

## 2020-21 LEAGUE AND CUP COMPETITION RULEBOOK

### RULE 12: PLAYING UNDER PROTEST **New Rule**

- 12.1 If a team feels that their opponent has not complied with rules or standards relating to facilities, match officials, exchange of team sheets or eligibility of players, they should raise their concern with their opponent prior to the start of the match.
- 12.2 If the matter cannot be resolved a 'Playing Under Protest Form' should be completed. The form is available from the AoC Sport website and the coach should ensure that a hard copy of the form is taken to every match.
- 12.3 If a form is not available, any equivalent paperwork can be used as long as it includes the information detailed in 12.4
- 12.4 The following essential information must be captured on a Playing Under Protest form:
- a. Name of the institution Playing Under Protest;
  - b. Name, email address and telephone number of the member of staff making the protest;
  - c. Sport and the league/knockout competition name;
  - d. Date and time of fixture, venue, home team name and away team name;
  - e. The specific grievance(s) and, where known, the correlating rule(s) alleged to have been contravened;
  - f. Name and signature of the member of staff of the team raising the grievance(s), as well as the time of signing;
  - g. Any opposition response to the grievance(s) (optional);
  - h. Name and signature of the opposition member of staff, as well as the time of signing;
- 12.5 A Playing Under Protest Form that does not include the information required in 12.4 will be regarded as incomplete and will not be considered by the Competition Administration Officer.

- 12.6 It is not acceptable for the opposition member of staff to refuse to sign the form and refusal to do so will be regarded as misconduct. Signing a Playing Under Protest form is simply to acknowledge that the other team has formally raised a grievance. Signing this form is in no way an admission of guilt or agreement.
- 12.7 If a team commences a fixture with knowledge of conditions that amount to a breach of rules but fails to complete a Playing Under Protest Form they are deemed to have accepted the conditions of play and can therefore not later play under protest.
- 12.8 Should a breach of rules or standards relating to facilities, match officials, eligibility of players or format of the match/event become apparent after play has begun, a Playing Under Protest Form can be completed after the match, clearly stating the time at which the team making the protest first became aware of the issue.
- 12.9 The Playing Under Protest Form must be submitted to the Competition Administration Officer within 24 hours of the match/event together with any supporting evidence such as photographs, video, copies of emails, etc.
- 12.10 The Competition Administration Officer will review the evidence and investigate the matter before making a decision to reject the protest or impose a sanction on the team found to have been in breach of rule or standards.
- 12.11 Both teams will be informed of the decision and have the right of appeal in accordance with rule 17.