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LEAGUE BREAKS NEW GROUND AGAIN WITH INTRODUCTION OF 'FIT AND PROPER PERSONS' TEST

The Football League has introduced the first 'Fit and Proper Persons' test for Club Directors in the history of English professional football.

The ground-breaking decision was unanimously taken by clubs at The League's AGM in Chester and represents a further stride forward by The League in its desire to promote good governance and transparency in the game.

The new rules will make it a breach of Football League regulations for the following to be a director or hold a majority interest in a Football League club:

- Anyone subject to a ban from a Sports Governing Body relating to the administration of that sport.
- Anyone with an unspent conviction relating to fraud or dishonesty.
- Anyone that is disqualified from acting as a director of a UK registered company.
- Anyone currently subject to a Bankruptcy Order.
- Anyone who has been a Director of a club that has been in administration twice during a five-year period or a Director of two different clubs that have each gone into administration in a five-year period.

All current League club directors will provide The League with a declaration by July 31st indicating that they meet the above criteria and as such are a fit and proper person to hold office at a League club. All new Directors will have to sign a similar declaration on appointment.

Football League Chairman Sir Brian Mawhinney said: **"In the last twelve months The Football League has made considerable progress in terms of bringing new standards of corporate governance to football. I believe this is perhaps the most progressive and important step taken to date.**

“Too many times in recent history we have seen the good work of the vast majority of club directors being tarnished by a handful of rogue individuals. This has negative consequences for The League as a whole and it is not acceptable.

“I am delighted that club Chairmen have taken this brave decision and that The Football League continues to take the lead in these vital football areas.”

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Editor's Notes:

During the last twelve months The Football League has also introduced:

- A Salary Cost Management Protocol for clubs in Division Three that limits spending on player salaries to 60% of turnover and on all staff to 75% of turnover. The protocol will also be introduced to Division Two for the 2004/05 season.
- A regulation making it mandatory for clubs to indicate in player contracts of more than one season duration remuneration levels for all Divisions a player might play in during the term of the contract.
- Regulations making it compulsory for clubs to register with the League all payments made to agents during the course of an individual transfer. With aggregate figures for each club being published by The League.
- The introduction of a 'Sporting Sanction' for clubs entering administration of ten points.