the match Referee or another Referee, the following procedure should be followed:-

- The Home Club should advise their opponents and the following League officials via text or e-mail;
 Fixture Secretary – Matthew Panting matthewpanting@btinternet.com 07368 433929
 League Secretary – Andy Short secretary@scefl.com 07920 068449.
 Referees Officers – Ian Bentley referees@scefl.com 07919 216722 or Don Macleod 07887 997959
 Website and Social Media Officer – Dean Sawyer website@scefl.com 07732 299230
- A fully completed, signed match postponement form must be e-mailed to matthewpanting@btinternet.com within 2 days (this can be found on the SCEFL website & copies should be available at the ground for when pitch inspections are carried out). The only exception is if the match is postponed by the appointed match referee 90 minutes or less before the scheduled kick off when a match postponement form is not required.
- The Home Club should advise all the appointed match officials.
- The appointed match referee should advise any appointed match observer.

- The appointed match referee should send a text confirming the match details and that it's postponed as follows:-
For Premier Division to Ian Bentley 07919 216722.
For Division One to Don Macleod 07887 997959.
An e-mail should then follow to referees@scefl.com confirming that above.

Failure to comply with this Policy Guidance may result in the Club being charged under League Rule 14.2

Bench Wear

It is mandatory for all substitutes to wear the Respect Bibs that have been provided by the league whilst they are on the bench or warming up. There are no other requirements for bench wear at the present time.

Board Room Team Sheets

It is recommended but optional for a list of players in each team to be made available in the Board Room for visiting officials. These should also, where possible, be made available for members of the press.

Captain Arm Bands

Clubs are reminded that as per league rule 7.5 an arm band must be worn on the field of play by the Club Captain for all League and Cup matches.

Club Loans

Loans from league funds can be made available to member clubs.

The loans will be made for ground maintenance and improvements in line with maintaining the club's relevant grade, i.e. Grade G (Division One) or Grade F (Premier Division) only.

Loans up to £3,000 will be available

Clubs will be asked to make repayments back to the league over a three-year period by standing order. If any payment is missed then the league will have the right to demand payment in full

A formal agreement (approved by the FA) will be signed between the League and the Club to ensure all parties, and league funds, are protected

Applications should be made to the League Treasurer, after which a meeting will be organised between member club, League Treasurer and League Chair or Vice Chair.

Disciplinary Procedures

Clubs are reminded that when any of their players are facing a suspension, for either having been shown a red card or for having accumulated yellow cards, it is the Clubs' responsibility to provide match dates of games to be counted as suspension matches to their **County FA** to ensure their players miss the appropriate matches.

Floodlight Certification

Clubs competing in the National League System and FA Competitions are required to provide an updated certificate (Floodlighting Survey Chart & Floodlighting Inspection) report **every two years**.

These are necessary to ensure the lighting system continues to meet the required standards after installation.

Readings shall be on a grid of 88 markings (8 across, 11 down) evenly spaced with the outside readings falling on the pitch boundary line.

The average of all the readings is taken to be the average illumination level in lux of the floodlighting installation. The inspection reports should be carried out by qualified lighting engineers.

The measurements should be made using a calibrated luminance meter. It should have been calibrated within 12 months of the measurement and the meter's serial number and last calibration date contained within the inspection report.

Clubs are required to forward copies of updated Certificates to the League Secretary. Failure to do as required could result in your Club being suspended from League and/or FA Competitions.

Ground Passes

Eight ground passes will be distributed to all Clubs prior to the commencement of the season. Six to be used by Club Committee members to gain entry to the ground and Board Room of their match day opponents and are **not transferable**. The Chairman and Secretary will be issued with passes which will allow them to gain entry to *any* Southern Counties East Football League ground during the current season for any league or league cup matches regardless of who is playing whom. Each committee member's pass will contain the clubs name and be individually numbered. Any proven misuse of passes will result in **all** passes for that club being withdrawn. All passes remain the property of the League. The pass numbers for all clubs can be found in the Club Directory section on the League website and League App.

Ground Standards

League Rule 8.11 – Each Club must take every precaution to keep its ground in good playing condition and amenities (including floodlights) in good working order and complying with the minimum Grade F (Premier Division) and Grade G (First Division) (see appendix A) throughout the Playing Season.

Floodlights must be certified as complying with minimum light levels two yearly and the club must be in possession of a current certificate at all times.

For any ground grading assistance, grants etc, please contact the League's Ground Grading Officer John Moules on 07932 756982

Insurance

Players Insurance All clubs shall be members of a Players' Personal Accident Insurance scheme. The policy cover shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time to time by the Board.

Public Liability Insurance All clubs must have Public Liability cover of at least ten million pounds (£10,000,000)

Each club shall submit to the Board a copy of both insurance documents together with the last premium payment receipt, 14 days prior to the commencement of the season.

League Website / App / Social Media

The League has an excellent Website and App which contain all the information in this document and a whole lot more. The App is the League's Online Handbook and works alongside www.scefl.com in providing all the information needed by Club Officials, Match Officials, Players and Supporters.

The Southern Counties East Football League App can be downloaded to iPhones, iPads and ipods via the App Store and to Android mobile phones/tablets via Play Store. The League Secretary is the App Editor and Dean Sawyer is the Website Editor so if you have any changes you may need to make to what is published on either platform, please contact the relevant person.

The League has a thriving Twitter account @SCEFLLeague.

League Directives

Cooling Off Period Protocol

The protocol is that Club managers, coaches, players, club officials etc. may not approach the match officials at half time nor until at least 20 minutes after the game has finished (this includes not going onto the field of play at the end of the match nor waiting for the match officials in the tunnel area). Please note the post-match hand shake is an exception but any adverse comment(s) made will be considered as a breach of this protocol.

In principle, post-match 'cooling off' periods are:

- Applicable after the end of every game
- Applicable to all occupants of the Technical Area and all players.
- Designed to reduce confrontation by creating a period of reflection so that any discussion can take place in a calm atmosphere to ensure it is as fruitful as possible for all parties leading to greater understanding

- Likely to result in considerably fewer cases of misconduct

Benefits of having such a post-match 'cooling off' protocol

- Prevents obvious public dispute on the field of play that detracts from the image of the game
- Reduces the likelihood of confrontation / misconduct and all that the aftermath entails
- Reduces the adrenaline levels in everyone concerned

- Allows a calm, rational conversation to take place that should benefit both parties
- Allows all parties to have a period of reflection and a reduction in the stresses the game produces
- Allows the match officials time to complete the official paperwork
- Gives the opportunity for the Match Observer where requested to be present so that he can watch, listen and offer advice or an opinion, if appropriate to do so
- Reduces pressure on referees

There would then be a consistency across all Steps where “Professional Game” referees operate, thereby allowing a smooth transition as they or the clubs migrate upwards through the game.

If a request is made by a club official to a referee to speak to them after the 20 minutes period the referee should ensure they make themselves available.

Referees are expected to report any breach of this mandate.

Any approach to a Match Observer will also be considered as a breach of this protocol. It is totally inappropriate to engage the Observer at any stage in a conversation appertaining to the match.

All clubs must bring this to the attention of their team managers. This notice must be displayed in the home, away and match officials dressing rooms on all SCEFL match days. Failure to comply with any such Policy Directive issued by the League will result in the Club being charged for a breach of League Rule 4.2

Allowance for Lost Time Directive

Allowance for Time Lost – Electronic Boards

(To be adopted for all SCEFL League and Cup games)

The League’s investment in purchasing electronic boards for use by all SCEFL clubs has been well received by clubs, match officials and spectators. The main use of the board for displaying the numbers of the players being replaced or coming on to the field of play when a substitution is dealt with makes the whole process much smoother and along with the Allowance for Time Lost procedure it brings a more professional approach to our competition matches. All clubs **MUST** use the electronic boards provided at all SCEFL games.

With the introduction of the electronic boards an allowance made for time lost will be indicated at the end of each half.

The directive to be adopted is outlined below:

During the two minutes before the expiry of each half the Referee must inform a nominated person in the Home Club Technical Area (someone identified before the kick off to the referee), either visually or verbally, of the amount of time allowed.

At the expiry of each forty five-minute period and not before, the designated Home Club person will display the minimum time allowed, to all points of the ground, by use of the board provided. This also applies at the expiry of each fifteen-minute period of extra time if necessary, for Cup games.

Clubs are to be reminded that the PA where used should announce “There will be a minimum of xx minutes allowance for time lost”.

Any subsequent injuries, or additional delays, including time wasting, will result in further time being added on. No further communication will be necessary.

Referees are to ensure that the full allowance is made for time lost and subsequently played.

Any club that fails to adhere to this directive will be liable to a league fine under league rule 4.2

Dismissals from the Technical Area Directive

For matches played under the Rules and Regulations of The Southern Counties East Football League:

The League Board of Directors will not accept any lack of respect shown towards the Match Officials.

Any person who is dismissed from the Technical Area/Dugout Area by the referee should leave the field of play and its vicinity immediately (they must leave via the playing area, not go over any barrier) and go to a location within the ground from which they cannot view the remainder of the game. This will normally be inside the changing rooms or the clubhouse where they must remain until the conclusion of the game or alternatively, they can leave the ground.

Play should not restart until they have left the field of play.

It is not permissible for this person to have any contact or dialogue with the Match Officials or any appointed Match Observer during or after the game.

Each club is responsible for ensuring any person associated with their club who is dismissed from the Technical Area/Dugout Area by the referee goes straight to their chosen location within the ground where they cannot view the remainder of the game. Clubs should report any breach whether by their own club or their opponents to the match referee as this will need to be included in their FA disciplinary report.

The Chairman of the Club concerned must also report in writing to the Disciplinary Officer, within 3 days of the offence, the following:

1. What action has been taken against this person by the Club.
2. What action the Club has taken to ensure that this does not happen again.

All clubs must bring this to the attention of their team managers. This Directive must be displayed in the home, away and match officials dressing rooms on all SCEFL match days.

Any failure to comply with the above Policy Directive will result in the Club being charged in accordance with League Rule 8.2

Match Day Confirmation

The home Club shall advise the visiting Club and the Match Officials of the date and time of kick-off of each match and their team colours, including the colour of the goalkeeper's jersey, it will be wearing, to be received **at least five days prior to the match** and the visiting Club and the Match Officials must acknowledge receipt to be received **at least three days before the match**. The visiting Club must include in its acknowledgement the team colours, including the colour of the goalkeeper's jersey, it will be wearing.

The home team must include and confirm the type of post-match refreshments provided for players (hot / cold) and the visiting Club must confirm if their players will be taking up the offer of the post-match refreshment and the visiting Club must also confirm the number of officials that will be attending the match and visiting the Board Room.

Match Day Programme

Clubs must provide a match day programme for all home league and cup fixtures as per league rule 8.14 below.

8.14 The home Club is responsible for publishing a full match programme acceptable to the Board for each of its Competition matches. A full match programme available electronically only shall be acceptable providing that each Club has approval from the Board before the commencement of the Playing Season and must be continuous for the whole of that Playing Season. A Team Sheet will not be considered sufficient to comply with this Rule.

The Board of Directors have set a minimum requirement as detailed below:

- Minimum 8-page booklet.
- The cover must have the League details and the main sponsor's logo (where there is a main sponsor). It is acceptable to have the "outer" pre-printed for the season. The front cover must also carry the FA Respect Programme logo
- In a prominent position, there must be the identity of the club with the status of the club and, if a limited company, the necessary requirements to comply with the Companies Act 2006.
- The programme must contain the League's sponsor's advertisements (when applicable) which, again, can be pre-printed but should not, except in an emergency, be photocopied. Space must be provided for the team line ups in a prominent position together with details of the match officials appointed for the match with the date of the match and the scheduled time of kick off.
- Details of the visitors should be provided with a short club history of the visitors and or pen pictures of the players.
- All programmes must include the following statements: *"The Southern Counties East Football League strongly support recent FA statements that there should be a zero tolerance approach against racism and all forms of discrimination, accordingly any form of discriminatory abuse whether it be based on race or ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, faith, age, ability or any other form of abuse will be reported to the relevant County Association for action by that Association."*
AND
- *"The Southern Counties East Football League supports the 'Swearing – Let's Tackle It' campaign and strongly condemns the use of foul and abusive language at football matches"*
(If any club is unable or unwilling to include this in their match programme, they should contact the League office, but otherwise failure to include this statement may amount to a breach of League Rule 4.6)

Match Day Requirements

On the instructions of the League Board of Directors (Board Directive), the following match day requirements apply to all Clubs for matches played under the jurisdiction of the Southern Counties East Football League:

Players and Match Officials

1. Access to the changing facilities must be available for players and match officials at least 90 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time
2. Visiting Clubs must respect reasonable requests from the home club regarding the use of the pitch for warming-up and must respect all facilities provided by the host club.
3. At least 5 match day programmes must be provided free of charge to the visitors in their dressing room and three programmes to the Match Officials in their dressing room (four in the event of a fourth official being appointed for the match).
4. Tea or fruit squash ideally to be provided before the match, and must be provided at half-time and post-match for the visiting teams and the match officials. In addition, suitable food must be provided for all players and match officials after the match. It is not acceptable for post-match food to be served in the dressing rooms.
5. The home Club will be responsible for paying the Match Officials their fees in cash (unless previously advised and agreed by bank transfer) on the day of the match in their dressing room, within a reasonable time after the conclusion of the match (including matches abandoned for any reason).

Visiting club Officials

6. The Boardroom must be open for visiting Officials at least 45 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time, with tea, coffee and biscuits available to them.
7. A sufficient number of match day programmes must be provided free of charge to visiting Officials in the Boardroom.
8. The Visiting Club must give notice to the Home Club at least three days before the Match day as to the number of their Board Members/Officers who are expected to attend and accept the hospitality offered pre-match, at half time and post-match.
9. The Visiting Club must give notice to the Home Club at least three days before the Match day if their Team Officials and Players will not be requiring post-match food.
10. Tea, coffee, biscuits/cake must be available to Club Officials in the Boardroom at half-time and bar facilities as well as tea and coffee together with food must be available in the Boardroom after the match.

Spectators

1. Access must be available to the ground for spectators at least 60 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time.
2. The refreshment bar/facilities for supporters must be open at least 45 minutes before kick-off until at least the end of the half-time interval.

The refreshment facilities for supporters must be open at least 45 minutes before kick-off until at least the end of the half-time interval.

Visiting Clubs must respect reasonable requests from the home club regarding the use of the pitch for warming-up, and must respect all facilities provided by the host club.

Match Officials Fees

Match Fees are the responsibility of the HOME club and must be paid in cash or, by prior arrangement by bank transfer, on the day to the Match Officials. If paid in cash it must be paid in their dressing room within a reasonable time after the conclusion of a match.

The match fees are as follows:

Premier Division :

Referee - £64.00

Assistant Referee - £48.00

1st Division

Referee - £54.00

Assistant Referee - £45.00

Travelling Expenses for both divisions - First 50 miles all-inclusive in match fee then 40p per mile over 50 miles - capped at an extra 50 miles £20.00 (Joint travel wherever possible)

Please see rule 14.3 for procedures when a Match Official fails to attend or becomes injured. As per League Rule 14.7 In the case of a postponed match, whether or not gate money is taken, any Match Official who has travelled to the match will be entitled to claim half their match fee from the home club.

A match cannot be abandoned if a match official becomes injured nor if a match official fails to attend the match.

It is the responsibility of individual Clubs to invite match officials into their Board Room if they wish, but which ever policy they adopt, it must apply to all games.

The League would like to think their Clubs are not selective on who they extend their invitations.

Referees Marking & Administration

MOAS should be used for all referee administration (both Divisions) including referee marking. Please use the guidance provided by the FA which can be found on the SCEFL website. No further information will be provided on FAFT and please do not use this system to mark referees.

Match Report Forms – Clubs

Match report forms must be completed online via the FA Full Time system. The information required to be sent is the starting 11 plus all named substitutes, goals and scorers with time of goals, yellow and red cards and details of all substitutions.

Match Results

1) The **home club** will be responsible for sending all result information.

2) Result information must be sent by text to **07732 299230** for all competitive games including FA Cup, FA Vase and all County and External Cup Competitions as well as all League and SCEFL Cup games.

NOTE If you are away to a non SCEFL side in any competition other than SCEFL League or League Cup you must send the result information as if you were the home side. Your opponents will not be sending any information.

You will also be required to send separate result information to the FA or your County FA as well as sending it to the result reporting number above when competing in outside competitions.

3) The first text you send should show the two teams playing and nothing more. This is to be sent just before kick-off.

4) Immediately after each goal is scored text the new aggregate score (home side score first), the FULL NAME of the scorer and the time of the goal (as measured in minutes from the kick-off).

5) It is helpful to send a text confirming half time with a confirmation of the score at that time.

6) Immediately after the referee signals the end of the game text to confirm the final score and the attendance. If this is not done immediately it means the final scores cannot be sent to local press in time for them to beat the deadline for publication on Sunday so aim for before 5.00 on a Saturday.

League Results Service Contact
Dean Sawyer
07732 299230

Timescales

All match details should be sent during and immediately following the conclusion of each match as per League Rule 8.36

Medical Personnel

The home Club should either have a Physiotherapist who is a Graduate, Chartered, or be a registered member of the Health Professions Council, or be a Certified Therapist who has passed The Football Association's Diploma Course, or an equivalent qualification, in the Treatment and Management of Injuries Course, in attendance throughout matches, to attend to injured Players on the field of play and in the dressing room(s) and who holds a valid first aid certificate. Away Clubs should be accompanied by a Therapist as stated above, for the same purpose.

Pitch inspections

please see [Adverse Weather Conditions Procedures \(page 3\)](#)

Player Registrations

League Rule 6

At least 16 players must be registered to play for a club at least 14 days before the official season start date.

Players must complete a League 'player registration form' before the player is registered via the FA Whole Game System

Clubs will be required to retain the original signed paper registration form and keep it available for inspection by the Competition/FA and submit a scanned electronic copy to the League before any registration via WGS will be approved. Clubs must ensure each player registration has been approved by the League before he is considered for selection to play in ANY COMPETITION GAME/TIE.

Transfers between Southern Counties East Clubs

Clubs must complete a League transfer form, available to download from the website www.scefl.com The League Office must receive a copy of the transfer agreement signed by both Clubs and the Player.

Completion of Forms - Please write clearly

All information must be completed:

- Player's Full Name and Address
 - Player's Email Address
 - Date of Birth
 - Signature of Player
 - Signature of Witness (the witness must be present to witness the signature of the player)
 - A player must tick box to confirm they have read the SCEFL Data Privacy Policy and consent to their information being used by the league in the ways described within the policy.
 - Signature of Club Official (which must be different from the witness)
 - Indicate if International Clearance is required (please tick appropriate box – do not leave blank)
 - Indicate if the player is a goalkeeper or not
- Any player's registration form received by the League office which is incomplete or is not acceptable will be returned to the Club immediately for completion or amendment. A player will not be available to take part in a SCEFL fixture until confirmation has been obtained by the Club.

Registration Deadline Day - 31st March 2023 – 5pm League Rule 6.21

Playing Kit

Clubs are reminded of League Rule 7.1 – striped, hooped or otherwise patterned shirts shall have numbers affixed to contrasting patches or numbers in a contrasting colour with bold outline. Black or Dark Blue/Navy shirts cannot be worn as in accordance with League Rule 7.3.

In the event of any clash in kit colour, then the away team **must** change, this includes any clash of goalkeepers' shirts. No changes to the registered first choice colours or combination of colours shall be permitted without the consent of the Board.

Shirts must be numbered 1-20 (or 21 where 13 is excluded) such as that the numbers can be clearly identified by officials and spectators.

Playing Season Dates

The playing season starts on the last Friday/Saturday in July and runs to the first Saturday in May each year.

Postponed Matches (notifications)

Please can all clubs ensure that when a match is postponed the following people are informed:

Match Referee and Assistant Referees
Match Assessor and 4th Official (where appropriate)
Your Opponents

Referees Officers
Ian Bentley & Don Macleod
07919 216722 & 07887 997959.

referees@scefl.com

Results Officer
Dean Sawyer
07732 299230
website@scefl.com

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Please see “adverse weather conditions procedures – page 3” for procedures for clubs to follow to postpone a fixture.

Pre-Match Warm Up

A number of Clubs do not allow teams to warm up on the first team pitch but require players to do their pre-match warm up on land adjacent to the pitch.

If your Club does this please include it in your pre-match confirmation so that it is not a surprise to the visitors when they arrive. Please also make sure that the warm-up area is within your own ground and covered by your insurance policy.

It is NOT acceptable to have players warm up in a public area such as a park unless you have additional insurance for this area.

If you do not wish to have teams warm up in the goal areas, please make sure that this applies to both teams and provide an alternative goal in the warm-up area.

Please note league rule 23.11(b) pre-match warming up by either team shall not commence until 45 minutes before the kick-off time at the earliest, shall not last for more than 30 minutes, and shall end no later than 10 minutes before the kick-off time.

Promotion / Relegation

Clubs competing in the SCEFL must comply fully with the requirements of Ground Grade F (Premier Division) and Ground Grade G (First Division)

To be considered for promotion to Step 4, clubs must meet the requirements set out by the FA by 31st March in the year in which they seek promotion.

The format for promotion and relegation in the Southern Counties East Football League is decided by the FA.

The Clubs are advised to consult the League's website for announcements about promotion and relegation.

League Rule 12.3 - Promotion, relegation and lateral movement of Clubs shall be in accordance with the principles established by the Leagues Committee of the FA.

Respect

The League requires all Clubs prior to the commencement of all fixtures to undertake the "FA Respect Handshake" procedure as adapted where necessary due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Players without written contracts

FA Regulations Concerning Approaches

Players who are not under written contract to a Club may be registered with a number of Clubs (but only one SCEFL club at any one time) during a season, subject to the following provisions and those of the Competitions in which they play:

(i) Competitions sanctioned by The Association under regulation 3 of the "Regulations for the Sanction and Control of Competitions" may make their own regulations for the approach of Players between Clubs of the Competition.

(ii) during the current season any Club wishing to approach a Player known to be registered with
or
having played for any other Club must give to the secretary of each such Club, seven days' formal written notice of the intention to approach the Player;

Formal written notice of approach need be given by:

(A) a Saturday Club only to all Saturday Clubs;

(B) a Sunday Club only to all Sunday Clubs; and

(C) a midweek Club only to all midweek Clubs;

(iii) the written notice must be sent by special delivery or recorded post, or a written acknowledgment otherwise obtained from the secretary or chairman of the Club approached. Facsimile or e-mail transmission may be used provided a receipt of acknowledgment is also obtained;

(iv) following the date of posting of the written notice of approach, or receipt of an acknowledgment:

(A) the Player may be registered on or after the eighth day; and

(B) the Player must have been registered on or before the 21st day;

(v) the approaching Club:

- (A) may not approach the same Player a second time in the same playing season;
- (B) may approach only one (1) Player at a Club at any time subject to Rule C2 (a) (ix) below; and
- (C) may not approach another Player at the same Club within 28 days of the first and the second notice of approach or acknowledgement.
- (vi) if an approach is made by a Player to another Club during the current season, that Club shall give the Club(s), for which the Player is known to be registered or has played, seven days' notice of approach as set out in Rule C2(a)(i) to (v) above before registering the Player;
- (vii) a Club which is the subject of a complaint alleging failure to give notice in accordance with this Rule may be subject to a charge of Misconduct pursuant to Rule E1(b).

SCEFL Challenge Cup Rules

- 1)The Competition shall be known as 'The Southern Counties East Football League Challenge Cup'. The trophies are the property of the League and shall be competed for annually by Clubs in membership of the League.
- 2)The Southern Counties East Football League shall have entire control and management of the Competition.
- 3) Teams from clubs with no floodlight facilities will play all ties away from home.
- 4)Teams exiting the competition in the preliminary and first rounds may be eligible to enter the Southern Counties East Football League Plate competition. These rules will also apply to the Plate competition.
- 5)The Competition shall be decided on a knockout basis, or over two legs knockout competition or on a league basis at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors of the League.
In matters not governed by these Rules, the general League rules and the Regulations of the Football Association shall apply.
- 6) If the competition is to be decided on a knock-out basis ties will be played at the first drawn team's ground. If the tie is drawn after 90 minutes the outcome will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark.
- 7)If the Competition is to be decided on a two-legged knockout basis it shall be on a home and away basis for all games up to and including the semi-final. In each tie, should the aggregate scores be level at the end of the second game it shall be decided by the taking of penalty kicks.
- 8) If the Competition is to be decided on a league basis the Board of Directors will make arrangements for the format on a season-by-season basis.
- 9) (a) A Club may, at its discretion nominate up to five substitutes and use five of these at any time in a tie, except to replace a player who has been suspended from the game by the Referee. The names of all substitutes must be given to the Referee prior to the commencement of a match and substitutes not named may not take part.
Players nominated as substitutes who do not actually come on to the field of play are deemed NOT to have played.

(b) Whilst players of each team may be changed, no individual player shall be allowed to play for more than one Club in this Competition in any one season

(c) In all rounds of the Competition a player must be a bona fide member of the club and must be registered as a playing member in accordance with League rule 6.4.1. In the event of a two-legged competition being determined then they must be registered in accordance with league Rule 6.4.1 prior to the first leg taking place.

(d) In all rounds of the competition if any tie is rearranged for another date, only those players who were eligible on the date the original match was arranged to be played shall be allowed to play. A player under suspension on the original date is allowed to play if he is otherwise eligible.

(e) No player shall be allowed to play in a Final unless he has played in at least one previous round for the Club, unless special permission be obtained from the League Board of Directors.

(f) Each Club competing in the Final Tie shall send their opponents and League Registration Secretary at least 14 days prior to the match, the names of the players from whom their side will be selected.

(g) Any Club found guilty of playing an ineligible or otherwise unregistered player shall be Removed from the Competition and be fined a minimum of £50.00 for each offence.

10) (a) If the tie is to be decided on a straight knock-out basis The Semi-Final tie shall be decided by a two-leg home and away basis with the team drawn first playing at home in the first leg. Should the aggregate scores be level at the end of the second game then the tie will be decided by the taking of penalty kicks.

In the Final tie, if the scores are level at the end of 90 minutes the tie shall be decided by the taking of penalty kicks.

(b) Where a tie has been postponed for any reason, the Fixtures Secretary shall determine the new date. In the event of a replay being required then the same shall apply.

(c) In any tie which, from any cause whatsoever, is not finished, the Board of Directors shall have the power to order that the score shall stand or that the tie shall be replayed in full as they may, in their absolute discretion, determine.

11) The dates for all rounds shall be fixed by the League Fixture Secretary. Any Club refusing or failing to play on the date fixed may be ruled out of the Competition and be liable to a fine not exceeding £1000.00 and the Board of Directors shall have the power to award further sums by way of compensation to the defaulting Club's opponents. This award to take into consideration all forms of loss that may be expected from a tie.

12) (a) The gate receipts from each tie shall be retained by the home club excepting the Semi-Finals and the Final Tie.

(b) In the Semi-Finals and Final Tie, the League shall take half the net gate and the other half shall be divided equally between the competing Clubs.

13) The Board of Directors will determine the charge for admission to the Final Tie. All Club Members and season ticket holders shall pay admission for all Challenge Cup games. Clubs competing in the Final Tie will be issued with 10 complimentary tickets for Directors or Management Committee members and 25 tickets for players, managers etc.

14) Anything not provided for in these Rules, then the General Rules of the League shall apply

Match Officials Fees:

For any match that involves a Premier Division club the fees are:

Referee - £64.00

Assistant Referee - £48.00

For any match that involves only First Division clubs the fees are:

Referee - £54.00

Assistant Referee - £45.00

Travelling Expenses for both divisions - First 50 miles all-inclusive in match fee then 40p per mile over 50 miles - capped at an extra 50 miles £20.00 (Joint travel wherever possible)

Social Media and Web Sites

The League monitors club official Websites, Twitter feeds and Facebook pages as well as other related social media accounts and newspaper articles on a regular basis. A Club is responsible for comments in their output and may be asked to explain these comments. Clubs are advised not to include detrimental remarks about Match Officials and to observe the Respect Programme at all times. See League Rule 8.14.

Substitutes Warming Up

Please ensure any substitutes warm up in the opposite half to the technical area assistant referee the same as the Isthmian League. The maximum number that can warm up at one time remains as 3 for each side.

Substitute Bibs

The Pink bibs issued by the League to all clubs must be worn by all named substitutes in every game played in this competition.

Substitute Boards

As per League Rule 6.8, Clubs must ensure that the boards are used for every substitution.

The League loan an Electronic Substitute Board to a member club that do not have their own board. The following is a Board Directive which has been issued by the League Board of Directors in accordance with their powers under League Rule 4.2 and all Clubs are therefore subject to the following provisions:

1. The Substitute Number Board is provided as a loan to a club that are in membership of the League.
2. Any replacement, unless by fair wear and tear, is the responsibility of the club and each club must therefore take particular care to look after the Board.
3. It is the responsibility of your club to ensure that the board is fully charged and ready for use before every Competition match.

4.The Board must be used in every match played in this competition. Your club is also permitted to use the board in FA and County FA competition matches.

5.It is also the responsibility of both clubs to have a full set of spare boards at all competition matches for use in case the electronic board is unable to be used for any reason.

7.Each club is advised to insure the board. Some policies require an item of this value to be separately noted. Each club should therefore check with its insurer whether the board is covered.

8.The Board must be used in each Competition match for each substitution and to display the amount of added time at the end of each half. – **See Allowance for Lost Time Directive (page 9)**

9.The home club is to appoint one person at each Competition match to liaise with the match referee to ensure that the amount of added time is communicated to that person before the end of each half.

10.No advertising may be added to the board.

11.A club who leaves the competition must return the board to the League Secretary in good working order following their final match played in the competition.

Team Sheet Books

The team sheet books will be distributed to clubs prior to the commencement of the season.

The team sheet book will be used for notifying the referee and your opponents of the team members, substitutes and technical area occupants for the coming match (Note League Rule 8.19 – 45 minutes prior to kick off).

Page 1 Handed to the opponents 45 minutes prior to kick off

Page 2 Handed to the referee 45 minutes prior to kick off

Page 3 Club to retain for their record.

Exchange of team sheet must be undertaken by a Club Official or Team Manager or Assistant Manager with the match officials.

The above notes are issued as guidance for club secretaries and are not an exhaustive list of the League Rules. Secretaries should read and familiarise themselves with the League Rules and refer to them for all matters in full.

If in any doubt please **ASK** - the League officers are here to help.