

FA WSL ACADEMY LEAGUE RULES – SEASON 2019/20120

1. DEFINITIONS

(A) In these Rules:

“Academy Player” means a Player who is:

(a) 16 years old or above; and

(b) under 22 years old at the start of the Playing Season (except older players can participate with the approval of The FA where it considers it to be in the interests of player development to do so); and

(c) at the time participating in education and/or training linked to current or future employment.

“Affiliated Association” means an association accorded the status of an affiliated association under the Rules of The FA.

“AGM” shall mean the annual general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

“Board” means The FA Women’s Super League and Women’s Championship Board.

“Club” means a Club for the time being in membership of the Competition.

“Club Licence” means a licence (as amended from time to time) entered into between a club and The FA under which The FA grants the club a licence to participate in either the FA WSL or the FAWC.

“Club Official” means an Officer of a Club.

“Competition” means the FA WSL Academy League.

“Competition Match” means any match played or to be played under the jurisdiction of the Competition.

“Competition Secretary” means the Secretary.

“Conditions” has the meaning given to that term in the FA WSL and FAWC Rules.

“Contract Player” means any Player who is eligible to play under a written contract of employment with a Club.

“County Association” means a County Association as defined in The FA Rules.

“Deposit” means a sum of money deposited with the Competition as part of the requirements of membership of the Competition.

“Electronic Facility” includes, without limitation, website and conference call systems, and any device, system, procedure, method or other facility whatsoever providing an electronic means of attendance at or participation in meetings.

“Embargo” has the meaning given to that term in the FA WSL and FAWC Rules.

“Executive Operational Committee” means the sub committee appointed by the Board to carry out the day to day management and administration of the Competition.

“FAWC” means The FA Women’s Championship.

“FA WSL” means The FA Women’s Super League.

“Fees Tariff” means the list of fees set out in Appendix 1.

“FE Players” means a Player registered to play for the principal further education institution which is partnered with the Club.

“FIFA” means Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

“Fines Tariff” means the list of fines set out in Appendix 1.

“First Team Player” means a Player registered to play for the Club’s first team in the highest league in which the Club participates.

“Football Creditor” has the meaning given to that term in the FA WSL and FAWC Rules.

“Ground” means the ground on which the Club’s team(s) plays its Competition Matches.

“Home Grown Player” means irrespective of nationality or age, any Player who has been registered with a Club or club affiliated to an Affiliated Association for a period, continuous or not, of three (3) seasons or thirty six (36) months prior to their twenty first birthday (or the end of the season in which the player turns twenty-one (21)).

“International Transfer Certificate” means the certificate issued on the transfer of a Player from one national association to another national association under FIFA’s Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.

“Laws of the Game” means the laws of the game as determined by the International Football Association Board from time to time.

“League” means the Competition.

“Long Term Loan” has the meaning given to that term in the FA WSL and FAWC Rules.

“Match Officials” means the referee, the assistant referees and any fourth official appointed to a Competition Match.

“Non Contract Player” means any Player who is eligible to play for a Club but has not entered into a written contract of employment.

“Officer” means an individual who is appointed or elected to a position in a Club or the Competition which requires that individual to make day to day decisions.

“Out of Contract Player” has the meaning given to that term in the FA WSL and FAWC Rules.

“Player” means any Contract Player, Non Contract Player or other player who plays or who is eligible to play for a Club.

“Playing Contract” has the meaning given to that term in the FA WSL and FAWC Rules.

“Playing Season” means the period between the date on which the first competitive fixture in the Competition is played each year until the date on which the last competitive fixture in the Competition is played.

“RTC” means an FA Regional Talent Club.

“RTC Player” means a Player who is registered to play for a RTC where the prior written permission of The FA Talent Technical Coach in the Club’s geographical area, the player’s RTC technical director, the player’s school and parents has been obtained to the player’s participation in the Competition.

“Rules” means these rules under which the Competition is administered.

“Sanctioning Authority” means The FA.

“Secretary” means such person or persons appointed or elected to carry out the administration of the Competition.

“Secured” has the meaning given to that term in the FA WSL and FAWC Rules.

“SGM” means a special general meeting for the Competition.

“Short Term Loan” has the meaning given to that term in the FA WSL and FAWC Rules.

“Table of Fees and Expenses” means the Fees Tariff or Fines Tariff as appropriate in the circumstances.

“Team Sheet” means a form provided by the Competition on which the names of the Players taking part in a Competition Match are listed.

“Terminated Player” has the meaning given to that term in the FA WSL and FAWC Rules.

“The FA” means The Football Association Limited.

“The FA Rules” means the rules of The FA as amended from time to time.

“The FA Rules and Regulations” means all of the rules and regulations of The FA as amended from time to time including those set out in The FA Handbook.

“The FA WSL and FAWC Rules” means the competition rules governing the FA WSL and the FAWC.

“Transfer Window”, “First Transfer Window” and “Second Transfer Window” has the meaning given to those terms in the FA WSL and FAWC Rules.

“UEFA” means the Union des Associations Européennes de Football.

“written” or “in writing” means the representation or reproduction of words or symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.

(B) Unless stated otherwise, terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

(C) All Clubs and Players shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club and Player shall be deemed, as a participant in the Competition, to have accepted the Rules and have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Executive Operational Committee in relation thereto, subject to any right of appeal set out in these Rules.

2. GENERAL

(A) The Competition will be known as the FA WSL Academy League (or such other name as the Competition may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A Club which ceases to exist or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall thereupon automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.

(B) The geographical area covered by the Competition shall be England.

(C) All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority and must have a constitution approved by the Sanctioning Authority. ~~Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.~~

(D) ~~Inclusivity and Non-discrimination~~

(i) The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (to include those contained in the Equality Act 2010).

(ii) This Competition and each Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise.

(iii) Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.

(E) Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including but not limited to, the Charter Standard and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(F) All participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The FA from time to time.

(G) Clubs shall not enter any of their teams playing in the Competition in any other competitions (with the exception of FA and County Association competitions) except with the written consent of the Executive Operational Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

3. ENTRY TO THE LEAGUE

(A) In order to be admitted to membership of the Competition, a club shall have:

(i) its first team in the FA WSL;

- (ii) had its first team relegated from the FA WSL during the previous 12 months and its participation approved by The FA; or
 - (iii) been invited to participate by The FA where it considers it in the interests of the development of women's football to do so and such invitation may be subject to any condition or amendment or waiver of the criteria set out herein as The FA considers appropriate.
- (B) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 1st July of its Sanctioning Authority affiliation number for the forthcoming Playing Season. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition.

4. CONTROL OF THE COMPETITION AND CONSTITUTION

- (A) The ownership, organisation, control and management of the Competition and any rights associated with it of any nature shall be vested entirely and exclusively in The FA.
- (B) Pursuant to the above powers and save where otherwise specifically mentioned herein, The FA has determined that the administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Board and the Executive Operational Committee in accordance with and as set out in these Rules.
- (C) All Clubs and Players shall comply with The FA Rules and Regulations which are applicable including Rule D of The FA Rules in respect of international and other representative matches and call-ups.
- (D) The membership of the Competition, its composition, format and the number of Clubs shall be determined annually by the Board at its discretion subject to compliance with these Rules, the Club Licences and Women's Pyramid Regulations.
- (E) Subject to Rule 11, the Clubs competing in the Competition for a Playing Season will be confirmed at the AGM each year.
- (F) A Club which is confirmed as competing in the Competition at the AGM shall be subject to the application of the Rules until the date of the following AGM.
- (G) The Board may appoint such sub-committees as it deems appropriate which shall be fully empowered to act on the Board's behalf subject to (save as set out below) ratification by the Board. Pursuant to this power, the Board has appointed the Executive Operational Committee to carry out the day to day management of the Competitions and as such, the Executive Operational Committee shall have the powers set out under these Rules until such time as the Board determines otherwise. Decisions of the Executive Operational Committee, unless otherwise specified by the Board, shall not require ratification when made pursuant to a power contained within these Rules.
- (H) The Executive Operational Committee shall have the power to deal with matters within the Competition in accordance with Rule G of The FA Rules. For the avoidance of doubt, Misconduct (as defined in The FA Rules) under Rule E1 (a) of The FA Rules shall only be dealt with by The FA or an Affiliated Association.
- (I) Save where specifically provided otherwise in these Rules, the Executive Operational Committee shall have the power to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules and shall have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competitions including any not provided for in these Rules.
- (J) Attendance and voting at Executive Operational Committee meetings shall be as per Rule 3.4 of The FA WSL and FAWC Rules.
- (K) The Executive Operational Committee shall have the powers of inquiry set out in Rule 3.5 of The FA WSL and FAWC Rules in respect of the Competition and the Board and Executive Operational Committee shall have the power to issue directives as set out in Rule 3.6 of The FA WSL and FAWC Rules in respect of the Competition.

5. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

- (A) Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained the Executive Operational Committee may order a match or matches to be played each season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any Club which may

have withdrawn during the season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the season.

- (B) The Executive Operational Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition. Any action by the Competition must be taken within 28 days of the Competition being notified.

With the exception of Rules 5(E), 7(H), and 10, for all alleged breaches of these Rules the Executive Operational Committee shall issue a formal written charge to the Club concerned. The Club charged shall be given seven days from the date of notification of the charge to reply. In such reply a Club may:

- (i) accept the charge and submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Executive Operational Committee on the papers;
- (ii) accept the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Executive Operational Committee;
- (iii) deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Executive Operational Committee; or
- (iv) deny the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case at a hearing before the Executive Operational Committee.

Where the Club charged fails to respond within seven days, the Executive Operational Committee shall determine the charge in such manner and upon such evidence as it considers appropriate.

Where required, hearings shall take place as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of the reply of the Club as more fully set out above.

Having considered the reply of the Club (whether in writing or at a hearing), the Executive Operational Committee shall make its decision and, in the event that the charge is accepted or proven, decide on the appropriate penalty (with reference to the Fines Tariff where applicable).

No participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

All breaches of the Laws of the Game, or the Rules and Regulations of The FA shall be dealt with in accordance with FA Rules by The FA or Affiliated Association, as appropriate.

The maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Executive Operational Committee must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

- (C) All decisions of the Executive Operational Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 6.

Decisions of the Executive Operational Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within seven days.

- (D) A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Executive Operational Committee and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Executive Operational Committee.

- (E) Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 6 below, all fines and charges are payable forthwith and must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision. Any Club failing to do so will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.

- (F) A member of the Executive Operational Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or Competition Match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.

- (G) The business of the Competition as determined by the Executive Operational Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

- (H) Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.
- (I) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their nominated Officers.

6. PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

- (A) (i) All questions of eligibility, qualification of Players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Executive Operational Committee or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Executive Operational Committee.
- (ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Executive Operational Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the Competition Match.
- (B) Except in cases where the Executive Operational Committee decides 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 7 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 Executive Operational Committee. A member of the Executive Operational 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 Executive Operational 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.
 - (i) All parties must have received 7 days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.
 - (ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should indicate such when forwarding the written response.
- (E) The Executive Operational Committee shall also have the power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Executive Operational Committee shall direct.
- (F) Any appeal against a decision of the Executive Operational Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of the written notification of the decision causing the appeal being sent, accompanied by a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff), which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. A copy of the appeal must also be sent to the Secretary. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority, in such respect the Sanctioning Authority may (but is not obliged to):
 - (i) invite submissions by the parties involved;
 - (ii) convene a hearing to hear the appeal;
 - (iii) permit new evidence; or
 - (iv) impose deadlines as are appropriate.Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Executive Operational Committee.
- (G) No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.
- (H) All protests, claims or complaints relating to these Rules and appeals arising from a Player's contract shall be heard and determined by the Executive Operational Committee, or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Executive Operational Committee. The Clubs or Players protesting, appealing, claiming or complaining must send a copy of such protest, appeal, claim or complaint and deposit a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff) which shall be forfeited in the event of the protest, appeal, claim or complaint not being upheld, and the party not succeeding may, in addition, be ordered to pay the

costs at the direction of the Executive Operational Committee.

All such protests, claims complaints and appeals must be received in writing by the Secretary within 14 days of the event or decision causing any of these to be submitted.

7. THE AGM

- (A) Each year an AGM shall be held which shall take place before the start of the upcoming Playing Season. Subject to Rule 9(I), the following business shall be transacted at the AGM each year:
- (i) to receive and confirm the minutes of the preceding AGM;
 - (ii) to consider any business arising from the previous AGM;
 - (iii) to receive the annual report and financial report in respect of the Competition;
 - (iv) to receive notice of:
 - (a) the composition of the Competition for the upcoming Playing Season;
 - (b) any changes to the members of the Board or Executive Operational Committee;
 - (c) the Competition's auditors;
 - (d) the date for the commencement and conclusion of the Playing Season and the kick off times applicable to the Competition; and
 - (v) to consider any other business set out in the agenda and any other business specified by the Board or the Executive Operational Committee.
- (B) A copy of the duly audited/verified annual report, financial report and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least fourteen days prior to the meeting.
- (C) Each Club which participated in the Competition during the previous Playing Season or which will participate in the Competition for the upcoming Playing Season shall be sent a copy of the duly audited/verified annual report, financial report and agenda in accordance with Rule 7(B). The agenda may be updated at any time before the AGM.
- (D) A signed copy of the duly audited/verified annual report and financial report shall be sent to Sanctioning Authority within fourteen days of its adoption by the AGM.
- (E) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an AGM.
- (F) Clubs which have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the season being concluded or which are not continuing membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the season being concluded. This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled from the Competition.
- (G) No individual shall be entitled to more than one vote or to vote on behalf of more than one Club.
- (H) Any continuing Club must be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

8. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- (A) Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership, the Secretary shall call a SGM.
- (B) The Executive Operational Committee may call a SGM at any time.
- (C) At the same time as notice is given of a SGM, an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting will be provided.
- (D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs.
- (E) Any Club failing to be represented at a SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

9. PROCEDURES FOR AGMS AND SGMS

Notice

- (A) Notice shall be given of each AGM and SGM. The length of this notice shall be at least 28 days unless the chairperson of the Board considers it appropriate or necessary that shorter notice be given.
- (B) The accidental omission to give notice of any AGM or SGM or the non-receipt by any person entitled to receive the same shall not invalidate the proceedings of that SGM or AGM.

Voting and quorum

- (C) 50 percent or more of those who have the right to attend at an AGM or SGM shall constitute a quorum for that meeting. No business shall be transacted at an AGM or SGM if a quorum is not in attendance but the meeting may proceed and items may be discussed. In such circumstances, the chairperson of the Board may call another AGM or SGM at a date and time he or she specifies and/or give valid notice of the items which the attendees were due to receive notice of by such other means as he or she considers appropriate.
- (D) A person shall be in attendance at an AGM or SGM where they attend the meeting in person or, where approval of Secretary has been obtained, they participate through an Electronic Facility.
- (E) The chairperson of the Board shall chair each AGM or SGM or, if not in attendance, the chairperson shall nominate another member of the Board to chair the AGM or SGM.

Attendance

- (F) Each member of the Board and Executive Operational Committee shall be entitled to attend an AGM and SGM.
- (G) The Executive Operational Committee and Board may each invite any person they choose to an AGM or SGM if they consider it to be appropriate.

Postponement

- (H) If, after the sending of the notice of an AGM or SGM but before the meeting is held, the chairperson of the Board, in his or her absolute discretion, considers that it is impracticable, inappropriate or unreasonable for any reason to hold an AGM or SGM at the place or on the date or at the time specified in the notice calling the AGM or SGM, he or she may postpone the AGM or SGM (by notifying those who had a right to attend the AGM or SGM) to another place, date or time or specify that the business to be transacted at the meeting is dealt with in accordance with Rule 9(I).

Transactions in writing

- (I) Notwithstanding the provisions of Rules 7 and 8, any business that may be transacted at an AGM or SGM may be transacted in writing outside of an AGM or SGM in a procedure to be specified by the chairperson of the Board. This procedure, as a minimum, shall ensure that those who would have been entitled to attend an AGM or SGM had it occurred, be afforded the same attendance rights as specified above.

10. AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

Each Club shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the Competition together with the application for membership for the coming Playing Season, or upon indicating that the Club intends to compete.

"We, (A) (name) [] of (address) [] (Chairman)/(Director) and (B) (name) [] of (address) [] (Secretary)/(Director) of [] Football Club (Limited) have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the [] Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Board and Executive Operational Committee of the Competition, subject (as applicable) to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 6.

The agreement shall be signed by:

- (i) where a Club is an unincorporated association, the Club chairman and secretary; or
- (ii) where a Club is an incorporated entity, two directors of the Club.

Any alteration of the chairman and /or secretary of the Club on the above agreement must be notified to the County Association(s) to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

11. CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

(A) Any Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the Secretary in writing by 31st March each season. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) The Executive Operational Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a Club being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season, including, but not limited to, issuing a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(C) Notwithstanding the powers of the Executive Operational Committee pursuant to Rule 11(B), in the event of a Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50, the Executive Operational Committee shall be empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.

12. EXCLUSION OF CLUBS, TEAMS. MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS, EXECUTIVE OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE

Any Officer or member of a Club proved guilty of either a breach of Rule, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a Player or Players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to such penalty as the Executive Operational Committee may decide.

13. TROPHY

The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the cup or trophy:

“We (A) (name) and (B) (name), the Chairman and Secretary of FC (Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of cup or trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the cup or trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before []. If the cup or trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair.”

Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

14. ALTERATION TO RULES

(A) These Rules shall be deemed to have come into effect on [25th July 2019].

(B) These Rules shall be effective until amended.

(C) No amendment of these Rules shall be made or implemented until it has been approved by The FA or its appropriate sanctioning body and the Board. Once such approval has been made, the Board shall notify Clubs of the amendment to the Rules at which point the Rules, as amended, shall become effective. It is envisaged that the Board will provide this notice to Clubs at an AGM or SGM but the Board reserves the right to provide the notice in any other way it considers appropriate.

15. CLUB FINANCE

(A) Financial Records must be kept by each Club in accordance with the terms of its Club Licence.

Where a Club defaults in making any payments to any Football Creditor, the Club shall be subject to such penalty as the Executive Operational Committee may decide.

(B) All monies required to be paid by any Club pursuant to these Rules must be paid within 14 days.

16. INSURANCE

- (A) All Clubs must have valid public liability insurance cover of at least ten million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.
- (B) All Clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Players' personal accident insurance cover must be in place prior to the Club taking part in any Competition Match and shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time to time by the Sanctioning Authority. In instances where The FA is the Sanctioning Authority, the minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which a Club affiliates.
- (C) Failure to comply with Rule 16(A) or 16(B) will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

17. DISSOLUTION

- (A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by decision of the Board.

In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the Executive Operational Committee shall be responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.
- (B) The Executive Operational Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:
 - (i) Any surplus assets, save for a trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another competition, an Affiliated Association or The Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution of the Board at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the Sanctioning Authority.
 - (ii) A trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the Sanctioning Authority may decide.

18. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

(A) A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Club in any Competition Match unless the Player is:

- (i) an Academy Player;
- (ii) a First Team Player;
- (iii) a RTC Player; or
- (iv) a FE Player,

who is registered to play in the Competition in accordance with the requirements set out in Rules 18(B) to 18(P) below.

Player Registration

(B) Rules 8.1 to 8.9, 8.12, 8.14 and 8.15 of the FA WSL and FAWC Rules shall apply to the registration of Players for the Competition.

(C) For the purposes of Rule 18(B) above:

- (i) subject to 18.C(ii) below, references to defined terms in the FA WSL and FAWC Rules shall be deemed to be references to those terms as defined in these Rules (and not to the term as defined in the FA WSL and FAWC Rules); and
- (ii) references to breaches being subject to fixed penalties in accordance with the Table of Summary Offences and Sanctions or breaches being referred to an Independent Tribunal for determination, shall instead be determined by the Executive Operational Committee in its absolute discretion save where Rule 8.14 of the FA WSL and FAWC Rules applies in which case, the Executive Operational Committee's discretion shall be subject to the provisions set out in that Rule.

Academy Squad Cap and Home Grown Players

(D) A maximum of:

- (i) 22 Academy Players (including Academy Players on Long Term Loan but excluding Academy Players on Short Term Loan); and
- (ii) two Academy Players on Short Term Loan,

may be registered to play for a Club in the Competition at any one time during a Playing Season (the **"Academy Squad Cap"**).

(E) Subject to Rules 18(F) to 18(I) if an Academy Player is registered to play for a Club in the Competition for the Playing Season, that Academy Player shall continue to count towards the Academy Squad Cap for that Club for the remainder of the Playing Season even if that Academy Player stops playing or is no longer registered for the Club during the Playing Season for any reason.

(F) Clubs may remove or replace any number of Academy Players in its Academy Squad Cap outside the Playing Season.

(G) During the Second Transfer Window, each Club shall be entitled to remove or replace a maximum of three Academy Players who have previously been registered and included in its Academy Squad Cap for that Playing Season by sending a notice to the Secretary stating which Academy Players have been removed. Once an Academy Player has been removed from the Academy Squad Cap in accordance with

this Rule 18(G) such Academy Player shall, subject to Rule 18(N), no longer be eligible to play in the Competition for the Club and will not count towards the Club's Academy Squad Cap.

(H) The Executive Operational Committee may on a case by case basis and in its sole discretion, upon application by a Club:

- (i) approve an increase in the Academy Squad Cap for a Club for the remainder of the Playing Season (such approval will be valid for that Playing Season only); and/or
- (ii) approve the removal of an Academy Player from a Club's Academy Squad Cap for the remainder of the Playing Season with that Academy Player no longer counting towards the Club's Academy Squad Cap (outside of the three Academy Players referred to in Rule 18(G)).

(I) Any Club wishing to request an increase or removal in accordance with Rule 18(H) must submit a written request to the Secretary, along with all supporting information and documentation in respect of its request. The Executive Operational Committee may approve or refuse any such request in its absolute discretion, and may make any approval subject to such limitations, restrictions and conditions as it sees fit. Without prejudice to what is set out at Rule 18 (H) and the ability of the Executive Operational Committee to approve applications in other circumstances, applications may be made under Rule 18 (H) (ii) in the following circumstances:

- (a) where the Player is deemed to have a long-term injury, as confirmed in writing by an independent medical practitioner
 - (b) where the Player is pregnant, as confirmed in writing by a qualified doctor; or midwife; or
 - (c) where the Player is registering for an International Club and the Player's de-registration is a condition of international clearance.
- (J) At all times during a Playing Season, each Club shall ensure that it has at least the minimum number of Home Grown Players registered to participate in Competition Matches as set out below. Players for the purposes of the table below shall only include those Players who are included in a Club's Academy Squad Cap.

| A | B |
|---|---|
| Number of Players who are registered | Minimum number of registered Home Grown Players required |
| 22 | 18 |
| 21 | 17 |
| 20 | 16 |
| 19 | 15 |
| 18 | 14 |
| 17 | 13 |
| 16 | 12 |
| 15 and under | 11 |

First Team Players, RTC Players and FE Players

- (K) Each Club shall be entitled to select and register any number of First Team Players, RTC Players and/or FE Players during each Playing Season who, subject to the below, may participate in Competition Matches.
- (L) If a Club intends to select a First Team Player, a RTC Player and/or a FE Player for a Competition Match it must complete a relevant registration form and ensure that it is received and approved by the Competition Secretary in accordance with the registration rules contained within this Rule 18.
- (M) Where registered, a maximum of:
 - (i) 3 First Team Players;
 - (ii) 3 RTC Players; and
 - (iii) 3 FE Players,may be included on a Club's Team Sheet for each Competition Match.
- (N) Where registered, a First Team Player, a RTC Player and/or a FE Player may participate in up to 3 Competition Matches without being included in a Club's Academy Squad Cap. Any First Team Player, RTC Player or FE Player who participates in more than 3 Competition Matches shall be included in a Club's Academy Squad Cap.
- (O) A First Team Player, RTC Player or FE Player will be considered to have participated in a Competition Match if they are included in the starting 11 or appear on the field of play as a substitute in a Competition Match.
- (P) To ensure appropriate match ups of squads for player development, the Academy Managers (or a designated replacement) of the competing Clubs must hold a telephone conversation with each other by 12pm on Monday for Wednesday fixtures or 12 pm on Friday for Sunday fixtures to discuss the composition of their respective squads to include, at a minimum, whether any First Team Players or RTC Players will be included in the relevant squad.

19. CLUB COLOURS

- (A) Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 1 July who shall decide as to their suitability.
- (B) Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all other players and the Match Officials.
- (C) No player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.
- (D) At least 14 days prior to a Competition Match, the away Club shall notify the home Club and the Competition Secretary of the colours it intends that its Players will wear. Any dispute arising between the Clubs as to colours shall be determined by the Executive Operational Committee. The following order or precedence shall, unless otherwise authorised by the Executive Operational Committee, apply in determining which colours shall be worn:
 - (i) 1st priority: the outfield players of the home Club who shall wear their first choice colours;
 - (ii) 2nd priority: the outfield players of the away Club;
 - (iii) 3rd priority: the goalkeeper of the home Club; and
 - (iv) 4th priority: the goalkeeper of the away Club.

(E) The Competition Secretary shall, no later than five days prior to the Competition Match, notify both Clubs and the Match Officials of the colours to be worn.

(F) Notwithstanding Rule 19(D), if on the day of the Competition Match, the Match Officials determine that the two Clubs have the same or similar colours such that the colours of the Clubs are not clearly distinguishable, the order of precedence set out at Rule 19(D) shall apply in determining which colours shall be worn (unless otherwise authorised by the Executive Operational Committee). All shirts should be numbered.

(G) No Club shall be permitted to register or play in shirts the colour of which is likely to cause confusion with the outfits worn by the Match Officials. Where the Executive Operational Committee and/or the Match Officials determine that a Club's colours are not clearly distinguishable from the Match Officials, the Club whose colours cannot be so distinguished must provide alternative shirts to be worn by the Match Officials.

20. PLAYING SEASON, CONDITIONS OF PLAY, TIMES OF KICK-OFF, POSTPONEMENTS, SUBSTITUTES

- (A) All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board.
- (B) Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their Grounds in a playable condition. All Competition Matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Executive Operational Committee. If through any fault of the home team a Competition Match has to be replayed, the Executive Operational Committee shall have power to order the venue to be changed.
- (C) The Executive Operational Committee shall have power to decide whether a pitch and/or facilities are suitable for Competition Matches and to order the Club concerned to play its fixtures on another ground.
- (D) Football turf pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition providing they meet the required performance standards and are listed on The FA's register of football turf pitches. The pitch must be tested (by a FIFA accredited test institute) every three years and the results passed to The FA. The FA will give a decision on the suitability for use and add the pitch to the register if the pitch is considered suitable.
- (E) The home Club is also responsible for advising participants of footwear requirements at least 5 days before each Competition Match. Where the Competition Match is played on a neutral venue following a request pursuant to Rule 20(P), the Competition Secretary will advise both Clubs of the footwear requirements at least 5 days before the Competition Match.
- (F) Matches shall be played on a Wednesday. However the 2019/20 season is determined as a transitional season from the FA WSL Development League format. During this season, a Club may apply in writing to the Executive Operational Committee to move games from Wednesday to Sunday, if their educational offers do not yet support day release.
- (G) No requests to play Sundays (except for games postponed and rearranged) will be accepted from the 2020/21 season onwards and no club will be allowed to move primary game day from Wednesday to Sunday at any point.
- (H) All Competition Matches shall be of 90 minutes duration unless a shorter time (not less than sixty (60) minutes) is mutually agreed by the two Clubs in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the Competition Match, and in any event shall be of equal halves.
- (I) The times of kick-off shall be fixed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs at least 7 days prior to the scheduled date of the Competition Match with written notification given to the Secretary at least 7 days prior to the date of the Competition Match. Normal kick of time will be 2.00pm unless otherwise agreed by the two competing Clubs in accordance with the above. In the event of extensive travel, kick of times should enable all players to be back home by 11pm at the latest.
- (J) Referees must ensure Competition Matches commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Secretary.
- (K) The home team must provide goal nets and at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Secretary if the footballs are unsuitable.
- (L) Subject to the remainder of this Rule 20(L), the home team shall provide drinks for the visiting team and Match Officials on arrival and at half-time and refreshments shall be provided at full-time. The Clubs shall agree, where possible, at least 7 days before each Competition Match, what refreshments are to be provided at full time. In the event that the Clubs are unable to agree, the refreshments to be provided shall be at the discretion of the home Club. In the case of Competition Matches played at neutral venues, each Club shall liaise with the venue to make its own arrangements for drinks and refreshments for its players and staff. Drinks and refreshments for Match Officials appointed to Competition Matches played on neutral venues shall be organised and paid for by the home team.(M) Except by permission

of the Executive Operational Committee all Competition Matches must be played on the dates originally fixed. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a Competition Match with the consent of the Secretary.

If the Executive Operational Committee gives permission for a fixture to be re-scheduled, the Clubs must be given 5 clear days' notice of the date on which the re-scheduled fixture is to be played (unless otherwise mutually agreed).

- (N) The secretary of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the Match Officials and the secretary of the opposing Club at least 5 clear days prior to the date of the Competition Match. If full particulars are not given or are not given on time, the away Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Secretary.
- (O) A minimum of 10 Players will constitute a team for a Competition Match.
- (P)
 - (i) All Competition Matches shall be played on the home and away principle. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement, the Executive Operational Committee shall have the power to inflict a fine, deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the Competition Match in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals. Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Executive Operational Committee shall have the power to order a Competition Match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent's ground if (i) a request is made by both Clubs that both Competition Matches which the Clubs will participate in during a Playing Season are played on a neutral ground or (ii) the Executive Operational Committee is satisfied that such action is warranted in the circumstances.
 - (ii) Any Club which is unable to fulfil a fixture or where a fixture has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the Secretary, the Competition Referees Appointments Secretary, the secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials.
 - (iii) In the event of a Competition Match not being played or being abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall be re-played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Executive Operational Committee. The Clubs must agree the date on which the re-scheduled Competition Match is to be played within 7 days of the date of the original Competition Match and notify the Secretary within this time. Should the Clubs fail to reach agreement or notify the Secretary in accordance with the above, the Executive Operational Committee shall have the power to order that the Competition Match is played on a date set by the Executive Operational Committee. Notwithstanding the above, where it is to the advantage of the Competition and the Clubs involved agree, the Executive Operational Committee shall have the power to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand.
 - (iv) The Executive Operational Committee shall review all Competition Matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Clubs. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Executive Operational Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Executive Operational Committee is satisfied that a Competition Match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Club, it shall be empowered to award the points for the Competition Match to the opponent. In cases where a Competition Match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Clubs, the Executive Operational Committee shall rule that all points for the Competition Match are void. No fine(s) can be applied by the Executive Operational Committee for an abandoned Competition Match.
 - (v) The Executive Operational Committee shall review any Competition Match that has taken place where either or both teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by The FA or an Affiliated Association. In cases where only one of the participating Clubs was under suspension, such Club will be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated in the Competition Match and fielded

ineligible players in accordance with Rule 18 above. Where both teams were under suspension, the Competition Match must be declared null and void.

- (Q) A Club having 3 or more Players or one goalkeeper from within their squad cap selected for international duty in accordance with Annexe 1 of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (this does not include Players on standby) by their national association for any competitive UEFA and FIFA matches which are played within the FIFA Women's International Match Calendar, shall be entitled to request a postponement of any Competition Match(es) that takes place during the period of time in which the Players are called up by their national association team or within two days of the Player(s) returning from international duty, provided that at least 10 days' written notice has been given to the Secretary prior to the scheduled time of kick-off of the Competition Match(es).
- (R) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use a maximum of 5 substitute players in any Competition Match who may be selected from 5 players.
- The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than 30 minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a Player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match.
- A Player who has been selected, appointed or named as a substitute before the start of the Competition Match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have participated in that Competition Match.
- (S) The half time interval shall be of 15 minutes duration and shall not exceed fifteen minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.
- (T) The Clubs taking part in a Competition Match shall identify a team captain who shall be responsible for offering support in the management of the on-field discipline of her team mates.
- (U) All Clubs shall have the following minimum level of medical provision:
- (i) Both the home Club and away Club shall each have a HCPC Registered Physiotherapist or a Sports Therapist in attendance at each Competition Match.
 - (ii) Medical equipment present and in full working order at every training session and Competition Match which corresponds with the list set out at Appendix 2. In addition, a defibrillator must be present (pitch side or, if the relevant session is a training session which is not pitch based, in close proximity to the relevant session) and in full working order for the duration of all Competition Matches and training sessions.
 - (iii) All incidents, interventions and procedures must be documented and recorded in accordance with standard medical practice and stored in accordance with nationally recognised guidelines.
 - (iv) All medical personnel must ensure that medical records are kept in accordance with their accredited national governing body's requirements and guidelines.
 - (v) Where no medical personnel are employed by a Club, care should be taken to ensure that health and safety legislation is adhered to and there is both an emergency action plan and the ability to document and regularly review all medical emergencies and requirements for first aid.
 - (vi) All staff must be covered by appropriate indemnity insurance and have documentation evidencing their qualifications, disclosure and barring service check and other relevant information on record with the Club.
 - (vii) All Clubs must have an audit and restocking procedure for all supplies and equipment maintenance.
 - (viii) Any administrator involved in managing medical data must have sufficient training and understanding of the significance of confidential medical information and how it should be handled.
 - (ix) All clubs shall ensure that any player who sustains a potentially concussive head injury during a Competition Match is substituted and not permitted to resume training or play without the consent of a

medical practitioner. The same provisions shall apply where a potential concussive head injury is sustained in training.

21. REPORTING RESULTS

(A) The FA WSL Academy League Secretary must receive the result of each Competition Match in the prescribed manner within 3 days of the date of the Competition Match. This must include the forenames and surnames of the Players (in block letters) and also the referee markings required by Rule 23(H) as well as any other information required by the Competition.

(B) Both Clubs shall SMS the result of each Competition Match to the Full Time system within one hour of the final whistle.

(C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of the Club.

(D) Within 48 hours of the conclusion of each Competition Match each Club shall enter the forenames and surnames of the Players which have played in the Competition Match as well as any other information required by the Executive Operational Committee or The FA from time to time on to the Full Time system.

22. DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

(A) Club rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn Competition Match. When a Competition Match is drawn, the game shall go straight to penalties using the ABAB format. The winner of the penalty shoot out shall be awarded 1 additional point, on top of the point awarded for the draw. The Club gaining the highest number of points at the conclusion of the Playing Season shall be adjudged the winner. Competition Matches must not be played for double points.

In circumstances where two or more Clubs are equal on points, Club rankings shall be determined by goal difference where the goals scored against each team shall be deducted from the goals scored by that team and the largest positive or smallest negative difference shall be placed the highest. In the event of the goal difference being equal, the highest placed Club shall be the Club which has scored the most goals. 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 Competition Matches.

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 Playing Season will be the highest placed Club.

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 affected shall play a deciding match or matches as determined by the Executive Operational Committee.

(B) In the event of a Club withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the Playing Season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting Club shall be expunged from the Competition table. For the purposes of this Rule 22(B), a completed fixture shall include any Competition Match(es) which has been awarded by the Executive Operational Committee.

23. REFEREES

(A) Registered referees (and assistant referees where approved by The FA or County Association) for all Competition Matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Executive Operational Committee and by the Sanctioning Authority.

(B) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed referee, the appointed senior assistant referee shall take charge and a substitute assistant referee shall be appointed by the competing Clubs. In cases where there are no officially appointed assistant referees, the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a

registered referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any open age competition.

- (C) Where assistant referees are not appointed each Club shall provide an assistant referee.
- (D) The appointed referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground in all Competition Matches and the referee's decision shall be final subject to either, in the case of a ground of a Local Authority or the owners of a ground, the representative of that body is the sole arbiter and whose decision must be accepted.
- (E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the relevant Affiliated Association, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee of £28 (Referee) or £18 (Assistant Referee) and travel expenses of 28p per mile.
The home Club shall pay the Match Officials their fees and expenses immediately after the Competition Match.
- (F) In the event of a Competition Match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to half fee plus expenses. Where a Competition Match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Ground, their full fee and expenses.
- (G) A referee not keeping his or her engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Affiliated Association with which he or she is registered.
- (H) Each Club shall, in the manner prescribed from time to time by The FA, award marks to the referee for each Competition Match and the name of the referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Secretary on the prescribed form. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined or dealt with as the Executive Operational Committee shall determine.
- (I) The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided by the prescribed date each Playing Season, shall submit a summary to The FA/County Association.
- (J) Referees and assistant referees shall have undertaken a Respect briefing offered by the FA/County Association or the League.

RULES IN RESPECT OF THE FA WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE ACADEMY CUP AND PLATE ("KNOCK OUT COMPETITION RULES")

General

- 1 The Cup shall be called 'The FA WSL Academy Cup' and the Plate shall be called 'The FA WSL Academy Plate' (together the **"Knock Out Competitions"**).
- 2 Save as set out otherwise below, the FA WSL Academy League Rules (**"Rules"**) shall apply to the Knock Out Competitions. For the purposes of these Knock Out Competition Rules, references to the Competition (including Competition Match) within the Rules shall include the Knock Out Competition.
- 3 In the event of any conflict between the Rules and these Knock Out Competition Rules, these Knock Out Competition Rules will take precedence in relation to the Knock Out Competitions.
- 4 In order to participate in the Knock Out Competition, a Club must comply with the Knock Out Competition Rules and, as appropriate, the provisions of the Rules.

Clubs and Players

- 5 All Clubs competing in the Competition shall compete in the Knock Out Competitions.
- 6 In addition to those Clubs who shall compete in the Knock Out Competitions pursuant to paragraph 5 above, up to an additional, 4 clubs (who will be considered to be “Clubs” for the purposes of the Knock Out Competitions in the Playing Season in which they participate in the Knock Out Competitions) will be invited to participate in the Knock Out Competitions. The Board will determine, in its absolute discretion, which 4 clubs will be invited to participate in the Knock Out Competitions each Playing Season. It is anticipated, although the Board is not obliged to do so, that in selecting these 4 clubs, the Board will select 2 clubs located in the north of England and 2 clubs located in the South of England.
- 7 Any Club withdrawing from the Knock Out Competitions once it has been confirmed as competing in the Knock Out Competitions for the relevant Playing Season shall be fined a sum not exceeding £100.
- 8 Subject to paragraph 9 below regarding eligibility to play in the final of either Knock Out Competition, in order to be eligible to play in the Knock Out Competitions, a Player must be:
 - a. registered for a Club to play in the Competition; or
 - b. for Clubs which are not participating in the Competition, registered for the Knock Out Competition in accordance with Rule 18 of the Rules.
- 9 A Player shall not play for more than one Club in the Knock Out Competitions during any one Playing Season. A Club playing an ineligible Player may be removed from the Knock Out Competitions, and be subject to a fine as determined by the Executive Operational Committee.
- 10 For a Player to be eligible to play in the Semi Final and/or Final of either Knock Out Competition that Player must have played in at least three matches for her Club during the current Playing Season. These matches can be played in the Competition, the Knock Out Competitions or any other league competition in which a Club may play.

Structure of the Knock Out Competitions

- 11 In order to determine which Clubs will participate in the Cup and which Clubs will participate in the Plate, an initial round of matches (“**Initial Round**”) will be held with the losers of those matches participating in the Plate and the winners participating in the Cup. In order to determine which clubs will play each other in the Initial Round, the clubs will be separated into two groups which will be split geographically so that one group shall contain the most southerly clubs (“**Southern Clubs**”) and the other shall contain the most northerly clubs (“**Northern Clubs**”). An open draw will then take place with the Southern Clubs being drawn against each other and the Northern Clubs being drawn against each other. Matches will take place over two legs and the first drawn Club will play at home in the first leg. The accumulative score after the two legs will determine the winner. In order to determine the winner after two legs in the event that the accumulative score is a draw, away goals will count double. In the event that the score is still equal, the outcome of the match will be determined by the taking of penalty kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedure adopted by the International Football Association Board. There shall be no period of extra time.

Knock Out Stage

- 12 Following the Initial Round, both the Cup and Plate will proceed to subsequent rounds which shall be played on a knock out basis ("**Knock Out Stage**"). The Knock Out Stage of both Knock Out Competitions shall consist of:
- a. four quarter finals ("**Quarter Finals**");
 - b. two semi-finals ("**Semi Finals**"); and
 - c. the final ("**Final**").

Quarter Finals

- 13 In order to determine which Clubs will play each other in the Quarter Finals, an open draw will be take place with those Clubs in the Cup drawn against each other and those Clubs in the Plate drawn against each other.
- 14 The Quarter Finals of both Knock Out Competitions shall be played at the home Ground of the first drawn Club or a neutral ground to be determined by the Board in its absolute discretion.
- 15 The Quarter Finals of both Knock Out Competitions shall be played to a conclusion. In the event that the score is equal at the end of 90 minutes, the outcome of the match will be determined by the taking of penalty kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedure adopted by the International Football Association Board. There shall be no period of extra time.
- 16 The winning four Clubs from the Quarter Finals of each Knock Out Competition will progress to the Semi Finals.

Semi Finals

- 17 In order to determine which Clubs will play each other in the Semi Finals, an open draw will take place with those Clubs in the Cup drawn against each other and those Clubs in the Plate drawn against each other.
- 18 The Semi Finals of both Knock Out Competitions shall be played at the home Ground of the first drawn Club or a neutral ground to be determined by the Board in its absolute discretion.
- 19 The Semi Finals of both Knock Out Competitions shall be played to a conclusion with extra time (a period of 30 minutes split into two halves of 15 minutes) to be played if there is no winner after 90 minutes. If there is no winner after extra time, the winner shall be determined by the taking of penalty kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedure adopted by the International Football Association Board.
- 20 The winning two Clubs from the Semi Finals of each Knock Out Competition will progress to the Final.

The Final

- 21 The winning Clubs from the Semi Finals of each Knock Out Competition will progress to the Final.
- 22 The Final shall be played on a neutral ground to be determined by the Board in its absolute discretion.
- 23 The winner of the Final will be winner of the relevant Knock Out Competition i.e. the winner of the Final of the Cup will be the winner of the Cup and the winner of the Final of the Plate will be the winner of the Plate.
- 24 The Finals of both Knock Out Competitions shall be played to a conclusion with extra time (a period of 30 minutes split into two halves of 15 minutes) to be played if there is no winner after 90 minutes. If there is no winner after extra time, the winner shall be determined by the taking of penalty kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedure adopted by the International Football Association Board.

Trophy and Medals

- 25 When the winning Club of each Knock Out Competition has been ascertained, The FA shall deliver the corresponding trophy to the winning Club. The winning Clubs shall be responsible for the return of the relevant trophy to The FA on or before the first day in June in the ensuing year in good order and condition.

Should the either trophy be lost, destroyed or damaged by fire or any other cause whilst under the care or custody of a Club, the Club shall pay to The FA the amount of the current insured value or the cost of thorough repair of the relevant trophy in addition to any other penalty which the Executive Operational Committee may impose.

- 26 The Executive Operational Committee (or a person nominated on its behalf) shall present to the winners of each Knock Out Competition 25 souvenirs medals, 20 for the Players, 1 for the secretary, 1 for the team manager, 1 for the physiotherapist and 2 for staff other than Players. Additional

souvenirs cannot be presented except by consent of the Executive Operational Committee, and then at the expense of the requesting Club. When a Player taking part is ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct, the medal to which she may be entitled may be withheld at the discretion of the Executive Operational Committee.

APPENDIX 1

| FEES TARIFF | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| RULE NUMBER | DESCRIPTION | MAXIMUM FEE |
| 6(C),6(F),6(H) | PROTEST/APPEAL FEES | £50 |
| 18 | REGISTRATION FORM | £5 |
| 18 | TRANSFER FORM | £10 |
| 21 | FAILURE TO REPORT RESULTS | £25 |
| 23 (E) | REFEREE FEES | £28 & 28p per mile |
| 23 (E) | ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES | £18 & 28p per mile |

| FINES TARIFF | | |
|-------------------|--|----------------|
| RULE | DESCRIPTION | MAXIMUM FINE |
| 2(C) | FAILURE TO AFFILIATE | £25 |
| 2(E) | FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES | £25 |
| 2(G) | UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS | £25 |
| 3(B) | FAILURE TO PROVIDE AFFILIATION NUMBER/DETAILS FORM | £10 |
| 5(D) | FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE | £100 |
| 5(E) | FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME | £20 |
| 5(I) | COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS | £25 |
| 7(H) | FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM | £100 |
| 8(E) | FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM | £100 |
| 10 | FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES | £10 |
| 11(A) | FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE | £150 |
| 11(B) | FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES | £100 |
| 13 | FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY | £10 |
| 16(A) | FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE | £25 |
| 16(B) | FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE | £25 |
| 18(B) | FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 8.2.9 OF THE FAWSL AND FAWC RULES | £25 per player |
| 18(B) | BREACH OF RULE 8.2.13 OF THE FAWSL AND FAWC RULES | £25 per player |
| 18(B) | PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER | £50 per player |
| 19(F) | DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS | £25 |
| 19 (F) | FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS | £25 |
| 20(K) | DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT | £25 |
| 20(M) | FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED | Up to £250 |
| 20(N) | FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE | £20 |
| 20(O) | PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS | £25 |
| 20(P)(ii) & (iii) | FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE | Up to £250 |
| 20(T) | NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND | £5 |

| | | |
|--------|--|---------------------|
| 20 (S) | FAILURE TO MEET ANY MINIMUM REQUIREMENT OF MEDICAL PROVISION | £50 per requirement |
| 21(A) | LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION FORM | £25 |
| 21(B) | FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT | £25 |
| 21(C) | RESULT NOTIFICATION NOT SIGNED BY APPROPRIATE SIGNATORIES | £25 |
| 23(C) | FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE | £25 |
| 23(E) | FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES | £25 |
| 23(F) | FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED | £25 |
| 23(H) | FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK | £15 |