**2016 CUP FORMAT/RULES**

The following rules still apply:

- players are automatically cup tied to a team after one game in cup competitions that are a straight knockout competition (does not have a group stage).

- maximum of 5 player movements from 1 team sheet to another per round.

- move up a grade at any time, but not down. Grading is as follows.

1 Premier League

2 Division One

3 Division Two

4 Division Three

5 Over 35s

New rules that apply to this season’s cup competitions:

- there is no cup tied rule in the group stage of any cup competition. This was introduced by the BFA Committee at the April Club Delegates meeting to try and reduce the amount of forfeits we had last year.

- a player must play a minimum of 4 games at that team’s level or lower to qualify for the semi-final and final. For example, if you have played 3 games for your Division Two team and 10 games for your Premier League team, then you don’t qualify to play for your Division Two team if they make it to the semi-final and/or final.

- a player will be cup tied to a team once they play a game for a team from the ¼ finals stage onwards (will not be able to move to a team that plays in a lower grade, but will still be able to move up to a team that plays in a higher grade).

Criteria to qualify past the group stage:

FA Cup

- the top two teams in each group qualify for the ¼ final stage. They will be joined by the two best third place getters from the group stage. The top team in each group will be seeded to avoid each other in the ¼ final stage.

League Cup

- the top two teams in each group qualify for the ¼ final stage. The top team in each group will be seeded to avoid each other in the ¼ final stage.

Over 35s Cup

- the top two teams in each group qualify for the semi-finals. The format for the semi-finals will be:

Winner Group A v Runner Up Group B

Winner Group B v Runner Up Group A