Proposal from TelfordAC

Following the discussion at the recent Telford Athletic Club AGM, I am writing to formally submit a proposal for consideration at the forthcoming Birmingham & District Cross Country League AGM.

Attached are the details of a proposed amendment to the League Constitution, specifically relating to Rule 8 *"Failure to Complete Teams"*, which the club agreed should be submitted to the League.

For ease of reference, the relevant extract from the current rules is set out below:

8 FAILURE TO COMPLETE TEAMS
8.1 In the event of a club in any Division, excepting the lowest Division, failing to complete a scoring team in any race, that club will automatically be placed at the bottom of that Divisional table in the final placing and would therefore be relegated to the Division below.
8.2 Such a club will also be ineligible for any award or promotion from the lower Division for one season.
8.3 If a club in the lowest Division fails to complete a scoring team in any of the four races, it will automatically be placed at the bottom of that Division and will be required to re-apply for membership of the League in writing (before the next AGM). If re-admitted, the club would take up a place in the lowest Division. Such a club will also be ineligible for any award or promotion for one season.
8.4 In the event of a club in any Division not completing a scoring team in all four fixtures, it shall forfeit its membership of the League. Any club in this position would have to re-apply for membership in writing (before the next AGM). If re-admitted, it would take up its place in the lowest Division and also be ineligible for any award or promotion for one season.

The specific proposal is to remove Rule 8.2 in its entirety.

The rationale for this proposal is that relegation itself already represents a significant and proportionate sanction for a club that fails to complete a scoring team. No club would choose to place itself in such a position deliberately, and the additional restriction preventing promotion for the following season effectively creates a double sanction.

This additional penalty also applies in the circumstances covered by Rules 8.3 and 8.4, where relegation or even loss of league membership has already occurred, further compounding the sanction.

We believe that removing Rule 8.2 would retain fairness and accountability within the League, while avoiding an unnecessarily punitive outcome for clubs that may already be struggling due to factors beyond their control (such as injuries or availability).

Please let me know if any additional information or clarification is required ahead of the AGM.

Kind regards,
John Mason

Club Secretary
Telford AC