

League: Ineligible Players



October 2025

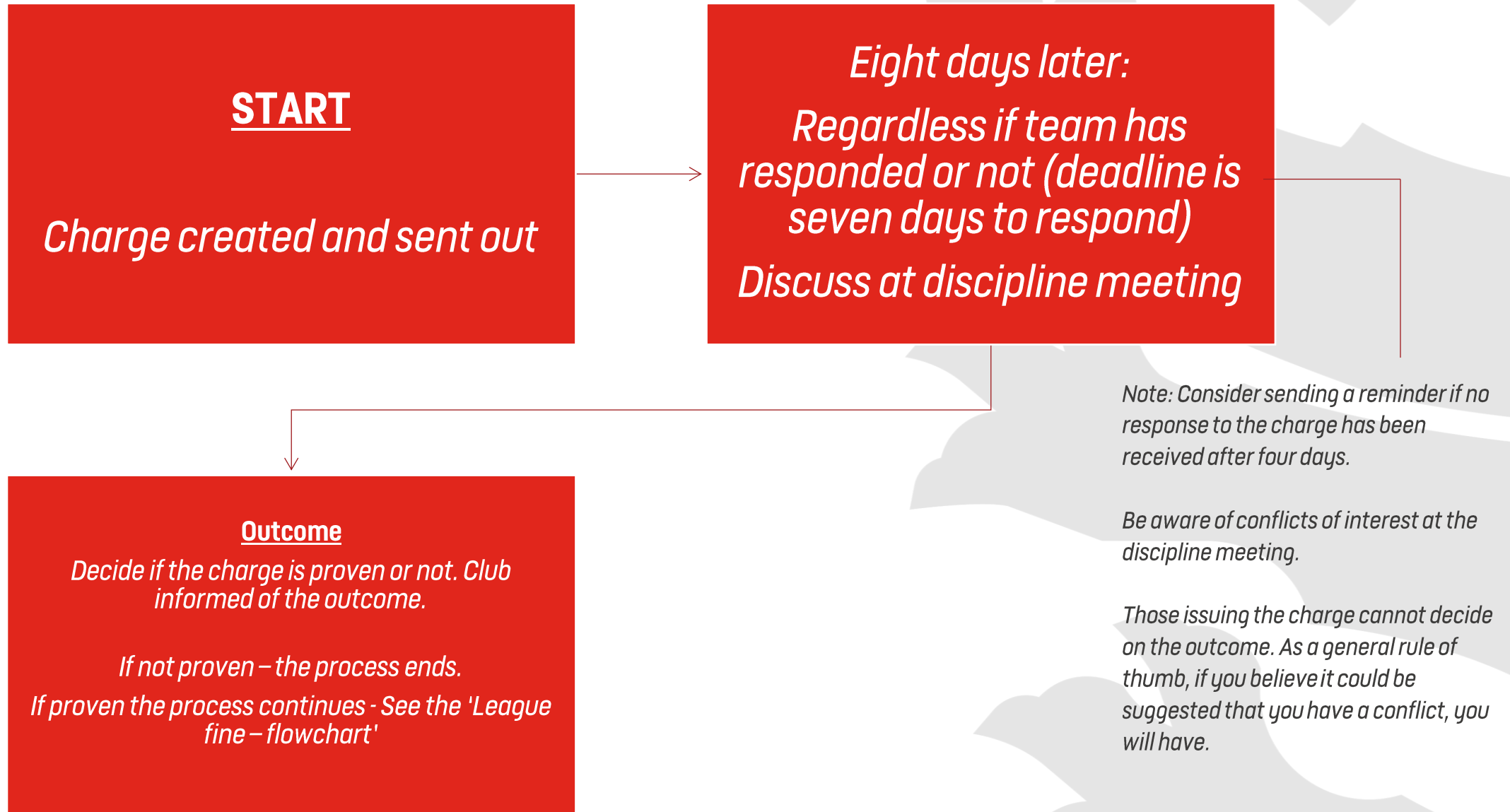
Summary

- *Leagues may be informed that a team has potentially played an ineligible player.*
- *This guidance is to assist leagues with the process to follow where this is the case.*
- *It could be that the league is made aware of this allegation via a match-sheet submission or from a complainant.*
- *Help is available from your County FA.*
- *If the league feels a club may have played an ineligible player, they should investigate the allegation by initially asking the club who fielded the player for their observations. Once these observations have been received and, taking into account any other evidence that may have been submitted (i.e. from a complainant), if it is believed that it is more likely than not to be the case that an ineligible player has been played, the league can issue a league charge for the club to respond to.*
- *The investigation could include checking match-sheets or asking for proof of the player's eligibility to play in the league.*
- *Documents that could reasonably be asked for to help establish a player's eligibility are passports, driving licences or original birth certificates (for sex at birth). Leagues should ensure that they are complying with data protection requirements when processing this data.*

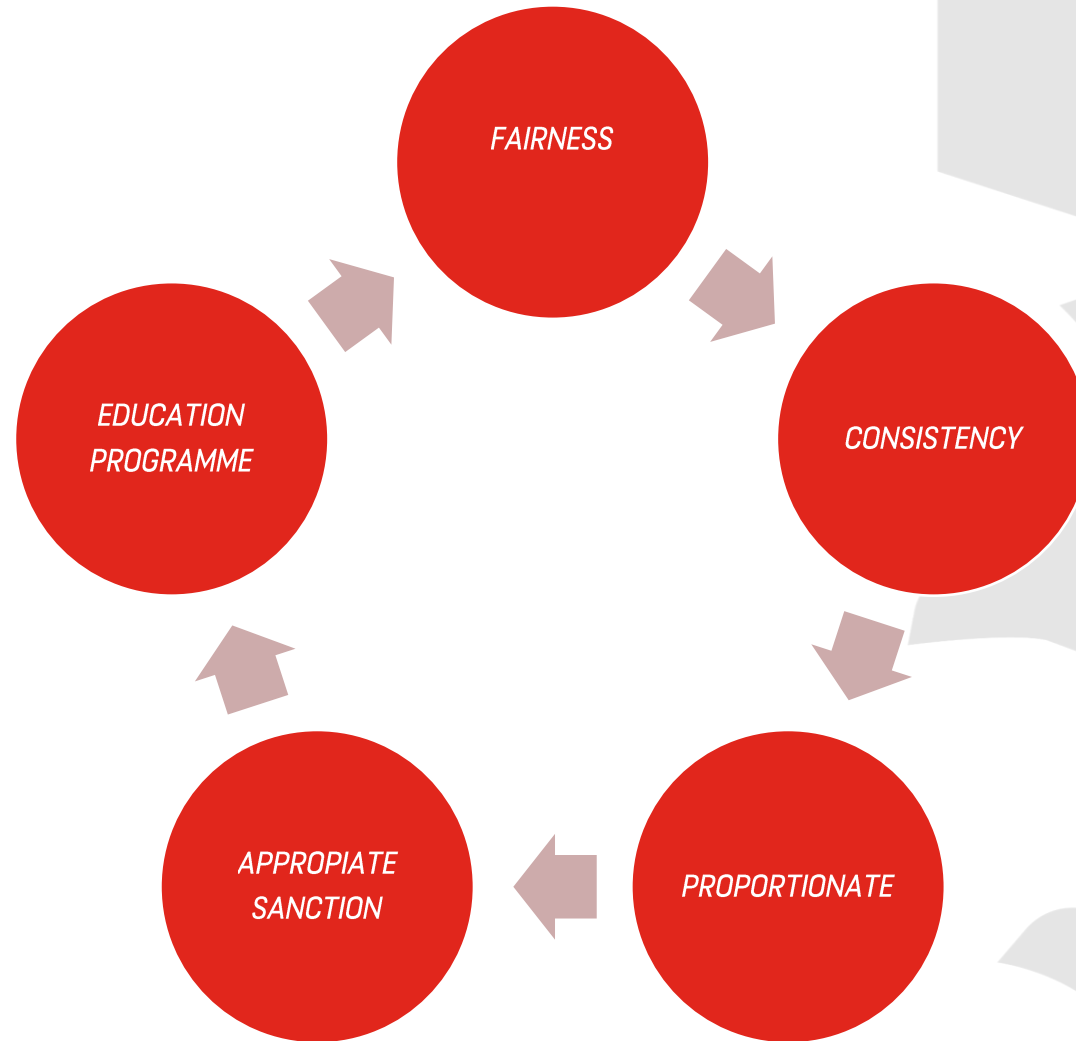
League charge



League charging process – flowchart



Consideration when dealing with charges



League Charge - Template

FAO <<insert club name>> *Club Secretary*

is charged under the provision of the <<insert league name>>

League rules as follows:

TEAM: <<insert full team name – if a youth league add the age-group>>

FIXTURE: <<insert fixture>>

FIXTURE DATE: <<insert date of the fixture>>

LEAGUE RULE: <<insert rule number which you are issuing the charge under >>

Discipline Charge Number: <<insert your league reference number for the charge>>

<<insert club name>> *is required to submit an answer to the charge <<insert date to respond by>> by <<insert email/ post / online>> as outlined on the charge sheet below. Failure to reply to the charge will result in the club forfeiting the right to make representations or refute the charge and could result in further action being taken against the club, in accordance with League rules.*

Please indicate which course of action you intend to pursue.

- 1. Accept the charge and submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or*
- 2. Accept the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or*
- 3. Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or*
- 4. Deny the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case at a hearing before the Management Committee.*

This email charge sheet must be returned by <<insert date to respond by>> otherwise the case will be dealt with on the evidence available. This DOES NOT include any correspondence previously sent to the League Secretary, a Registrar or any other Committee member.

Only information included with the return of this charge will be considered by the discipline committee considering the case. If you choose options 1 or 3 the club will not be required to attend the discipline meeting. If you choose option 2 or 4 the club will be required to attend the discipline meeting. Details of the meeting date, venue and time will be confirmed in writing at least 14 days prior to the meeting

If you have any evidence, send them along with the charge sheet

League Charge – Decision **Template**

FAO <<insert club name>> Club Secretary

Re: Discipline Charge Number <<insert your league reference number for the charge>>

Following discussion of the charge, I can confirm the decision made regarding the above case was as follows.

TEAM: <<insert full team name – if a youth league add the age-group>>

FIXTURE: <<insert fixture>>

FIXTURE DATE: <<insert date of the fixture>>

LEAGUE RULE: <<insert rule number which you are issuing the charge under >>

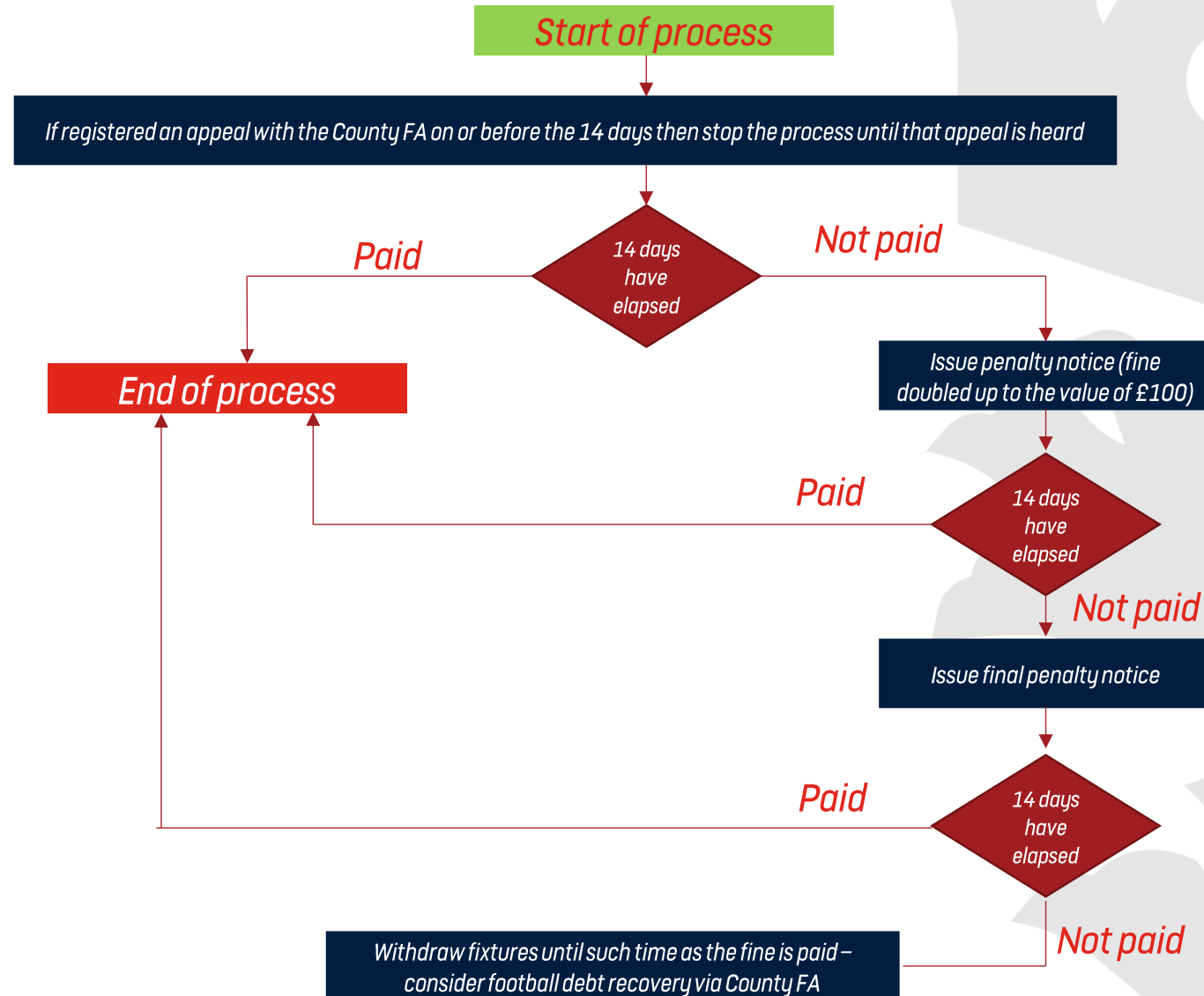
Having taken into account the nature of the offence, the club's previous record and past precedence the League Committee decided the following:

<<insert outcome of the decision which has been made>>

Please note that your club has the right of appeal to the County FA in accordance with Rule 7, as follows:

*An intention to appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority, with a copy sent to the Secretary, within 7 days of the Management Committee providing written notification of its decision. A notice of appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority, with a copy sent to the Secretary, within 14 days of the Management Committee providing written notification of its decision, accompanied by the relevant fee (**as set out in the Fees Tariff**) which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority. Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee. No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless on the grounds of unconstitutional conduct.*

Leagues fine - flowchart



League fine – letter/email **template**

FA0 <<insert club name>> Club Secretary

Your club is in breach of league rules and has therefore incurred a fine of £ <<Insert fine amount>>, as a result of charge ref <<Insert charge reference number>>

Details as follows:

TEAM: <<insert full team name – if a youth league add the age-group>>

FIXTURE: <<insert fixture>>

FIXTURE DATE: <<insert date of the fixture>>

LEAGUE RULE: <<insert rule number which you are issuing the charge under >>

Fines to be paid within 14 days of the date of this letter/email <<Insert date of letter/email>> in accordance with competition Rule 6(I).

Failure to pay this fine by the due date will result in further action being taken as stated within the league rules.

Please forward all payments to the League Secretary with a copy of this letter/email. All cheques should be made payable to <<Insert league bank account name>> and any personal cheques should have the name of your club on the reverse.

You can also pay by electronic transfer to:

Account: <<Insert account name>>

Account number: <<Insert account number>>

Sort code: <<Insert sort code>>

Reference: <<Insert charge reference number>>

If using the electronic transfer method, please email the League Treasurer <<Insert league treasurer name and email address>> to state that payment has been made, so that checks can be made to prevent a penalty notice getting issued.

An intention to appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority, with a copy sent to the Secretary, within 7 days of the Management Committee providing written notification of its decision. A notice of appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority, with a copy sent to the Secretary, within 14 days of the Management Committee providing written notification of its decision, accompanied by the relevant fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff) which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority. Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee. No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless on the grounds of unconstitutional conduct.

Protest



League Protest: Rule

SCOR/SCORY Rule 4

A.1: *All questions of eligibility, qualification of Players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee.*

A.2: *Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the Competition Match.*

B: *Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within [] days (excluding Sundays) of the Competition Match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.*

C: *No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the inquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.*

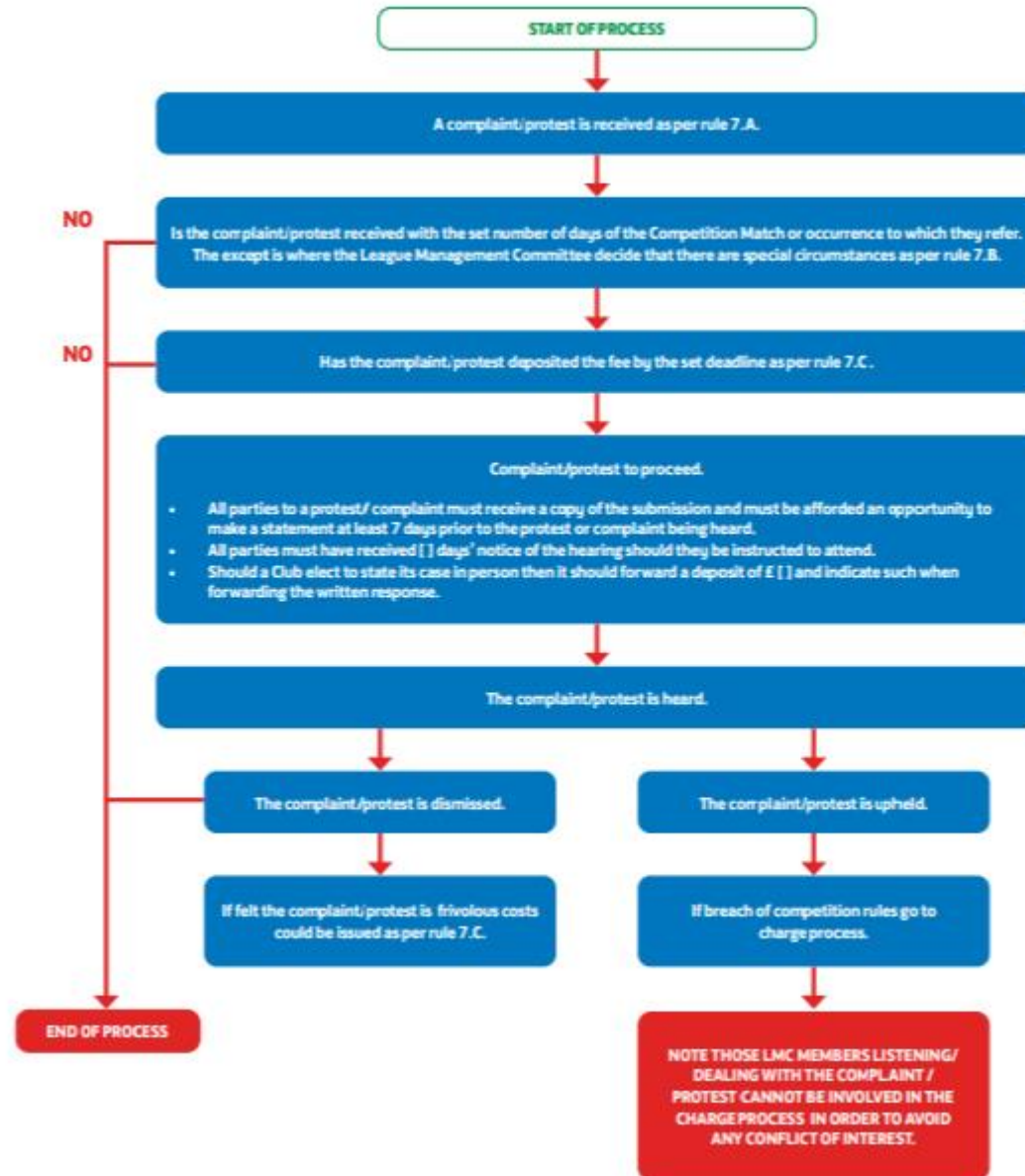
D: *All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.*

D.1: *All parties must have received [] days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.*

D.2: *Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should forward a deposit of £ [] and indicate such when forwarding the written response.*

E: *The Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Management Committee shall direct.*

League Protest: Flowchart



Club Appeals against League Disciplinary Decision



Club Appeals against League Disciplinary Decision

Clubs can appeal decisions taken by League Management Committees to a County FA Appeal Board. If the league has followed the correct process, then they should welcome an appeal.

How do member clubs lodge an appeal?

An intention to appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority, with a copy sent to the Secretary, within 7 days of the Management Committee providing written notification of its decision. A notice of appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority, with a copy sent to the Secretary, within 14 days of the Management Committee providing written notification of its decision, accompanied by the relevant fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff) which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority.

Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee.

For more information about League appeals contact your County FA.

