



**English Clubs Championship  
London & S. E. Division**

**EXPLANATORY NOTICE No. 10  
Dated: 12<sup>th</sup> August 2014**

**REGULATIONS and REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO THE POSTPONEMENT OF  
A MATCH DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS**

Despite previous experiences, far too many clubs continued to make serious mistakes in postponing games, notably

1. Failure to ACT appropriately at the FIRST HINT OF A POTENTIAL PROBLEM.
2. Postponement without any reference to or discussion with a League Secretary.
3. Postponement far earlier than was necessary having regard for the distance travelled by the opponents.
4. In some other cases; delay in postponement – particularly at the higher levels where teams are travelling vastly greater distances and additional social arrangements may have been made.

**REGULATIONS AND LONDON RULES ARE IN PLACE TO CATER FOR VERY NEARLY EVERY EVENTUALITY – and clubs MUST conform.**

**1. Prior to the Day of the Match**

a) The first and **ABSOLUTE** requirement is that clubs do NOT make any decisions before making their League Secretary fully aware of all the circumstances. (RFU Regulation 13.6.6(b) and London Regulation 4)

b) At the **FIRST HINT** of a weather problem the home side shall contact the opposition and make them aware of concerns. (RFU Regulation 13.6.6(b)). When this first contact is made the home club shall establish what time the opponents intend to begin their travelling on the day of the match and, in conjunction with the League Secretary, shall take **ALL PRACTICAL STEPS TO AVOID UNNECESSARY TRAVEL**.

c) **AT THE SAME TIME** the home club shall make their League Secretary aware of their doubts and shall CONTINUE to discuss further action with him.

d) **FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF ANY DOUBT:** The postponement of any fixture prior to the date of the match WITHOUT the **EXPRESS AGREEMENT** of the League Secretary is a breach of Game Regulations and will render the club liable to penalties.

**2. On Day of Match**

a) As soon as a Club has any doubt as to the fitness of their ground they must make their League Secretary fully aware of the circumstances. (RFU Regulation 13.6.6(b) and London Regulation 4)

b) The decision to postpone a match must be made in consultation with the League Secretary, wherever time permits.

c) All reasonable steps shall be taken to avoid unnecessary costs particularly in regard to the time by which a club can still cancel their transport without penalty.

Original dated 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009  
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