

## COVID-19 – EMERGENCY CHANGES TO FA REGULATIONS

### 1. NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM REGULATIONS

No.	Regulation	Amendment
1.	<b>NLS League Structure, Regulation 3.1</b>	<p>For the 2019/20 season <b>and the 2020/2021 season</b>, each Step shall have the following maximum number of Clubs: Step 1 – 24, Step 2 – 44, Step 3 – 88, Step 4 – 140, Step 5 – 280, Step 6 – 400. Clubs will be placed in the most geographically appropriate division. <b>For season 2019/2020 At at</b> Step 7 the maximum number of Clubs in each division shall be determined by the Committee taking into account all relevant factors.</p> <p>From the <b>2020/2021 2021/2022</b> season onwards, each Step shall have the following maximum number of Clubs: Step 1 – 24; Step 2 – 48; Step 3 – 88; Step 4 – 160; Step 5 – 320; Step 6 – 340.</p>
2.	<b>Regulation 4</b>	<p><b>This regulation is to be disapplied for the remainder of the 19/20 season only and replaced with the temporary regulation set out below.</b></p> <p><b>RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR PROMOTION, <del>AND</del> RELEGATION <b>AND MOVEMENT</b></b></p> <p>The Committee shall provide for <del>the seasonal</del> promotion, relegation or <del>lateral</del> the movement of Clubs <u>in accordance with the detailed provisions of Regulation 5.</u></p> <p><b>Prior to the commencement of the 2020/21 season, this temporary Regulation shall be deleted and the original wording of shall be reinstated (subject to any further amendments approved ahead of the 2020/21 season).</b></p>

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3.	<b>Regulation 5</b>	<p>The title to this regulation is to be temporarily amended for the remainder of the 19/20 season only.</p> <p><b>DETAILED PROMOTION, <span style="color: red;">AND</span> RELEGATION <span style="color: red;">AND</span> MOVEMENT ISSUES</b></p> <p>Prior to the commencement of the 2020/21 season, this temporary Regulation shall be deleted and the original wording shall be reinstated (subject to any further amendments approved ahead of the 2020/21 season).</p>
4.	<b>Regulation 5.2</b>	<p>This regulation is to be disapplied for the remainder of the 19/20 season only and replaced with the temporary regulation set out below.</p> <p><b><span style="color: red;">Temporary Regulation 5.2 for end of 19/20 season</span></b></p> <p><span style="color: red;"><u>The following will apply for Step 1 and Step 2, subject to any decision made by FA Council following a recommendation from the Committee:</u></span></p> <p><span style="color: red;"><u>Steps 1 and 2</u></span></p> <p><span style="color: red;"><u>These regulations do not deal with promotion from Step 1.</u></span></p> <p><span style="color: red;"><u>The Clubs finishing in the bottom four places at Step 1 at the end of the Playing Season will be relegated to a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 2 for the following Playing Season. They will be replaced by the Clubs finishing in 1st position in each of the divisions at Step 2 together with a further two Clubs determined by a series of Play Off Matches. Where a Club finishes in 1st position but does not meet the criteria for participation at the next Step, the Club finishing in 2nd position shall be promoted. The Clubs finishing in 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th positions shall be eligible to take part in the Play Off Matches. The Play Off Matches shall be played so that in each Step 2 division there is a qualifying round, semi-finals and a promotion final with all ties being played over a single leg at the ground of the higher placed Club. The winner of the</u></span></p>

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		<p><u>promotion final in each Step 2 division will be promoted. If a Club is not eligible to enter Step 1 then it shall not take part in any Play Off Matches. In that event, such Club shall not be replaced and the Play Off Matches structure and draw shall be adjusted as necessary by the Competition on the basis of the remaining Clubs' final league positions.</u></p> <p><u>There shall be no relegation from Step 2 to Step 3.</u></p> <p><u>Steps 3 - 7</u></p> <p><u>No Clubs in Step 3 through to Step 7 shall be promoted or relegated in season 2019/2020.</u></p> <p><b>Prior to the commencement of the 2020/21 season, this temporary Regulation 5.2 shall be deleted and the original wording of Regulation 5.2 shall be reinstated (subject to any further amendments approved ahead of the 2020/21 season).</b></p>
5.	<b>Regulation 5.3</b>	<p><b>This regulation is to be disapplied for the remainder of the 19/20 season.</b></p> <p><b><del>For the 2019/2020 season only, at Step 2-3 the Club finishing in last place in the table shall be relegated and not reprieved.</del></b></p>
6.	<b>Regulation 5.5</b>	<p><b>This regulation is to be disapplied for the remainder of the 19/20 season only and replaced with the temporary regulation set out below.</b></p> <p><b><u>Temporary Regulation 5.5 for end of 19/20 season</u></b></p> <p><u>In the event that a vacancy arises anywhere within Steps 1 to 7 before the commencement of the 2020/2021 season, the Committee shall determine whether or not and how any vacancy is filled at its absolute discretion.</u></p>

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		<p>Prior to the commencement of the 2020/21 season, this temporary Regulation 5.5 shall be deleted and the original wording of Regulation 5.5 shall be reinstated (subject to any further amendments approved ahead of the 2020/21 season).</p>
7.	Regulation 5.8	<p>This regulation is to be disapplied for the remainder of the 19/20 season only and replaced with the temporary regulation set out below.</p> <p><b><u>Temporary Regulation 5.8 for end of 19/20 season</u></b></p> <p>Ground grading requirements will be in accordance with the Rules.</p> <p>In order to be considered for promotion, the following requirements will apply.</p> <p>Step 1 – Clubs must comply fully with the requirements of Grade A</p> <p>Step 2 – Clubs competing at Step 2 must comply fully with the requirement of Grade B. To be considered for promotion to Step 1 or to be included in the Play Off Matches, Clubs must meet the requirement of Grade B together with any additional requirements by 31<sup>st</sup> <del>March</del> <u>July 2020 in the year in which they seek promotion</u>. Club must also attain Grade A by <del>31<sup>st</sup> March 2021</del> <u>July in the year following promotion</u>.</p> <p>Step 3 - Clubs competing at Step 3 must comply fully with the requirements of Grade C <u>by 31 July 2020</u>. <del>To be considered for promotion to Step 2 or to be included in the Play Off Matches, Clubs must meet the requirements of Grade C and attain Grade B by 31<sup>st</sup> March</del> <u>July in the year following promotion</u>.</p>

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	<p>Step 4 - Clubs promoted to Step 4 must comply fully with the requirements of Grade E by 31st <del>March July 2020 in the year following promotion</del> and comply fully with the requirements of Grade D by 31st March <del>in the year following that 2021</del>. Clubs competing at Step 4 must comply fully with the requirements of Grade D <del>by 31 July 2020</del>. <del>To be considered for promotion to Step 3 or to be included in the Play Off Matches, Clubs must meet the requirements of Grade D and attain Grade C by 31st July in the year following promotion.</del></p> <p>Step 5 - Clubs competing at Step 5 must comply fully with the requirements of Grade F <del>by 31 July 2020 and attain Grade E by 31st July in the year following promotion.</del></p> <p>Step 6 - Clubs competing at Step 6 must comply fully with the requirements of Grade G <del>by 31 July 2020</del>. <del>To be considered for promotion to Step 5, Clubs must meet the requirements of Grade G and attain Grade F by 31st July in the year following promotion.</del></p> <p>Step 7 – Clubs competing at Steps 7 must comply fully with the minimum requirements in force. <del>To be considered for promotion to Step 6, Clubs must meet the requirements of Grade H and attain Grade G by 31st July in the year following promotion. Clubs can be promoted from Steps 7 to 6 without floodlights provided that all other requirements of Grade H are met by 31<sup>st</sup> March in the Playing Season in which the Club wishes to gain promotion and that the Club has the following in place:</del></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>• Planning permission granted for floodlights</del></li> <li><del>• That by 30th September following promotion the floodlights are installed and in working order.</del></li> <li><del>• A development/business plan</del></li> </ul>
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		<p><del>• Quotations/estimates for the work to be carried out</del></p> <p><del>• Funding applications submitted if required</del></p> <p><del>Failure to install floodlights in working order by 30th September following promotion will result in a sanction being imposed at the discretion of the League of which the Club is a member. If by 31st March in the year following promotion the floodlights are still not installed then the Club will be a relegated Club and be dealt with accordingly.</del></p> <p><b>Prior to the commencement of the 2020/21 season, this temporary Regulation 5.8 shall be deleted and the original wording of Regulation 5.8 shall be reinstated (subject to any further amendments approved ahead of the 2020/21 season).</b></p>
5.	<b>Regulation 8.2(c)</b>	<p><b>This regulation is to be disapplied for the remainder of the 19/20 season only and replaced with the temporary regulation set out below.</b></p> <p>8.2 (c) <u>Procedures for Ground Grading Appeals</u></p> <p>(i) The ratification of the Ground Grading decision must be sent in writing within 14 days of the final decision date, currently 31st <del>March</del> <u>July 2020 but which may be extended by the Committee at its absolute discretion.</u></p> <p>(ii) Appeals in relation to Ground Grading Appeals must be submitted to The Association's Judicial Services Department within seven days from the date of the written decision outlining the Grounds of Appeal, with a copy to The Association's Leagues &amp; Clubs Department.</p>

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		<p>(iii) The Ground Grading Technical Panel will appear before an Appeal Board with the Appellant to respond to the application and there is no requirement to make a formal response in writing.</p> <p>(iv) In all cases the Ground Grading Technical Panel will submit any documentation including the Ground Grading report that was considered by the Ground Grading Technical Panel in relation to the Ground Grading decision, (which the appellant would already have received).</p> <p>(v) Dates would be set annually in advance by the Judicial Services Department for the hearing of Ground Grading appeals and details of the dates would be notified to all Clubs in the correspondence from the Ground Grading Technical Panel notifying the decision of the Ground Grading assessment.</p> <p><b>Prior to the commencement of the 2020/21 season, this temporary Regulation 8.2 (c) shall be deleted and the original wording of Regulation 8.2 (c) shall be reinstated (subject to any further amendments approved ahead of the 2020/21 season).</b></p>
6.	<b>NEW Rule 12</b>	<p><u>Leagues at Steps 1 to 6 of the NLS shall apply the temporary changes to the Standardised Rules stipulated by The Association so that these provisions are binding between the Leagues and their Clubs. These temporary changes are consequential amendments following the decision of FA Council on 9 April 2020 to end the season at Steps 3 to 7 of the NLS with no promotion or relegation.</u></p> <p><u>This Regulation 12 shall only apply for the 2019/2020 season and will be deleted from the 2020/2021 version of the regulations.</u></p>

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### 2. STANDARDISED RULES

No.	Rule	Amendment
1.	Rule 2.6	<p><b>Rule 2.6 is to be disappplied for the remainder of the 2019/2020 season only and replaced with the temporary Rule set out below.</b></p> <p><b><u>Temporary Rule 2.6 for end of 2019/2020 season</u></b></p> <p><del>The Competition and the FA shall determine a time scale whereby all Each Clubs in membership must attain the grade provided for in the Criteria Document by 31 July 2020 or by a later date agreed at the sole discretion of the FA's Alliance Leagues Committee (Steps 1 to 4) or Leagues Committee (Steps 5 &amp; 6) and Clubs in default shall not play a competitive match on its ground until the required grade is awarded. The grade applicable for each Club for the commencement of a Playing Season shall be that existing at the previous 31st March, such grading to be ascertained by an inspection carried out on or before 31st March or as soon as practicable thereafter.</del></p> <p>Any Club not maintaining the grade set for the Competition may be relegated at the end of the Playing Season to a step determined by The FA.</p> <p>[Any delay in inspection shall in no way release a Club from its obligation to have its ground ready for inspection. If for any reason a Club's existing ground, or any new ground in which it proposes to play its home matches in the season following inspection, is not available for grading by 31st <del>March</del> <b>July 2020</b> prior to commencement of the relevant season then the Club must, by the 31st <del>March</del> <b>July 2020</b>, submit to the Board in writing its proposals for a venue for its home matches in the following season ("alternative proposal"), such alternative proposal to be considered (and if appropriate) approved at the next Board Meeting after 31st <del>March</del> <b>July 2020</b>. The alternative proposal must, inter alia, contain documentary evidence in support of any ground sharing</p>

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	<p>arrangements and evidence that the proposed ground is demonstrably suitable at a level which the relevant club will be competing. The alternative proposal may not be for a continuation of any ground share arrangement if the Club has had a ground sharing arrangement for the previous 2 seasons, or any part thereof, even if those arrangements have related to more than one ground.</p> <p>Any approval of the alternative proposal will be subject to the issue of a grading certificate. The Board will use all reasonable endeavours to inspect the ground after receiving the alternative proposal and prior to the Board meeting, but if it is unable to do so then any approval of the alternative proposal will be subject to the issue of a satisfactory grading certificate. In the event of a Club not having received a grading certificate by 31st <del>March</del> <u>July 2020</u> and not having had its alternative proposal approved at the relevant Board Meeting, it shall be relegated forthwith at the end of the playing season to a level determined by The Football Association.]</p> <p><b>Prior to the commencement of the 2020/21 season, this temporary Rule 2.6 shall be deleted and the original wording of Rule 2.6 shall be reinstated (subject to any further amendments approved ahead of the 2020/21 season).</b></p>
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2.	<b>Rule 12.1 – 12.2.5</b>	<p><b>Rules 12.1 to 12.2.5 shall be disapplied in relation to leagues at Steps 3 to 6 for the remainder of the 2019/2020 season only. Prior to the commencement of the 2020/21 season, the original wording shall be reinstated (subject to any further amendments approved ahead of the 2020/21 season).</b></p> <p><del>12.1—Three points will be awarded for a win at home or away and one point for a drawn match at home or away.</del></p> <p><del>12.2—At the end of the Playing Season of each competition a table will be compiled showing the playing record of each Club in each division of the Competition. The playing record of each Club must include any points deduction made by the Competition or by the FA and in any situation where points per game are calculated the calculation will be made after taking into account the deduction of any such points.</del></p> <p><del>The position of each Club in the table so compiled shall be determined in order with the Club being awarded the highest number of points being first and the Club being awarded the second highest number of points being placed second and so on. In the event of two or more clubs being awarded the same number of points the highest placed Club shall be decided as follows:-</del></p> <p><del>12.2.1 Goal difference—If any two or more Clubs have scored the same number of points their position in the division shall be determined on goal difference, that is to say, the difference between the total number of goals scored by and against a Club in League Matches in that Season, and the higher or highest placed Club shall be the Club with the higher or highest goal difference.</del></p> <p><del>12.2.2 In the event of the goal difference being equal the highest placed Club shall be the Club which has scored the most goals;</del></p> <p><del>12.2.3 In the event that two or more Clubs have the same goal difference and have scored the same number of goals then the highest placed Club shall be the Club which has won the most matches.</del></p> <p><del>12.2.4 In the event of the two Clubs still being equal the Club which has the better playing record against the other Club in their head to head Competition matches during the Season will be the highest placed Club.</del></p> <p><del>12.2.5 If the records of two or more Clubs are still equal and it is necessary for any reason to determine the position of each then the Clubs concerned shall play off a deciding match or matches on a neutral ground or grounds with the net gate money after deducting the usual matches expenses being divided equally between the two competing Clubs.</del></p>
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3.	<b>Rule 12.4</b>	<p>To the extent that a League has inserted provisions under this Rule, those are disapplied for the remainder of the 2019/2020 season in relation to leagues at Steps 3 to 6:</p> <p><del>Each League to insert provisions for promotion and relegation not covered by the LC</del></p> <p>Prior to the commencement of the 2020/21 season, the original wording shall be reinstated (subject to any further amendments approved ahead of the 2020/21 season).</p>
4.	<b>Rule 12.5</b>	<p>This Rule is to be disapplied for the remainder of the 2019/2020 season:</p> <p><del>If no Clubs are eligible or wish promotion, the number of Clubs to be relegated will be reduced.</del></p> <p>Prior to the commencement of the 2020/21 season, the original wording shall be reinstated (subject to any further amendments approved ahead of the 2020/21 season).</p>

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### 3. WOMEN'S FOOTBALL PYRAMID REGULATION - WOMEN'S PYRAMID TIERS 3 TO 7

No.	Regulation	Amendment
1.	Regulation 4.1	<p><b>Regulation 4.1 of the Women's Football Pyramid Regulations shall be temporarily disapplied for the 2019/20 season and replaced with the following temporary regulation. Prior to the commencement of the 2020/21 season, the original wording shall be reinstated (subject to any further amendments approved ahead of the 2020/21 season).</b></p> <p>The Women's Football Pyramid shall provide for the <del>seasonal</del> promotion, <del>and</del> relegation <u>or the movement</u> of Clubs between Tiers <u>in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 5.6 within the system.</u> <del>A League that signifies its acceptance to be bound by these Regulations must be in a position to promote and relegate Clubs at the conclusion of each Playing Season. In extenuating circumstances, where a League is not in a position to relegate due to that League not being up to strength, it must obtain the permission of the Board.</del></p>
2.	Regulation 4.2	<p><b>Regulation 4.2 of the Women's Football Pyramid Regulations shall be disapplied for the 2019/20 season. Prior to the commencement of the 2020/21 season, the original wording shall be reinstated (subject to any further amendments approved ahead of the 2020/21 season).</b></p> <p><del>A Club shall be promoted or relegated to the correct designated league in the Women's Football Pyramid according to its County Association affiliation, unless the provisions of Regulation 5.2 apply.</del></p>

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3.	<b>Regulation 5.6</b>	<p><b>Regulation 5.6 of the Women's Football Pyramid Regulations shall be disapplied for the 2019/20 season and shall be replaced by the following temporary regulation:</b></p> <p><u>The following will apply for Tier 1 and Tier 2, subject to any subsequent decision to the contrary:</u></p> <p><b>Tier 1 and Tier 2</b></p> <p>The Club finishing in the bottom place in Tier 1 will be relegated to Tier 2.</p> <p>Subject to it demonstrating compliance with the Tier 1 Promotion Requirements, the Club finishing in first place in Tier 2 shall replace the Club relegated from Tier 1 to Tier 2.</p> <p>In the event that the Club finishing in first place in Tier 2 does not wish to be considered for promotion or is not able to demonstrate compliance with the Tier 1 Promotion Requirements, promotion to Tier 1 will be offered to the Club finishing in second place in Tier 2 (subject to that Club demonstrating compliance with the Tier 1 Promotion Requirements).</p> <p>In the event that the Clubs finishing in first and second place in Tier 2 do not wish to be considered for promotion or are not able to demonstrate compliance with the Tier 1 Promotion Requirements, the Club finishing in the bottom place in Tier 1 shall remain in Tier 1 and will not be relegated.</p> <p>Compliance with the Tier 1 Promotion Requirements shall be determined by the FA WSL and FA WC Board at its absolute discretion.</p> <p><u>Tier 3 to Tier 7</u></p> <p><u>No Clubs in Tier 3 through to Tier 7 shall be promoted or relegated in season 2019/2020.</u></p>
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		<p><b><u>Reserve Teams</u></b></p> <p>Where a reserve section/division exists in a League at Tier 6 any reserve teams or any additional teams of Clubs already in membership of that League at Tier 6 of the Women's Football Pyramid shall move to the reserve section/division when it is established. Any reserve team or any additional teams of Clubs already in membership of the Women's Football Pyramid which are promoted from Tier 7 shall be placed (where such a league exists) in the reserve section/ division of the relevant Tier 6 League.</p> <p>Unless a reserve section/division exists, reserve teams are not permitted to play above Tier 6.</p> <p><b>Prior to the commencement of the 2020/21 season, the original wording shall be reinstated (subject to any further amendments approved ahead of the 2020/21 season).</b></p>
4.	<b>Regulation 6.3</b>	<p><b>Regulation 6.3 shall be disapplied for the 2019/20 season and shall be replaced by the following temporary regulation:</b></p> <p>Any Club proposing to move from one League to another, other than by promotion, relegation and/or via the promotion pool, must make applications to resign from and be elected to the relevant Leagues in accordance with the rules and regulations of those Leagues. Any such notice must in any event, and regardless of any provisions to the contrary in a League's rules and regulations, be given to both Leagues and the Board by <del>31<sup>st</sup> March</del> <b>1 May</b> in the relevant year in order to be effective for the following Playing Season. <del>Only once promotion and/or relegation has been decided will a decision be made by the Board in respect of a Club's application.</del></p> <p><b>Prior to the commencement of the 2020/21 season, the original wording shall be reinstated (subject to any further amendments approved ahead of the 2020/21 season).</b></p>

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### 4. REGULATIONS FOR WORKING WITH INTERMEDIARIES

No.	Regulation	Amendment
1.	Regulation C12	<p><b>Regulation C12 of the Regulations for Working with Intermediaries shall be replaced with the following:</b></p> <p><u>Subject to Regulation C12(b), an</u> intermediary shall within 30 days of the end of each Reporting Period provide any Player with whom they have or have had a Representation Contract with an Annual Return <del>during that Registration Period</del>. The Association shall be entitled to request a copy of any Annual Return provided to a Player and the Intermediary must comply with any such request with 14 days of the date of the request.</p> <p><u>(b) For the Reporting Period ending on 30 June 2020 only, an Intermediary shall provide any Player with whom they have or have had a Representation Contract with an Annual Return by the 31 October 2020. The Association shall be entitled to request a copy of any Annual Return provided to a Player and the Intermediary must comply with any such request with 14 days of the date of the request.</u></p> <p><b>It is proposed to delete the new sub-paragraph for future seasons and revert to the original wording (subject to any further amendments approved ahead of the 2020/21 season).</b></p>