

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE AMATEUR FOOTBALL LEAGUE



Established in 1909

POSTPONEMENT INSTRUCTIONS - 2024-25 SEASON

The fundamental objective of these instructions is to maximise the use of available pitches, and completed fixtures at the earliest date, to avoid a backlog of fixtures.

To minimise the number of matches lost due to pitch conditions and minimise the possibility of teams travelling to grounds only to find the pitch unplayable, the following procedure is to be followed.

Match confirmation by home club should be made a minimum of THREE (3) days before scheduled fixture.

When the match is confirmed, any doubts over whether the pitch will be playable should be raised with the opponent's Club Secretary to see if a switch is available that would improve the chance of playing.

This should be arranged even if the teams have already played each other at that venue.

If a switch is available, the decision should be made and the Fixtures Secretary, League Secretary and Referees secretary and appointed Match Referee notified immediately.

If a switch will not be possible, consult with the Fixtures Secretary to see if they can help with providing an alternative ground.

Except where a third party controls a facility, the Match referee shall be the sole arbiter as to whether a pitch is playable.

All local authority websites will need to be checked on a Friday evening by the League, in addition to clubs getting the information themselves.

If a match is still due to be played on the original ground by the Saturday morning at 10.00am, then Clubs may **NOT** call a match off without consulting with the appointed Match Referee.

Any ground issues are to be reported to the appointed Match Referee or if not possible, Fixtures Secretary, League Secretary or Referees Secretary, who will make any necessary arrangements to inspect.

If it is not possible to find a Referee, a Club Representative should make the decision and take photos for evidence. If the game is to be postponed under these circumstances the decision of the Club Representative will be accepted.

Clubs are not to stand players down until the inspection has taken place.

The appointed Match Referee, on inspecting the pitch, is the sole arbiter as to whether a match will be played.

For reference the relevant League by laws in the Rules are below -

Rule 20.E.1

By-Law: If the Home team's ground is known to be unfit for play, the fixture will be reversed if the away ground is available, and the Referee agrees. If the home club is in any doubt whether the pitch is fit, they will need to organise a Referee to inspect their pitch before calling off a match. If the opportunity to move to an alternative ground is taken, then if extra expense is incurred by the clubs, they should contact the Fixtures Secretary for consideration of assistance with the cost by the League. The Fixtures Secretary is to be informed of any changes.

Rule 20.E.3

Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a Competition Match has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the Fixtures Secretary, League Secretary, Referees Appointments Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials.

By-Law: The Management Committee shall require a written explanation within 48 hours for a failure to fulfil offence. The discipline committee has discretion to tailor the sanctions accordingly to each individual case, however the default sanctions are –

In each season, in every case the match will be awarded to the opponents and three points will be deducted. For the first failure to fulfil offence the fine will be £50.00, for the second the fine will be £75.00 and a warning to the club that the offending team may face expulsion from the league for a third offence. For a third offence the fine will be £100 and the team will also be subject to expulsion from the competition by the League Management Committee.

Cup Rule 3.C

Should a match be postponed, the fixture will be rescheduled on the original ground, at a 3G/4G venue, or at the away club's ground at the discretion of the Fixtures Secretary.

When the Fixtures Secretary arranges an alternate venue, it will be paid for by the League.