

## 2020-21 LEAGUE AND CUP COMPETITION RULEBOOK

### RULE 1: ELIGIBILITY OF INSTITUTIONS

- 1.1 Entry to AoC Sport league, cup and regional tournament competitions is open to all colleges included on the schedule of institutions of the Further Education Corporations Order (1992) and any new corporations formed by the subsequent merger of these colleges, providing that such corporation is in membership of AoC Sport.
- 1.2 Entry to AoC Sport league and cup competitions is also open to any training provider that is part of the corporation defined in 1.1, providing that it is based in the same AoC Sport Region.
- 1.3 Entry to AoC Sport league and cup competitions is also open to any provider that is sub-contracted to a corporation defined in 1.1 providing that: -
  - 1.3.1 the team plays under the name of the college, although the name of the provider can also be included in the name, eg, Coastal College (Seaside FC);
  - 1.3.2 either the learners are taught at the provider's premises for over 50% of their study programme by staff from the member college defined in 1.1;
  - 1.3.3 or the learners are taught at the member college defined in 1.1 and by staff from the member college for over 50% of their study programme.
- 1.4 Where the criteria set out in 1.3 cannot be met, the sub contracted provider will be entitled to apply to become an Associate.
- 1.5 The following categories of institution may apply on an annual basis to compete in AoC Sport league and cup competitions as Associates: -
  - 1.5.1 Training providers that are part of the corporation defined in 1.1 but based in another AoC Sport region;
  - 1.5.2 Educational providers that are sub-contracted to a corporation defined in 1.1 but who do not meet the criteria set out in 1.3;

- 1.5.3 Any training provider or institution that is in partnership with a Training Provider that is directly funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA);
  - 1.5.4 Schools and Academies that are in receipt of ESFA funding;
  - 1.5.5 Independent Schools.
- 1.6 All applications from institutions identified in 1.5 to compete in Championships and Regional Leagues will be forwarded to the relevant regional operations group, who will have the final decision on whether they can become Associates.
- 1.7 The regional operations groups may: -
- 1.7.1 create leagues in specific sports which include both Members and Associates;
  - 1.7.2 in specific sports, create standalone 'invitation leagues' made up of Associates;
  - 1.7.3 reject the applications.
- 1.8 To protect the financial viability of its competitions, AoC Sport reserves the right to refuse the application of any institution that it has had to pursue for unpaid debts or where there is evidence that the institution has unpaid debts with any other provider of competitions.
- 1.9 In order to protect the integrity of its competitions, AoC Sport reserves the right to refuse an institution entry into a competition where there is evidence that an institution has breached the code of conduct or competition rules of AoC Sport or any other competition provider in the previous season.
- 1.10 Applicants who do not meet the entry criteria for any competition will be contacted by the AoC Sport competitions administration team and provided with reasons for their rejection.
- 1.11 Applicants who are refused entry have a right of appeal using the process described in rule 18.