



BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY FOOTBALL LEAGUE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING 2020 - VIDEO MINUTES

17TH JUNE 2020 STARTING AT 7 P.M.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Messrs BT Watson, GB Snelson, M Benson – part of the meeting only – P Francis, B Hallybone, R Horswell, D Gauntlett, K Redman, M Baxter.
Mr R Simmonds was only able to listen into the meeting. Mr T Sadler was unable to access the meeting.
- The meeting was held using Microsoft TEAMS software, and hosted by Alan Young [CEO, Bedfordshire FA]

ALTERATION OF RULE 9, applicable for this meeting only.

- **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS**
- **DELETE:** ~~Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds [2/3] of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call a SGM.~~
- The Management Committee may call a SGM at any time. **ADD:** The meeting may be conducted using video conferencing software.
- At least seven [7] days' notice shall be given of a meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.
- Each Club shall be **DELETE:** ~~empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs~~ **ADD:** entitled to **ONE** invitation to join the meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.
- **DELETE:** ~~Any Club failing to be represented at a SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.~~
- Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs.

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS and rules applying to the running of this meeting

- The Chairman welcomed all those who were able to join the meeting, and thanked Alan Young and Bedfordshire FA for facilitating the meeting.
- Voting will be controlled by the Meeting Host, and will be a negative count only, i.e. only record the number of votes AGAINST any proposal. The Host explained there would be an opportunity to question any proposal and also any Club voting against any proposal would be offered the opportunity to respond.
- Should there be an obvious overall majority in favour of any proposal, all of which were proposed by the Management Committee, it would be taken that there were numerous Clubs seconding the proposal.
- Should there be numerous votes against any proposal, then a formal seconding Club would be sought and a detailed record kept of votes for and against.

2. ROLL CALL OF CLUBS IN ATTENDANCE

- A detailed record of attendance was not taken, but the vast majority of Clubs were represented.

3. PURPOSE OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING and ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2020-2021 SEASON ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- The General Secretary gave the purpose of the Special General Meeting, which was being held on the date allocated for the Annual General Meeting, as being an opportunity to update Clubs on current information regarding the start of season 2020-2021, potentially severely delayed because of the coronavirus world wide pandemic; to elect the Management Committee for the coming season, and to vote of the Rule Change Proposals for the new season.
- The Secretary confirmed the intention to hold the Annual General Meeting [AGM], under the requirements of Rule 8[A], at Great Barford Village Hall [by preference] on a date at least two weeks prior to the agreed start date for football at our level [the AGM agenda, including a draft constitution will therefore need to be published at least four weeks prior to the start of fixtures]. At the AGM, these minutes of the SGM will be presented for adoption, which will cover items 8[A]{v} and 8[A]{vii} of the rule.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- There are no further nominations, in accordance with Rule 5[B].



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- OFFICE of President
- To record the list of Life Vice-Presidents:

Mr T M Sadler
Messrs P J Onion, J Warner, G Armstrong,
R W Curtis, D Cousens,
Mr B T Watson
Mr M Benson – **NEW APPOINTMENT**
Mr P Francis
Mr B Hallybone
Mr G B Snelson
Messrs K Redman, R Horswell
Mr M Baxter

- OFFICE of Chairman
- OFFICE of Treasurer
- OFFICE of Vice Chairman
- OFFICE of Referees Secretary
- OFFICE of General Secretary
- Management Committee Members
- To elect current co-opted member

- The Chairman proposed the election of all the members *en bloc*.
- There were no votes recorded against the proposal, which was therefore carried unanimously.

5. ELECTION OF CLUB REPRESENTATIVES TO MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- There are no further nominations, in accordance with Rule 5[B].
- The following persons are proposed for election: Messrs Roland Simmonds [Elstow Abbey FC] and Dan Gauntlett [Shefford Town & Campton FC]. Mr S Playford had resigned from the Committee.
- In accordance with Rule 5[B], nominations for Club Representatives, to be voted on to the Management Committee with full voting rights, may be accepted at the Annual General Meeting. In accordance with Rule 5[A], the Management Committee cannot exceed fifteen members in total.
- No further nominations were received.
- The Chairman proposed the election of all the members *en bloc*.
- There were no votes recorded against the proposal, which was therefore carried unanimously.

6. ELECTION OF LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE ON BEDFORDSHIRE FA

- Mr Dan Gauntlett
- There were no votes recorded against the proposal, which was therefore carried unanimously.
- Dan Gauntlett will therefore be nominated by the League as Representative on the Bedfordshire FA Council.

7. ADDITIONAL ROLES ON MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- [OFFICE of] Fixture Secretary Mr G B Snelson
- [OFFICE of] Registrations, Results and Media Mr P Francis
- Assistant Referee Secretary Mr R Horswell
- League Charter Standard Co-ordinator Mr R Simmonds
- The above appointments were agreed and noted.

8. ALTERATION TO RULES

- **PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS: RULE 7**
- [D] All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.
- ▶ *ADD THE FOLLOWING, OMITTED IN ERROR FROM THE LEAGUE RULES IN SEASON 2019-2020 [a requirement of the Standard Code of Rules]*
- [i] All parties must have received five [5] days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.
- [ii] Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should indicate such when forwarding the written response.
- ▶ *This was the only rule from the Standard Code that needed to be included, as the only other change related to the Mandatory Registration of Players through the Whole Game System, which is already part of the League Rules.*

MATCH RELATED RULES

- **QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS: RULE 18**
- [I] A Player may not be registered for a Clubafter ~~15th March~~ **15th April** in each year, except by special permission of the Management Committee.
- ▶ *Rationale: the date was originally set when divisions were smaller in number, with teams finishing their season early in April. The rule prevented mass transfers to other Clubs with matches to play in order to boost their playing strength unfairly. Times and circumstances have changed and it is appropriate to extend this deadline by a month.*



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- There were no votes recorded against the proposal, which was therefore carried unanimously.
- [M] A team shall not include more than THREE FIRST TEAM players, defined below, ~~DELETE: who have taken part in more senior competition matches during the current season~~ in any Club team other than the first team. Any additional ~~DELETE: senior competition~~ first team players shall be deemed ineligible and dealt with under rule 8[N].
- ~~DELETE THE REMAINDER OF RULE 18[M]:~~
- [a] There are no player restrictions for games played before 1st November.
- [b] On 1st November all players are classified either first, second, or third team players, or unrestricted, by taking the total number of matches a player has played for HIS CLUB [all teams – all leagues].
- [i] If 50% of HIS games are for the FIRST team, he is classified as such, and is a Senior Competition player in second or third team matches. The player's classification will be reviewed after every match.
- [ii] If 50% of HIS games are for the SECOND team, he is classified as such, and is a Senior Competition player in third team matches. The player's classification will be reviewed after every match.
- [iii] If an equal percentage of HIS games are for EITHER the FIRST or SECOND team, and are at least 50% of all matches, he is classified as a Senior Competition player in third team matches. The player's classification will be reviewed after every match.
- [iv] A player is classified 'unrestricted' until he has played 6 games for HIS CLUB in the current season. The player's classification will be reviewed after every match.
- [c] From the 1st January a player may be reclassified as 'unrestricted' if he has played 9 games or less for HIS CLUB in the current season. The player's classification will be reviewed after every match.
- [d] On 15th March all players are classified irrespective of the number of matches played for their Club. The player's classification will be reviewed after every match.
- ~~REPLACE WITH THE FOLLOWING:~~
- [a] All players correctly registered for a Club are either FIRST TEAM or RESERVE players, irrespective of the number of teams at the Club, or in which league they play.
- [b] A FIRST TEAM player is one who has played in the LATEST *qualifying league or cup match for the first team, and only three such players IN TOTAL are allowed to play in any other team, or teams, of the Club in a match immediately following that first team match.
 - *a match in which any FA Discipline would be served by the first team.
- [c] There shall be no restrictions on player movement between Club teams in league matches other than detailed in [b] above. See CUP RULES for restrictions on player eligibility for cup ties.
 - *Rationale: to simplify an over complex rule and allow player development in larger Clubs.*
 - *Example: FIRST TEAM MATCH number 1 [FTM 1] – all other correctly registered players allowed to play for any other Club team in their match[es] played on the same day as FTM 1.*
 - *Immediately following the conclusion of FTM 1 and prior to the conclusion of FTM 2, all other registered players allowed to play for any other Club team in their match[es] INCLUDING up to THREE first team players from FTM 1 who actually played [not just a named substitute]. Where there is more than one other team, the three first team players may be spread between any other Club team.*
 - *Player qualifications for other than the first team remain unchanged UNTIL FTM 2 has been completed and prior to the conclusion of FTM 3. First team players are then identified as those actually playing in FTM 2. All other registered players allowed to play for any other Club team in their match[es] immediately following the conclusion of FTM 2, INCLUDING up to THREE first team players from FTM 2 who actually played [not just a named substitute].*
 - *The sequence then continues to the end of the season.*
 - There were numerous questions on the detailed working of the rule, which were answered by the General Secretary.
 - There were no votes recorded against the proposal, which was therefore carried unanimously.
- **PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY, TIMES OF KICK-OFF. POSTPONEMENTS. SUBSTITUTES: RULE 20**
- [E][iii] Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a Competition Match has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice It is mandatory to switch a fixture to an opponents, or neutral, ground after 15th March the first day in January in any season when the home pitch is unplayable due to adverse weather.



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- *Rationale: to increase Saturday play and reduce end of season mid-week matches.*
- There were numerous questions on the detailed working of the rule, which were answered by the General Secretary. It was obvious that the wording of the rule required the addition of 'subject to availability'. In practice, the Fixture Secretary will have the final decision.
- There were two votes recorded against the proposal, which was therefore carried by a majority.

➤ [F] A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use substitute Players carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

➤ The referee shall be informed of the names and shirt numbers of ADD: *all players, including the substitute players. Both teams must exchange Team Sheets with each other in the presence of the referee not later than FIFTEEN [15] minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a player not so named ADD: shall be deemed ineligible and may not take part in that Competition Match.* Clubs must retain all Team Sheets for the current season for possible inspection.

➤ Failure to do so will incur a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- *Rationale: to include wording from the redundant Rule 21[A]*
- There were no votes recorded against the proposal, which was therefore carried unanimously.

➤ **REPORTING RESULTS: RULE 21**

➤ **DELETE THE WHOLE OF THIS PART:** [A] Before the start of all matches, each team shall exchange a Team Sheet with their opponents and the Referee, duly completed with the names and shirt numbers of their team and the name of the Referee at least fifteen minutes before kick off [see also Rule 20{F}]. Clubs must retain all Team Sheets for the current season for possible inspection. Failure to do so will incur a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

➤ ADD: See Rule 20[F].

- *Rationale: to eliminate duplication*
- There were no votes recorded against the proposal, which was therefore carried unanimously.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

➤ Biggleswade United FC u23 thanked the Committee for waiving the Annual Subscription for the coming season. The Chairman thanked the Club for their appreciation.

➤ Riseley Sports FC requested information on when friendly matches would be allowed. This was answered by Alan Young [CEO, Beds FA] indicating that no date was available under the current guidelines, and that all Clubs would be informed as soon as The FA advice was received.

➤ Pitstone & Ivinghoe FC Reserves wanted to know when the division formation would be finalised. The General Secretary answered that this will be at the AGM, as the number of divisions and constitution would depend upon the date for stating fixtures.

➤ Pines [Luton] FC asked a similar question to Pitstone & Ivinghoe and were directed to the same response.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.58 pm

G B Snelson, General Secretary