



All,

I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas break and would like to wish you all a healthy and happy New Year. Many of you will have had a complete break from football over the past few weeks and are no doubt raring to go again. The decision not to schedule any fixtures last Sunday (3rd January) was made to look a very good one with the weather as it was, as I am sure many, if not all of the games would have been cancelled due to waterlogged pitches if they had been pencilled in. Unfortunately it looks as if we may be in for more wet weather this week, so I would imagine that a number of games will already be in doubt for the coming weekend.

POSTPONING GAMES DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

This is always a tricky subject so I would always recommend clubs remember two main points in this area – common sense and communication. We do not want people making unnecessary journeys on Sundays, so if the pitch has not been deemed unplayable in advance (i.e. if a council pitch, school pitch or other private facility), then I would suggest that the two managers make contact with each other to discuss options – by actually speaking to each other rather than just sending a text or an email. If an early pitch inspection on match day is possible, then this is to be recommended as we do not want an away team travelling half way across the county if there is no way of the game being played. Remember it is not just the onus of the home team manager to make contact – the away team can make contact as well. And please do not forget to involve the referee – we do not want them to be forgotten and making trips to grounds. If this happens and the home club has not made contact with the referee, then they will be liable to pay half the match fee and expenses for a wasted journey.

If the referee is in attendance at the ground, then it is their responsibility to determine whether the pitch is playable or not. Hopefully this is a common sense decision and the referee should not be put under any undue pressure whilst making their decision. Again, if the referee deems the pitch unplayable and the game is postponed, they are entitled to half their match fee and expenses.

Should the game be postponed, please report the fact in the normal manner for reporting results, or contact either Tony Gee or myself for advice. However please remember that we will not be able to make a ruling as to whether the pitch is playable as we will not be there! We can only advise on procedure.

FEBRUARY HALF TERM

As advertised at the start of the season, there will not be any fixtures automatically scheduled on either **SUNDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2016** or **SUNDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2016**; however should you wish to have a game scheduled, please let Tony Gee know as soon as possible so that he can see if something can be arranged.

FREE WEEK REQUESTS

Please remember that as per league rule 10 (M), each team can ask for a maximum of one free Sunday per season. Applications for Free Sundays will not be accepted for dates in April and in May.

EASTER SUNDAY

Please note that Easter Sunday this year falls on **SUNDAY 27th MARCH**. fixtures will not automatically be scheduled for this day; however should you wish to have a game scheduled, please let Tony Gee know as soon as possible so that he can see if something can be arranged.



JANUARY FULL COUNCIL MEETING

The January Full Council Meeting is to be held on **MONDAY 25th JANUARY 2016**, starting at 8pm. The meeting will be held at the County Lounge, Bedfordshire Football Association, Skimpot Road, Dunstable. Attendance at this meeting is mandatory for all clubs. An agenda and minutes of the previous Full Council Meeting will be circulated in due course.

MATCH CONFIRMATIONS

Unfortunately there have been a number of reports of fixtures not being confirmed with opponents and match referees by the weekly deadline of 9pm on the Tuesday prior to the Sunday. This really is not acceptable and causes problems for all concerned if not actioned in a timely manner. Please can you try and make this your New Years' Resolution.....

RULE CHANGES

Should any club wish to propose an alteration to the league rules, they need to do so, in writing to myself by **31st JANUARY 2016**. All proposals will then be collated and added to any supplied by the management committee and circulated to all member clubs for review by **28th FEBRUARY 2016**.

REGISTRATION / TRANSFER DEADLINE

Please remember that as per rule 8 (K), a player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another CLUB in the competition after **1st MARCH**.

Hopefully these reminders have been useful and help to signpost the next few months for you. However as always, if you have any questions, please ask.

Cheers

Jon