

NORTHERN CRICKET UNION

COMPETITION RULES

1. All matches shall be played in accordance with the current M.C.C. Laws of Cricket, except that each match shall be decided on an 'overs' basis. The team that scores the greater number of runs in its allotted number of overs shall be the winner.
2. **Competition Entries**
 - (a) Application for entry to competitions for the following season shall be made, in writing, to the General Secretary not later than 31st October each year. Each application shall incorporate a signed statement that the club or school will conform to the Union's Rules and the guidelines contained in the *Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport in Ireland*.
 - (b) Any club participating in competitions shall maintain such insurances as shall be prescribed from time to time, shall pay such contributions as may be required towards any insurance effected by the Union on clubs' behalf, and shall provide the General Secretary with such evidence of its insurances as may be required.
 - (c) Any club that withdraws a team from an adult competition after 31st January shall be liable to a fine of £50.
3. **Responsibility of Captains**

It is the responsibility of the captain of every team to be thoroughly familiar with the Rules and Bye-Laws governing the competition in which the team is playing, and to ensure that the team complies fully with them at all times.'

REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

4. **Registration**
 - (a) Each club shall, before 15th April, send to the General Secretary, on the form provided, a list of its playing members, including school pupils. The Competitions Directorate may impose upon any club that fails to do so a fine not exceeding £50.
 - (b) Clubs shall supply one copy of the list of registered players for each team playing league cricket, plus one copy (eg a club with teams in the First, Second, Third and Fourth Divisions and two teams in the Mid-Week League would supply seven copies).
 - (c) Additionally, any club wishing to register an adult player who is not an Irish national, or born in Ireland, or resident in Ireland for at least 183 days in each of the last four years (a year shall mean a year ending on 14 May), shall submit a Supplementary Registration Form giving full details of the player's performances in competitive cricket over the past three years. No such application shall be considered unless a fully completed Supplementary Registration Form, together with all necessary supporting documentation, is submitted by 15th May.
 - (d) Clubs are solely and entirely responsible for the accuracy of the information supplied in support of an application for the registration of a player.
5. **Starring**

On the list of registered players:

 - (a) a club with two teams shall star the first eight players normally chosen for the 1st XI;
 - (b) additionally, a club with three teams shall star for its 2nd XI the three remaining players who normally play for the 1st XI, together with eight players from the 2nd XI;
 - (c) additionally, a club with four teams shall star for its 3rd XI the three remaining players who normally play for the 2nd XI, together with four players from the 3rd XI;
 - (d) additionally, a club with five teams shall star for its 4th XI the seven remaining players who normally play for the 3rd XI.
6. **Amendment**
 - (a) Should a club subsequently wish to register additional players, or to alter its starring list, it shall apply in writing to the General Secretary and send a copy to the Honorary Section Secretary of each

Section in which it has a team. Any club failing to notify each Section Secretary shall be liable to be fined by the Competitions Directorate.

Details of the player it wishes to de-star and of the player it wishes to star in his place, with analyses of their performances over the previous three matches in competitions organised by the Union, shall be given on the form provided. Such alterations shall be subject to scrutiny by the Competitions Directorate.

- (b) A player starred for a team and not playing for that team or a higher team for a period of three consecutive matches or three weeks, whichever be the greater, or who sustains an injury sufficiently serious to be likely to prevent him from playing for such a period or who otherwise becomes unavailable for such a period, shall forthwith be de-starred by his club and another player starred in his place. Failure to comply with this rule may result in forfeiture of points and/or elimination from cup competitions at the discretion of the Competitions Directorate.
- (c) A player may transfer clubs during the season only with the approval of the Competitions Directorate. No transfer shall be approved after 31st July.
- (d) The list of registered players and the starrings in effect on 31st August shall remain in force until replaced by a new list for the following season.

7. Scrutiny

- (a) All registrations and starrings shall be scrutinised by the Registrations Committee, which shall:
 - in respect of players who are Irish nationals, or born in Ireland, or resident in Ireland for at least 183 days in each of the last four years (a year shall mean a year ending on 14 May), require the starring for a higher team of any player whom it believes to be of cricketing ability so much in excess of the standard generally obtaining in the competitions for which registration is sought, as to make his participation unfair to other players and teams participating therein;
 - in respect of players who are not Irish nationals, or born in Ireland, or resident in Ireland for at least 183 days in each of the last four years (a year shall mean a year ending on 14 May), refuse or withdraw the registration, or require the starring for a higher team, of any player whom it believes to be of cricketing ability so much in excess of the standard generally obtaining in the competitions for which registration is sought, as to make his participation unfair to other players and teams participating therein.

In determining whether or not a player's cricketing ability is appropriate to particular competitions, the Registrations Committee shall take account of any general guidance given to it by the Competitions Directorate.
- (b) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Registrations Committee shall not refuse or withdraw the registration of any player who was first registered by the club as a school pupil and has not subsequently played for another club (other than a university club).
- (c) Where the Registrations Committee becomes aware that a player's registration has been approved on the basis of inaccurate or incomplete information, it may rescind the registration with retrospective effect. Where a registration is so rescinded, the club shall be regarded as having fielded an ineligible player in any match in which the player concerned had played since his registration was originally approved.
- (d) The Registrations Committee may delegate such powers as it deems appropriate to the General Secretary or an Honorary Officer. After 1st June, any power of the Registrations Committee may be exercised by the Competitions Directorate.

8. Eligibility

- (a) No player may play for a club until his registration for the current season has been accepted by the Registrations Committee, or for a team more junior than that for which he is starred.
- (b) Even if subsequently de-starred, no player shall play in a cup competition more junior than that entered by the team for which he was starred on the Wednesday before the first round of the first cup competition. (The General Secretary shall inform each club of the date of this Wednesday). Except for players eligible to play in the Graham Cup, a player registered after this date may play for the club in league competitions only.
- (c) No player who has participated in international cricket, or played in two or more senior inter-provincials within the previous twelve months, may play for a team other than the 1st XI without the approval of the Registrations Committee.
- (d) No player may play for more than one club in cup competitions in any season.

- (e) In determining whether or not a player is resident in Northern Ireland for purposes unconnected with cricket, the Registrations Committee shall take account of any general guidance given to it by the Competitions Directorate.
- (f) No player who is not an Irish national, or born in Ireland, or resident in Ireland for at least 183 days in each of the last four years (a year shall mean a year ending on 14 May), may play, or act as a substitute, in any cup competition; and not more than one such player may play in the same team in any league match. This restriction shall not apply to players who are serving with HM Forces in Northern Ireland or to a person who, having been resident in Northern Ireland for less than four years, satisfies the Registrations Committee that he was so resident for purposes unconnected with cricket.
- (g) No player currently registered for a club in another Union affiliated to the Irish Cricket Union may be registered without the prior approval of the Registrations Committee. No player transferring from such a club may be registered without the other Union's prior written approval.
- (h) No player joining a club, having previously been registered by another club, may play for his new club until he has satisfied the General Secretary that he has met all financial obligations (subscriptions, etc) to his previous club.
- (i) A player shall normally be registered for only one club at any time. However, where the player's normal club does not participate in the Mid-Week League, or in an age-group competition for which the player is eligible, the player may be registered by another club solely in respect of the competition(s) in question. The competition(s) shall be specified on the registration form, which shall also indicate the player's normal club.
- (j) If an ineligible player plays or acts as a substitute in any match, his club shall be deemed to have lost the match. In addition it shall be fined by the Registrations Committee.

CUP COMPETITIONS

9. General

- (a) All cup competitions shall be administered by the Competitions Directorate, which may delegate to the Honorary Competition Secretary or an Honorary Officer such powers in relation thereto as it deems appropriate.
- (b) The Competitions shall be open to the following teams:

Challenge Cup	First Division Sections I and II plus the teams that finished in the first two places in Section III in the previous season.
Junior Cup	First Division Section IV plus the teams that finished in the last eight places in Section III in the previous season; Second Division Section I.
Intermediate Cup	Remaining Second Division teams.
Lindsay (Minor) Cup	Third Division Sections I, II and III.
Minor Qualifying Cup	Remaining Third Division teams.
- (c) All matches shall be of one innings a side [except that the Finals of the Challenge and Junior Cups shall normally be of two innings a side. However, either Final shall be reduced to one innings a side if no play has been possible on the first scheduled day]. The maximum duration of each innings shall be 50 overs. The section in square brackets shall not apply for the 2007, 2008 and 2009 seasons.
- (d) No bowler may bowl more than one fifth of the maximum number of overs available for an innings. If a bowler breaks down during an over, the over shall be completed by another bowler and the fractional overs shall count against each bowler's allowance.

10. Fixtures

- (a) The Competitions Directorate shall, before the end of November, fix dates and reserve dates for every round of each competition for the following season.
- (b) Every match shall be played on or before the date published in the Fixture Book, but any team wishing to play a match before that date shall first obtain the approval of the Honorary Competition Secretary.
- (c) Any team failing to fulfil a fixture, except for a reason beyond its control, shall be deemed to have lost the match. In addition, it shall be fined and be liable for any expenses necessarily incurred by its opponents prior to their being notified that the fixture would not be fulfilled. In such circumstances,

any more junior team from the same club shall be deemed to have lost any match played on the same day.

- (d) The first team drawn in each match shall have choice of ground, except that the Competitions Directorate shall decide the venues of finals.
- (e) If a club has more home matches on the same day than it has grounds available it may, if its opponents agree, arrange the most junior match(es) for the Sunday following.

11. Ground Unplayable

- (a) Should a ground be unfit for play owing to rain or other unavoidable cause, the home team shall inform the visiting team and, where umpires have been appointed, the Umpires' Appointments Secretary. This notification shall be made not earlier than 24 hours or later than two hours before play is due to start.
- (b) Where umpires have been appointed, such a decision not to play may be taken in advance of the due starting time only if both teams agree.

12. Rearrangements

- (a) A match postponed owing to rain or other unavoidable cause shall be played on or before the published reserve date, but any team wishing to play the match before that date shall first obtain the approval of the Honorary Competition Secretary.
- (b) Where the start of play in a rearranged match up to and including a semi-final is delayed owing to rain or other unavoidable cause, the teams may agree to reduce the maximum duration of each innings, but no match may be reduced to fewer than 30 overs per side. If the teams so agree, the number of overs available to each side shall be reduced by one for each full eight minutes of playing time lost after the designated starting time, where the time lost exceeds 30 minutes. Once a reduced match starts, it shall be subject to the normal continuation arrangements except that the maximum duration of each innings remains at the reduced level.
- (c) In matches up to and including semi-finals if no play is possible on the day of the rearranged match, a bowl-out shall take place as follows:
 - (i) Five members of each team shall each bowl an over-arm delivery at an unguarded wicket. Players from each team shall alternate. The team that breaks the wicket the greater number of times shall be the winner.
 - (ii) If the teams are level after each designated member has bowled, a sudden-death play-off shall take place, with the same bowlers from each team alternating in their original order until a winner has emerged.
 - (iii) A No Ball or Wide Ball shall count as a ball bowled but shall in no circumstances be regarded as having broken the wicket.

13. Hours of Play

- (a) [In matches up to and including the semi-finals], play may start at any time agreed by both teams, but not later than 12 noon in the Challenge Cup and 1 pm in other cup competitions. The section in square brackets shall not apply for the 2007, 2008 and 2009 seasons.
- (b) Where both teams agree to start a Challenge Cup or Junior Cup match at a time earlier than that specified above, the home club shall so advise the Umpires' Appointments Secretary as soon as possible and at least 24 hours before the agreed starting time.
- (c) In the finals of the Challenge and Junior Cups, play shall start at 11 am, a 40-minute lunch interval shall be taken between innings or, in the event of weather interference or an abnormally early finish to an innings, as determined by the umpires. [Play on the first day shall cease when 100 overs have been bowled. If fewer than 15 overs remain to be bowled on the first day, the team batting third shall bat only if it elects to do so.] The section in square brackets shall not apply for the 2007, 2008 and 2009 seasons.
- (d) In all other finals, play shall start at 12 noon.

14. Continuation

Unless the Competitions Directorate determines otherwise a match that is not completed on the day on which it starts shall be continued on the next ensuing and each succeeding weekday (Saturday excepted) until a result is reached. On each additional day, play shall start at any time agreed by both teams, but

not later than 6.30 pm. Alternatively, if both teams agree, the match may be continued on the following day (Sunday), in which case the starting time shall be no later than 2 pm.

15. Tied Matches

- (a) A tied match (other than a final) shall be won by the team losing the fewer wickets. Where each team has lost the same number of wickets, the match shall be played on the reserve date, the visiting team having choice of ground.
- (b) If a final is tied, the teams shall share the trophy.

16. Result Reports

After each match, whether or not play has taken place, the home team (the winning team in the case of a final) shall enter full details of the match (which shall correspond to those appearing in both scorebooks), or the reason why play has not taken place, on the Result Form provided, have the latter signed by both captains, and dispatch it to the Honorary Competition Secretary so as to arrive within four days of the completion of the match. A club failing to fulfil its obligations under this rule shall be fined.

LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

17. General

- (a) All league competitions shall be administered by the Competitions Directorate, which may delegate to Honorary Section Secretaries such powers in relation thereto as it deems appropriate.
- (b) The League shall be divided into three Divisions, the First and Second Divisions being open respectively to clubs' first and second elevens, and the Third Division to clubs' third and lower elevens.
- (c) Each Division shall be divided into Sections, which shall be numbered I, II, III, IV, etc. Each Section shall comprise ten teams in the First Division and Sections I and II of the Second Division and eight teams in every other division, except that the last Section of each Division may comprise more or fewer teams, depending upon the total number of teams competing.
- (d) All matches shall be of one innings a side. The maximum duration of each innings shall be 50 overs in the First Division and Sections I and II of the Second Division, 45 overs in the other Sections of the Second Division, and 40 overs in all other Sections.
- (e) Teams shall not pre-arrange 50-over matches of shorter duration; however, where the start of a 50-over match is delayed by more than 30 minutes due to rain or other unavoidable cause, the teams may agree to reduce the maximum duration of each innings. If the teams so agree, the number of overs available to each side shall be reduced by one for each full eight minutes of playing time lost after the designated starting time. No match up to 31st July may be so reduced to fewer than 30 overs a side, and no match after 31st July may be so reduced to fewer than 25 overs a side.
- (f) Teams may agree in advance to reduce the maximum duration of each innings of a 45-over or 40-over match. Also, where the start of a 45-over or 40-over match is delayed by more than 30 minutes due to rain or other unavoidable cause, the teams may agree to reduce the maximum duration of each innings. No match up to 31st July may be so reduced to fewer than 25 overs a side, and no match after 31st July may be so reduced to fewer than 20 overs a side.
- (g) No bowler may bowl more than one fifth of the maximum number of overs allocated to each innings. If a bowler breaks down during an over, the over shall be completed by another bowler and the fractional overs shall count against each bowler's allowance.
- (h) Notwithstanding any contrary provisions in other Competition Rules, Sections I and II of the First Division shall be played in accordance with the rules set out in the Annex to these Competition Rules.

18. Fixtures

- (a) The Competitions Directorate shall determine the method to be employed for arranging fixtures for the following season. Any club not represented at a fixtures meeting convened for this purpose shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £20.
- (b) No match shall be played before the penultimate Saturday in April or after the last Saturday or Sunday in September, whichever be the later.

- (c) Unless the Competitions Directorate grants special permission to the contrary, every match shall be played on or before the date published in the Fixture Book, but any team wishing to play a match before that date shall first obtain the approval of the Honorary Section Secretary.
- (d) Any team failing to fulfil a fixture, except for a reason beyond its control, shall be deemed to have lost the match. In addition, it shall be fined and be liable for any expenses necessarily incurred by its opponents prior to their being notified that the fixture would not be fulfilled. In such circumstances, any more junior team from the same club shall be deemed to have lost any match played on the same day. However, if a Third Division team is unable to fulfil a fixture, the game may be arranged for another date if both clubs agree and inform the Honorary Section Secretary in writing.
- (e) Any team failing to fulfil four fixtures in a season shall be deemed to have withdrawn from league competition and the provisions of Competition Rule 26(c) shall apply.
- (f) No fixture published in the Fixture Book, or rearranged fixture notified to or imposed by an Honorary Section Secretary, may be cancelled or postponed to permit the rearrangement of another league match other than in the circumstances provided for in Competition Rule 19(b).
- (g) No team may aggregate its home and away fixtures against the same opponents as one match played for double points or arrange to play two matches simultaneously or consecutively on the same day.

19. Postponements

Matches may be postponed only where:

- (a) either or both of the teams is scheduled to play a cup match, or has players involved in a Mid-Week league final, on the same date; or
- (b) the Honorary Section Secretary of one of the home club's more senior teams has imposed a rearranged home fixture on the same date; or
- (c) play on the scheduled date has been impossible owing to rain or other unavoidable cause; or
- (d) the fixture is a Third Division game and both clubs have informed the Honorary Section Secretary, in writing, that a postponement has been arranged; or
- (e) either or both of the teams are scheduled to play in a Challenge or Junior Cup Final on the preceding day.
- (f) either or both of the clubs' first elevens are scheduled to play in the final of the Challenge or Junior Cups, the Ulster Cup or Shield, or the Irish Senior Cup on the same day.

20. Ground Unplayable

- (a) Should a ground be unfit for play owing to rain or other unavoidable cause, the home team shall inform the visiting team and, where umpires have been appointed, the Umpires' Appointments Secretary. This notification shall be made not earlier than 24 hours or later than 2 hours before play is due to start.
- (b) Where umpires have been appointed, such a decision not to play may be taken in advance of the due starting time only if both teams agree.

21. Hours of Play

- (a) 50-over matches (except evening matches) may start at any time agreed by both teams, but not later than:
 - 1 pm in April, May or June;
 - 12 noon in July or August;
 - 11.30 am in September
- (b) All other matches (except evening matches) may start at any time agreed by both teams, but not later than:
 - 2 pm for all matches in April, May or June and weekday matches in July, August and September;
 - 12 noon for weekend matches in July, August or September;
- (c) Evening matches shall be played on two or, if both captains agree prior to the toss, three successive nights before 15th August and may start at any time agreed by both teams, but not later than:
 - 6.30 pm in April, May or June;
 - 6 pm in July;
 - 5 pm in August.

The team batting second shall start its innings on the first night only if it so elects, and play shall always continue on the second night unless both teams agree that there would be insufficient time to complete the match.

- (d) Continued matches may start at any time agreed by both teams, but not later than:
 - 6.30 pm in April, May or June;
 - 6 pm in July;
 - 5 pm in August or September.
- (e) Where both teams agree to start a First Division match at a time earlier than that specified above or in the Section I Regulations, the home club shall so advise the Umpires' Appointments Secretary as soon as possible and at least 24 hours before the agreed starting time.

22. Continuation

- (a) Weather-affected 50-over matches (except evening matches) in which one innings has been completed shall continue on the next available day. The following days shall be deemed not to be available:
 - Sundays, unless both teams agree to play thereon;
 - Bank Holidays on which either team has a fixture;
 - any day on which either team is involved in the continuation of a previous match; or
 - any day on which the home club is due to host a representative match or cup final on the same ground.
- (b) Any continuation shall, except as provided above, take precedence over any other match involving either team that has been arranged for the same day.
- (c) Any match that is not completed on the continuation day shall be abandoned and rearranged.

23. Rearrangement - 50-over matches

- (a) The clubs concerned shall rearrange any postponed or abandoned match. The new date shall be within twenty-two days (twenty-nine days in Sections I and II of the Second Division) of the date of postponement or abandonment, except that, where the latter is in August or September, the new date may be any date before the end of the season. The Honorary Section Secretary may impose an earlier date than that agreed by the clubs where there is an intervening Saturday on which both teams are free and there appears to him to be no good reason why the match should not proceed.
- (b) The Match Secretary of the home team shall, within seven days of the date of postponement or abandonment, inform the Honorary Section Secretary in writing of the rearrangement, copying the letter to the Match Secretary of the visiting team and the Umpires' Appointments Secretary
- (c) If the Honorary Section Secretary has not been informed of the rearrangement by the seventh day after postponement or abandonment, he shall set a date, which shall be within the original twenty-two days, and shall inform the Match Secretaries of both teams and the Umpires' Appointments Secretary in writing of the rearrangement.
- (d) Notwithstanding the requirements of sub-section (a) above, teams in Sections I and II of the Second Division may agree not to rearrange a match that is abandoned after 31st August.

24. Rearrangement - 45-over and 40-over matches

Mandatory rearrangement

- (a) The clubs concerned shall rearrange any match postponed under Competition Rule 19(a), (b), (d) or (e). The Match Secretary of the home team shall, within twenty-one days of the date of postponement or abandonment, inform the Honorary Section Secretary, in writing, of the rearrangement, copying the letter to the Match Secretary of the visiting team.
- (b) If the Honorary Section Secretary has not been informed of the rearrangement by the twenty-first day after the postponement or abandonment, he shall set a date, and shall inform the Match Secretaries of both teams, in writing, of the rearrangement.

Voluntary rearrangement

- (c) The clubs concerned may rearrange any match postponed under Competition Rule 19(c) (rain or other unavoidable cause). The Match Secretary of the home team shall, within twenty-one days of the date of postponement or abandonment, inform the Honorary Section Secretary, in writing, of any such rearrangement, copying the letter to the Match Secretary of the visiting team.

- (d) If the Honorary Section Secretary has not been informed of the rearrangement by the twenty-first day after the postponement or abandonment, he shall declare the match void, and shall inform the Match Secretaries of both teams, in writing, of the voiding,

25. Result Reports

After each fixture, whether or not play has taken place, the home team shall enter full details of the match (which shall correspond to those appearing in both scorebooks), or the reason why play has not taken place, on the Result Form provided, have the latter signed by both captains (except where the visiting team did not come to the ground), and despatch it to the Honorary Section Secretary so as to arrive within four days of the completion or abandonment of the fixture. A club failing to fulfil its obligations under this rule shall be fined.

26. League Points

- (a) All Divisions: Match points only: Win - 4 points, Tie - 2 points.
- (b) Each Section shall be won by the team with the greatest number of points. Where there is a tie at the top of a Section, the clubs shall share the trophy.
- (c) A team that withdraws from league competition, or is expelled from the Union, at any time after its fixtures have been made, shall have any matches played before its withdrawal or expulsion declared void. The team shall be placed at the bottom of its Section and shall, for the following season, be relegated to the bottom Section of its Division.

27. Promotion and Relegation

There shall be annual promotion and relegation between the Sections of each Division.

- (a) **Promotion:** The teams finishing first and second in a Section shall be promoted, provided that the Competitions Directorate is satisfied that the ground, pitch, outfield and pavilion of each are suitable for the higher Section and that the general administration and day-to-day running of each club are satisfactory. If these requirements are not satisfied in respect of either team, but are satisfied by the team third, the latter may be promoted.
- (b) **Relegation:** The teams finishing bottom and second from bottom of a Section shall be relegated only to the extent that is necessary in order to allow teams in the Section below to be promoted. In addition to the team finishing in bottom place being relegated, any team whose ground and pavilion facilities drop below the required standard shall also be liable to relegation. The Competitions Directorate, on the advice of the Grounds Committee, shall decide to which Section any team shall be relegated and shall make any necessary adjustments in the composition of the Sections.
- (c) **Promotion and Relegation following a Tie:** Where there is a tie at the top or bottom of a Section, the Competitions Directorate shall determine which team shall be promoted or relegated on the following basis:
 - (i) in the First Division, on the basis of the teams' net run rate over the season (or, if they are still tied, the immediately previous season, and so on as necessary); and
 - (ii) in other Divisions, on the basis of the teams' records in the immediately previous season (or, if they are still tied, the season before that, and so on as necessary).

28. Protests and Appeals

Protests regarding league fixtures shall be submitted to the Honorary Section Secretary concerned, and those regarding cup matches to the General Secretary, within seven days of the completion of the match, a copy being sent to the Match Secretary of the opposing team.

29. Grounds

- (a) Each club shall submit annually to the General Secretary, not later than 31st October, a list of all the grounds it wishes to have registered for league and cup cricket in the following season.
- (b) The Competitions Directorate shall, on the recommendation of the Grounds Committee, decide upon the suitability of grounds for each Section of each Division. Gradings shall be published in conjunction with the current list of registered grounds by 31st August each year.
- (c) No First Division match shall be played on an unregistered or unsuitably graded ground. Teams in other Divisions agreeing to play on unregistered grounds shall have no subsequent right to ask for the match result to be set aside because of ground conditions.

- (d) After each First Division match at which no official umpire has officiated, the visiting captain shall complete a Ground Report Form and send it to the General Secretary within seven days of the match. Any other captain may submit a Report if he wishes to comment, favourably or unfavourably, on a ground on which his team has played and send it to the General Secretary within seven days of the match.

30. Umpires

- (a) **Appointments:** There shall each year be compiled a list of official umpires. These umpires shall be appointed to officiate in all Challenge Cup matches and, as far as is possible, to Sections I, II, III and IV of the First Division and Section I of the Second Division. Umpires shall be appointed to Junior, Intermediate, Lindsay (Minor) and Minor Qualifying Cup semi-finals, and these matches shall receive priority over those in all other competitions except the Challenge Cup.
- (b) **Fees and Expenses:** In all cup finals, umpires' fees and other expenses shall be borne by the Union. In other cup matches, umpires' fees and expenses shall be shared equally by the clubs playing in each round. The fees and expenses of umpires appointed to league matches shall be shared equally by all clubs in the relevant Section. In Sections to which umpires are not normally appointed, clubs that desire umpires may apply to the Umpires' Appointments Secretary, who shall appoint umpires if they are available: the fees and expenses for any such match shall be shared by the clubs concerned. The Honorary Treasurer shall disburse fees and expenses to umpires. He shall submit accounts to clubs at the end of each season and clubs shall pay these accounts by 16th November. Failure to discharge liabilities shall be dealt with as in General Rule 3(d).
- (c) **Reports:** Where an official umpire has officiated, each captain shall complete an Umpires' Report form and dispatch it so as to reach the designated person within seven days of the match. A club failing to fulfil its obligations under this rule shall be fined a sum not exceeding £10.

31. Alteration to Rules

Competition Rules, including this Rule, may be altered, added to or rescinded only in accordance with General Rule 8(i). Such alterations shall apply from the start of the following season, unless the notice of motion specifies a later date.