

LIVERPOOL PREMIER LEAGUE BYELAWS - SEASON 2026-27

1. NOMENCLATURE & CONSTITUTION

Clubs may be accepted into Membership from outside the Liverpool County F.A. boundary on the instruction or agreement of the FA National League System Committee.

2. ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION & DEPOSIT

A. No Club applying for membership of this Competition shall be admitted unless a clearance certificate, issued by the Competition of which they were previously in membership is produced.

B. Any Club failing to discharge all fees, subscriptions, outstanding fines and any other monies owed will not be allowed to vote at the Annual General Meeting. Any person proposed for the Management Committee by a Club in breach of this Rule shall have their nomination declared invalid, likewise any Rule or Rule alteration proposed or seconded by such a Club will be invalid.

3. OFFICERS

A. The Referee's Appointments Officer may be appointed by the Liverpool County FA, however this post is usually within the remit of the LPL Management Committee.

B. The Competition may elect Honorary Life-Members and Honorary Vice-Presidents. Nominations for Honorary Life-Membership and Honorary Vice-Presidents shall be made by the Management Committee. Honorary Life-Members and Honorary Vice-Presidents may attend Management Committee meetings but shall not have the power to vote unless co-opted onto the Management Committee.

4. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

A. The Management Committee may appoint annually, non-elected members to any sub-committee deemed relevant. Any appointment in this manner shall be considered a Member of the Management Committee and have voting rights.

B. Any Member of the Management Committee failing to attend a meeting on **three** successive occasions without due reason shall forfeit their right to remain on the Management Committee.

C. In the event of an urgent matter or emergency, executive powers to make a determination shall be granted to the League Secretary and / or Chairman of the League, he /she, shall have the power to give a ruling, subject to subsequent ratification by the Management Committee.

D. The Management Committee without prejudice to its existing right, powers and duties in connection with the management of the business of the Competition shall have full authority at their discretion to negotiate and enter into for and on behalf of each Club any agreements relating to sponsorship and/or advertising and Clubs shall comply with all the obligations on their part which may be contained or referred to in any such agreement.

E. The Management Committee may on behalf of the members of this Competition enter into any arrangement or agreement to become members of any Inter-League Board or Combination of Leagues in the United Kingdom and be subject to the Rules and By-Laws of such Boards or Combination and be bound by such agreements and in like manner may alter or terminate such membership or agreement.

5. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A Management Committee member representing a Member Club shall only be allowed one vote.

6. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

A. Any Club found guilty of playing a player suspended sine die by The Football Association or any County Football Association or whose registration has been refused, cancelled or suspended by the Management Committee as per Rule 18(G) shall be fined £100 and may be team /club may be expelled from the League subject to Rule 12(A).

B. Where a Club cancels the registration of a player for any reason whatsoever, the Club must notify the Registration Secretary immediately. Such notification must be signed by an authorised signatory of that Club to be valid.

C. A Club wishing to register a player who has previously been registered with a Club under the jurisdiction of another National Association must forward, along with the Competition Registration Form, a copy of the Official Certificate or letter received from The Football Association for that player.

D. (i) The Management Committee shall have the power to suspend new player registrations as per rule 18 A (1) (2) during a season from a specified date.

(ii) The Management Committee shall have the power to suspend player transfers as per rule 18 A (I) during a season from a specified date.

(iii) The end date of any suspensions as per bye law 6 D (i) & (ii) will be determined by the Management Committee.

E. Players who are registered for teams in the League, but play predominately at steps 5 or 6 from season 26/27 MUST have played at least 2 games in LPL, PRIOR to March 31st of that season, otherwise they will be ineligible to play for that team in LPL after 31 March.

7. CLUB COLOURS, CLUB NAME

The Secretary of the Competition may request shirts to be submitted if complaints are received as to lack of distinguishing colours and the Management Committee may refuse to permit any shirts or shorts as they think fit. ALL teams must **NOT** play in black / navy blue or dark brown shirts at any time. Clubs who have doubts as to colours submit to the League Secretary a photo of actual shirt for verification.

8. CONSITUTION OF LEAGUE DIVISIONS

The Management Committee shall have the powers to determine the membership of each Division. **Automatic promotion or relegation based on the merit table is no longer valid**, the Management Committee will utilise, discipline tables / club structures / playing strength, number of non-fulfilled games / sporting marks to determine outcomes.

9. PLAYING SEASON, FIRST AID, CONDITIONS OF PLAY, KICK-OFF TIMES, POSTPONEMENTS, SUBSTITUTES

A. The Secretary/Fixture Secretary shall have the power to change any fixture during the season to suit the overall interests of the Competition.

B. Requests for 'open' dates will only be considered if notice has been given to the Fixture Secretary as follows:

Open-age teams 28 days' minimum

Youth teams 14 days' minimum

ALL PREMIER Division teams **MUST** have a first aid person named on the team sheet for 'technical area' and each club shall have a first aid receptable which contains appropriate items and **MUST** include a CPR mask

No more than two 'open' dates (per team) will be granted in any one season (excluding major events) and 'open' dates will not be granted on pre-arranged Cup dates.

C. All grounds must comply with the minimum grading requirements and no Club will be admitted into membership unless such is guaranteed when applying for admission. Adequacy of the playing facilities and accommodation shall be determined by the Grounds Committee.

D. For Clubs in the Premier Division a fixed pitch perimeter barrier is required.

E. Clubs in the Youth League should arrange for the provision of designated areas for spectators. This area can be marked by an additional painted line, the use of cones, a roped off area or use of a temporary spectator barrier. The area for spectators should start 2 metres from the touchline on both sides of the pitch. Each area should run the full length of the pitch. It is recognised, however, that the alignment of some public pitches does not allow for this arrangement in which case other appropriate arrangements should be made.

F. Membership of each Division will be subject to ground grading. In the event of a Club failing to comply with the standards of the Competition, the Management Committee will have the power to relegate or recommend to Member Clubs the expulsion of the offending Club at the Annual General Meeting.

G. The consumption of alcohol and/or the taking of glasses on or near to the viewing areas is strictly prohibited on the grounds of all Clubs in membership of this Competition.

H. Clubs will ensure that all spectators, officials and non-playing registered players remain behind the pitch perimeter barrier and do not encroach beyond the barrier. Referees should report any breaches of this Rule. For repeated offences the Management Committee may take further appropriate action and fine the Club.

I. Any Club failing to commence at the appointed kick-off time shall be fined a sum not exceeding £25.00 or be otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine.

J. Premier Division League matches played in August, September & October and from February to the end of the season will kick-off between 1pm & 3.30pm unless mutually agreed otherwise by both Clubs and confirmed with the Fixture Secretary.

K. Clubs must allow Match Officials entry to the dressing room prior to kick-off to inspect the players' equipment and articles to be worn during the game.

L. Every Club shall play its best available qualified team in all matches in the Competition.

M. A Club having players selected for a County Association or Inter-League Competition may request postponement of a fixture which may be granted at the discretion of the Management Committee, up to a maximum of 3 players.

N. Any player selected to attend any representative game or other match arranged by this Competition, or to tour abroad, and without good and sufficient cause, refusing to comply with the arrangements of the Management Committee for playing the match, or failing to attend such match, may be adjudged by the Management Committee to have been guilty of misconduct. 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 breach of this rule may result in either a cancellation of registration, suspension of registration and/or a fine. All Clubs that are Members of this Competition shall be bound to place their players at the disposal of the Management Committee.

O. Shirts numbers must correspond with those on the team sheet submitted to the Referee. Failure to comply will result in the offending Club being fined £25.00.

P. In Premier Division and I Zingari Challenge Cup games all substitutes must wear a Liverpool Premier League training bib. Clubs in these competitions must also play with the match ball (provided by the League), failing which a fine of £25.00 will be imposed.

Q. Prior to every game in the Premier Division and I Zingari Challenge Cup the participating teams and officials shall where possible conduct the "Respect" handshake.

R. All teams must have a first aider with a current first aid certificate.

S. The Management Committee shall have the power to change the requirement as per rule 20 E (i) to play home & away fixtures so teams will play each other once. Fixtures will be played at a venue to be determined by the Fixture Secretary.

T. Match Day members in attendance (MDC's) shall attend matches on behalf of the League to foster good will between clubs and match officials. They shall have powers to observe matches prior to and subsequent to the actual playing of the game and complete an appropriate observation report on each participating club, which will be scrutinised by the discipline committee at its monthly meetings. A 'fines' tariff (see below) will be introduced for those clubs who are observed to have not followed guidance and rules of the League. MDC's will have no involvement in the actual playing time of games (ie 90 minutes) this will be the sole responsibility of the match official(s).

U. The Management Committee (or subcommittee thereof subject to full endorsement by the full committee) shall have the powers to suspend fixtures for clubs, for time periods up to and including the end of the playing season, who in the opinion of the subcommittee and full Management committee, have endangered the reputation of the League by their actions on / off the field of play. Clubs in accordance with League rules may appeal such suspensions to a sub committee consisting of members of the management committee who took no part in the original decision. Appeals fees are costed at £30.00 per appeal if the club(s) are unsuccessful in any appeal.

V. Clubs failing to fulfil fixtures (without reasonable explanation) shall be fined as per the schedule of rates below:

- Premier Division - £150 **plus** the **FULL COSTS** of the match officials' fees for the designated game). Clubs who fail to fulfil and notify the League Secretary within 24 hours of KO shall also be fined an additional £100.00
- Championship - £100 **plus** any match officials' fees (currently £50)
- Conference Division -£50 **plus** any match officials' fees (currently £50)
- Youth (U11-18) & Girls – Referee fee **plus** £25 administration charge

10. REPORTING RESULTS

The results of Football Association, County Association and Competition Cup matches shall be reported as follows:

I. Each club will receive a FA text, this should be completed at the end of the game to the FA, any failure to receive the text, the team should send a text result to the League Secretary on 07410981659 no later than 17.30pm

II.A Competition Club playing against a Club from another League it is the duty of the Competition Club (home or away).

Premier teams are also required to complete MOAS match referees' marks within 48 hours (excluding Sunday) of the game occurring, failing which a sum of £25 is payable in the form of a fine for poor administration, the first offence incurs a verbal warning.

11. DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

Subject to the agreements made between the Liverpool Premier League and any other Competition, a Club may be promoted directly into a division considered appropriate. Under such agreement it may be necessary for a division to have a + number of Clubs for one season. Relegation should therefore be undertaken as relegating a + number of clubs. A relegated club may request relegation to the Competition from which it was promoted subject to promotion and relegation agreements.

12. REFEREES

A. The Management Committee may, if they consider it desirable, or upon application by the two completing Clubs, appoint Assistant Referees, if available, to any match. Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee.

B. In the event of adverse weather where there is a doubt to the fitness of the pitch an inspection must take place.

C. Where required all pitch inspections shall be made by a Level 1-4 (Premier Division) and 1-5 Referee (all other Divisions) who, if necessary, will be nominated by the Referees Appointments Secretary and the nominated official shall have the powers of the appointed referee. Any match official who undertakes an inspection of the pitch is entitled to 'out of pocket' expenses, to be paid by the home club.

D. Pitch inspections should take place at least two hours (4 hours for Premier Division clubs) before the advertised kick-off time and in time to prevent the opposing team and match official(s) from travelling. Failure to observe these bye laws may involve additional expense to the home club.

E. In the event of a postponement the home team should notify the Referees Secretary, Fixture Secretary, opposing team and Match Officials immediately.

F. A Referee or Assistant Referee failing to comply with the administration standards of the Competition and/or failing to confirm acceptance of appointments with the Referees Secretary may be reported to the Association with which he is registered.

G. Referees and Assistant Referees are required to attend the ground of their appointment at least 30 minutes prior to kick off (45 minutes in the Premier Division).

H. The Referee shall inform a representative of a Club responsible for any breach of League Rule that is to be reported on the result card.

I. In the Youth League a referee's mark of 50 or less must be accompanied by a letter of explanation.

J. The North West Combined Counties Referees Pool will appoint Referees to the Premier (First) Division League and Cup games with the following arrangements:

(i) The Referee's match fee will be £70.00, all inclusive.

(ii) Assistant Referees will continue to be appointed by each League. In exceptional circumstances all three officials may travel to an appointment and in that circumstance the Assistant Referee will be paid the fee set by the League at which he/she is officiating.

(iii) The LPL will be responsible for setting the match fee for its Assistant Referees.

(iv) The LPL will be responsible for compiling its own fixture list. Fixture lists will be compiled monthly and the (Pool) Referees Appointments Officer will be notified on the 18th day of the preceding month.

(v) The LPL will appoint a Referee's Secretary who will maintain appointments of Assistant Referees.

(vi) The LPL will use approved stationery for use in their Premier (First) Division. Other stationery for use in each League will continue to be the League's responsibility.

(vii) Any alterations to fixtures MUST be advised to the (Pool) Referees' Appointments Officer as soon as they are known.

(viii) An appropriate entry should be made in each League's handbook with contact details of the (Pool) Referees' Appointments Officer together with e-mail address and telephone number. Ideally, the details should be placed in the vicinity of the details for the League Referees' Secretary. K. The referee's match fee will be shared equally by both Clubs although it is the responsibility of the home Club to ensure that the referee has been paid in full.

13. CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP or WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

A. A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its teams from the Competition after the Annual General Meeting for the following Season. Any Club infringing this Rule shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £250.00 per team.

B. In the event of a Member Club which is an un-incorporated association withdrawing and/or disbanding it shall be immediately liable to discharge all its financial and other obligations to the Competition.

C. The Secretary shall issue a clearance certificate providing the whole of the Club's fixtures have been completed and its financial obligations discharged.

D. New clubs entering membership and clubs who are promoted to a higher Division, will be required to pay an 'additional' deposit of £200.00 to ensure that they fulfil fixtures for the season. This will be returned to the new club or promoted club upon completion of the fixtures for that season.

14. PROTESTS & COMPLAINTS

A. Any OA Club lodging a protest and not proceeding with it shall be deemed guilty of a breach of Rule and shall be dealt with in the first instance by the OA Committee.

B. Any dispute occurring between OA Clubs in the Competition shall be referred for determination by the Management Committee to the MDC/Task Force subcommittee, whose decision shall be binding upon all parties, subject to Rule 16.

C. Appeals or protests to the MDC / Task force committee must be accompanied by a fee of £30.00 per appeal which is returned to the protesting / appealing club if the appeal / protest is successful.

D. The MDC / Task Force Committee has the option / authority subject to SCOR rule 7 to vary decisions of the OA Committee or indeed if the OA Committee has not made a determination in relation to games that don't proceed on the scheduled dates / abandoned games (subject to LCFA determination) and other unprescribed events. The MDC/Task Force shall hear evidence from both parties participating in the unprecedented game and make a final (binding) decision subject to ratification in (E) below.

E. Appeals initially shall be to the OA Committee and any subsequent appeals to the MDC / Task Force subcommittee. A decision shall be made and communicated at the next the full management committee excluding those members that sat on the MDC / Task Force original hearing (exc League Secretary who will take notes of proceedings and take no part thereof in the outcome)

15. EXCLUSION OF CLUBS, MISCONDUCT BY CLUBS, OFFICIALS & PLAYERS, PROBATIONARY CLUBS

A. Any Club or team failing to complete all of its fixtures in any season may (unless the conditions are beyond their control, or the accredited delegates present at the Annual General meeting decide otherwise by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast) be debarred from membership the following season.

B. Newly admitted Clubs will be given a probationary membership of a minimum of two seasons. Probationary membership shall carry the benefits of full membership except that if in the opinion of the Management Committee, any Probationary Club is not suitable for any reason for continued membership then full membership will not be offered the following season. The power to exclude a Probationary Club shall be the sole right of the Management Committee without recourse to the Clubs in membership or at the Annual General Meeting.

C. Clubs whose conduct is deemed by the Management Committee to be unacceptable may be given a probationary membership during the current and / or the following season.

16. ALTERATIONS TO RULES OR BYE-LAWS

All alterations to rule proposed by Clubs must be duly seconded by another Club. The Management Committee may also propose changes to rules / bye laws, these will be despatched to members clubs at least 14 days prior to any AGM /SGM.

17. RULES BINDING ON CLUBS

Each Member Club shall be deemed to have given its assent to the foregoing Rules and Bye Laws and agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee subject to Rule 16.

18. CUP COMPETITIONS – QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

See Cup competition bye laws (separate document) to be read in conjunction with SCOR.

19. FINES.

Fines for breaches of the following bye laws are outlined below:

Premier Clubs: MIA observations: Technical Areas /Dugouts:

- More than 10 persons in the technical area / dugout areas – 1st offence verbal warning
- More than 10 persons in technical area/ dugout areas – 2nd offence £10.00 fine
- More than 10 persons in technical area/ dugout areas – 3rd offence £25.00 fine
- More than 10 persons in technical area/ dugout areas – 4th offence £30.00 fine
- More than 10 persons in technical area/ dugout areas – 5th offence – fixtures suspended for 14 days with any games awarded to opposition or elimination if cup tie.
- Bikes /Young children/ smoking / substitutes not differentiated from active players on field of play - 1st offence verbal warning
- Bikes /Young children/ smoking / substitutes not differentiated from active players on field of play – 2nd offence £10.00 fine
- Bikes /Young children/ smoking / substitutes not differentiated from active players on field of play – 3rd offence £25.00 fine
- Bikes /Young children/ smoking / substitutes not differentiated from active players on field of play – 4th offence £30.00 fine
- Bikes /Young children/ smoking / substitutes not differentiated from active players on field of play - fixtures suspended for 14 days with any games awarded to opposition or elimination if cup tie.
- Provision of at least 1 qualified first aid certificated person, failure to adhere to this rule, 1st offence – verbal warning, subsequent breaches £10.00 fine per occasion.
- Premier Division – Captain to wear (League provided) armband signifying the role whilst on the field of play , failure to adhere to this bye law will result in 1st offence – verbal warning, subsequent offences £10.00 fine.
- Pre- match team sheets **NOT** presented to referee (match officials at least 20 minutes before KO time) -1st offence – Verbal warning to club
- Pre-match team sheets **NOT** presented to referee (match officials at least 20 minutes before KO time) -2nd offence £10.00 fine.
- Pre-match team sheets **NOT** presented to referee (match officials at least 20 minutes before KO time) -3rd offence £25.00 fine.

- Pre-match team sheets **NOT** presented to referee (match officials at least 20 minutes before KO time) -4th offence £30.00 fine.
- Pre-match team sheets **NOT** presented to referee (match officials at least 20 minutes before KO time) -5th offence - fixtures suspended for 14 days with any games awarded to opposition or elimination if cup tie.
- Failure to submit post-match team sheet via FA full time within 48 hours (excluding Sunday) and to include referee mark, 1st offence verbal warning, subsequent offences fined £10.00 per breach.
- The field of play **without** a fixed barrier or roped off – 1st offence – verbal warning, subsequent offences £10.00 fine per breach.
- Appointed match officials not notified by **home** club, in writing either by email / text / whatsapp or post of the date / time / venue of the game at least 2 days before its scheduled fixture date – 1st offence -verbal warning, subsequent offences fined £10.00 per breach.
Please note this bye law does NOT apply to late changes to match officials via the referee appointments officer.
- No corner flags – 1st offence verbal warning, subsequent breaches £10.00 fine.
- The **home** club shall play with the match ball provided by the League, failing to comply with this bye law, 1st offence verbal warning, subsequent offences £25.00 fine per breach.

Fines – General:

- All Divisions – Captain to wear (League provided) armband signifying the role whilst on the field of play, failure to adhere to this bye law will result in 1st offence – verbal warning, subsequent offences £10.00 fine.
- Failing to deal with correspondence of the League – 1st offence verbal warning, subsequent offences £10.00 up to 5 breaches and then £25.00 there after the 5th occasion.
- Failing, without reasonable cause to pay the appointed match official(s) their match fees at the conclusion of the game, 1st offence verbal warning and subsequent offences £25.00.
- Failing to provide two suitable match balls (as reported by match officials), 1st offence verbal warning, subsequent offences £10.00 per breach.
- First Division clubs shall provide a pre-match team sheet for the appointed match official(s), this shall be presented no later than 5 minutes (without reasonable excuse) to the match official, failure will result in 1st offence a verbal warning, subsequent offences £10.00 per breach.
- All clubs in Divisions 1-3 shall within 48 hours (excluding Sunday) submit via FA Full Time a post-match team sheet. Clubs who fail to submit without reasonable excuse shall in the 1st instance be verbally warned and subsequently fined £10.00 per breach. The registrar will in the 1st instance / offence issue the verbal warning initially.
- In Divisions 1 – 3 clubs who without reasonable cause fail to fulfil their scheduled fixture shall be (without reasonable cause) subject in the 1st instance to a fine £50.00, suspended for a 6-month calendar period. Subsequent offences in that playing season, will include the suspended fine to be paid, and additional sanctions at the discretion of the discipline committee, which may also include up to and including deduction of points/ award of games/ suspension of fixtures/ removal from the competition.