

Amateur Football Combination

Minutes of a Fixtures Committee Meeting held on Thursday 11 October 2018 at the Civil Service Recreation Club.

Present; Norman MacDonald; Jamie Brunton; James Whitmarsh and, Mike Sainsbury.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from; Neill Johnstone; Tony Julien; Ian Andrews; and, Alex Grayburn.

2. Changes in Constitution since the start of the season

We had just the two changes from the beginning of the season those being; the withdrawal of Old Minchendenians 2nd XI from Senior Two North, and Southgate Olympic 2nd XI from Intermediate North.

Minchendenians had requested the removal of their 1st XI from Senior One, a few days before the start of the season, having lost a number of 1st XI players.

This was a difficult decision given the timescales involved and it was agreed that the 2nd XI be withdrawn from Senior Two North with the 1st XI taking their place in that division. This had the effect of reducing Senior One to 11 teams.

Both decisions were made with the usual caveats around withholding of trophies.

A request had been received from Old Parmiterians to remove their 6th XI, but due to lack of numbers a decision would be made via e-mail.

3. Removal of teams other than the lowest ranked

In the light of the above decisions and the likelihood of further such requests in the future, the Committee debated whether we need to consider potential options going forward, such as;

- Refusing such requests and insisting on the lowest side being withdrawn;
- Setting parameters in relation to the gaps between teams;
- Removing the sanction of withholding trophies and awarding titles to 2nd placed teams;
- Placing points deductions when requests are agreed to; or
- Retain the existing rule and continue to review each request on its merits.

It was agreed to continue with the existing approach but visit the issue again at future meetings.

4. Old Parmiterians appeal

The club had decided to appeal to the AFA on the deduction of points from, and the imposition of fines on, all teams below 1st following the failure of their 1st XI to fulfil a

fixture on 14th of April.

The appeal failed and the committee's decision was upheld. However, there was considerable questioning from the members of the Appeal Board on the severity of the sanction – total fines of £270 had been applied.

In the light of this the committee recommended that;

- Points deduction in these instances be maintained; and
- Total fines in any one instance to be limited to £100-150.

5. LMS Reports

The change in kick off times seemed to have been well received though one or two clubs were still expecting teams to accept 1pm kick offs (mainly 3G pitches).

The LOB Cups were progressing well.

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