

Terms and Conditions

By participating in the application process, the club confirms it agrees to work with The FA to help deliver the strategic objectives for The FA Women's Super League ("FA WSL"), which are:

1. To raise the profile of women's football by offering high quality, competitive football at the top of the women's football pyramid in this country;
2. To help create winning England teams;
3. To attract and retain England's most talented players;
4. For clubs to create more playing and non-playing employment opportunities for elite players so that they can become full/part time athletes;
5. To create clear and effective player pathways that link Centres of Excellence to The FA WSL and beyond to England selection opportunities;
6. To support sustainable women's clubs forging powerful partnerships that strengthen their infrastructure and performance on and off the pitch;
7. To gain greater media exposure for the women's game, attract more commercial and partner investment and financially sustain semi-professional women's football in England;
8. To grow the fan base, increase attendances and grassroots participation through commercial and community programmes and the use of FA WSL ambassadors;
9. For clubs to own modern, family- and fan-friendly home grounds at the heart of the community.

The club also confirms it agrees to:

1. Read the 'Club Development Plan: Minimum Requirements', as it is this document that will be used by The FA WSL selection panel when assessing all club applications.
2. The undertaking of an assessment of all FA WSL clubs by the selection panel. (The minimum requirements for initial application to the FA WSL1 and FA WSL2 in 2014 are set out in the 'Club Development Plan: Minimum Requirements' document; however these may be altered in future years).
3. Respect the selection panel's discretion to assess clubs against these requirements and determine membership of the FA WSL1 and FA WSL2 from 2014.
4. Ensure the FA WSL clubs have adequate levels of management and organisation.
5. Promote high-quality infrastructure to provide players, staff, spectators and media with well-appointed, well-equipped and safe working environments.
6. Promote the highest standards of financial and business management of clubs.
7. Promote the highest standards of clubs' commercial, marketing and community programmes.
8. Allow the benchmarking of facilities, financial, business management, commercial, marketing, community and sporting standards against other FA WSL applicants.
9. Endeavour to ensure a financially strong FA WSL.
10. Provide an honest and accurate account of player contracts and remuneration so The FA can ensure clubs are financially sustainable and compliant with any salary cap regulations.

In participating in the application process, the club confirms that it agrees to the following application and selection process:

Clubs must deliver applications by 4pm on Monday 4 March 2013 by hand or by courier to:

Tania Saunders
The FA Women's Super League
Club Wembley Entrance
The Football Association
Wembley Stadium
Wembley
Middlesex HA9 0WS

NB Please do not post applications to Wembley Stadium.

The application must be in the form of a signed Club Development Plan, produced in accordance with the 'Club Development Plan: Minimum Requirements' and the information pack (five hard copies and one electronic copy on a memory stick should be supplied). An electronic receipt will be issued for applications received.

1. The FA intends to announce which clubs have been awarded an FA WSL club licence in June 2013.
2. It is the individual club's responsibility to ensure any relevant information is made available to the selection panel in a suitable manner. Only information provided by the club alongside the Club Development Plan as attachments and/or appendices will be considered. No information will be accepted by the selection panel if received after 4pm on Monday 4 March 2013, unless specifically requested by The FA. Late applications will not be considered unless otherwise decided at the sole discretion of The FA.
3. The FA anticipates a need for supporting evidence by clubs who are relying on a potential or expected change of circumstance in the future. For example, if a new facility or access to a facility is planned, then the more information the club can provide, the more the selection panel will take such a potential change into account (e.g. information such as sponsorship, finance and legal agreements). Merely professing an intention to develop some aspect of the club without such supporting evidence is unlikely to be sufficient. Equally, if the club is anticipating an increase in attendance, then it is advised to support such a statement with market research.
NB These are meant only as examples, and the club should consider what evidence it feels is relevant to support its own Club Development Plan.
4. The FA may or may not invite some or all clubs to a presentation, interview and/or question and answer session from April 2013 onwards to support their applications.
5. All information supplied by a club will be treated in confidence, although the selection panel and/or The FA may need to share information with employees, agents and/or advisors employed as part of The FA WSL club selection process.
6. The club must ensure that all information it provides as part of its application is correct, complete, and accurate to the best of its knowledge. It is the club's responsibility to ensure that any change in circumstances, that is known or reasonably ought to be known by it, which affects the club's application and/or Club Development Plan is brought to the attention of The FA as soon as reasonably possible. This is particularly relevant, bearing in mind the timetable and the ambition to conclude the selection process by June 2013.
7. The FA has set out in the 'Club Development Plan: Minimum Requirements' the minimum requirements that any club wishing to apply for and obtain membership of the FA WSL1 or FA WSL2 from 2014 must meet. All clubs applying for an FA WSL club licence will be first assessed and marked against FA WSL1 criteria unless a club makes it clear that it wants to apply specifically for a FA WSL2 licence. Applicants will then be graded

- depending on the marks allocated to them for meeting and/or exceeding minimum requirements. Clubs are encouraged to go beyond minimum requirements in order to strengthen their chance of a successful application.
8. Those clubs who, in the reasonable opinion of The FA, do not satisfy the minimum requirements for FA WSL1 or FA WSL2 or who have no reasonable potential of doing so within a timeframe set by The FA may have their application rejected by The FA without further consideration. The FA shall retain the discretion to set aside any particular requirement for any particular club for such period of time as The FA stipulates. This is provided that in doing so the club will still be able to work towards the strategic objectives set out at the top of this document. Such exercise of discretion might be coupled with such sanction, as the selection panel considers appropriate in the circumstances.
 9. The FA will use its discretion to allocate an FA WSL club licence to those clubs who in its reasonable opinion are the most suitable licensee clubs for each of FA WSL1 and FA WSL2.
 10. Where there is more than one applicant club from any given region, in exercising its discretion to allocate FA WSL club licences (and in deciding which of FA WSL1 and FA WSL2 each successful club shall be allocated to), The FA will first have regard to the grading and marking structure, and will then assess the capacity of that region to commercially sustain more than one FA WSL club, taking into account in particular the commercial sustainability of the relevant applicant clubs.
 11. At the conclusion of the process, The FA will circulate decisions to individual clubs, including specific feedback on successful and unsuccessful applications. There will be no opportunity for the club to review or seek to amend or influence the individual club assessments after the deadline for submission of applications at 4pm on March 4 2013, unless specifically requested by The FA.
 12. The FA will be free to exercise its discretion in licensing clubs as it sees fit, subject to compliance with the terms of the licensing process as set out in this document. There shall be no appeal against the exercise of such discretion. However, an applicant club who feels that The FA has not complied with the terms of the licensing process may lodge an appeal with the Independent Appeals Panel responsible for The FA WSL on this point. Such appeal must be made by the relevant club within 14 days of the date on which The FA informs the club that it has not been selected to be licensed for FA WSL1 or FA WSL2, and must attach supporting documentation. In the event that the Independent Appeals Panel concludes that The FA has failed to comply with the terms of the licensing process, it may order The FA to carry out the selection process again, in accordance with its terms and based on the documents already submitted. The FA will endeavour to respond to appeals ASAP and the club shall make itself available to attend such a hearing.
 13. **The FA shall not be liable in any circumstance to any club for any damages in contract, tort (or delict) or otherwise (including but not limited to any liability for any negligent act or omission) for any loss, damage, costs, expenses, or other claims for compensation arising as a direct or indirect result of any application or adjudication in connection with the FA WSL licensing process.**
 14. These terms and conditions and the application and adjudication process are governed by English law.

The club must sign and return a copy of these terms and conditions as part of its application.

We the Directors / [Authorised Signatories] of **(insert name of club)**

certify that:

- We agree to the application and selection process set out above.
- We agree to the strategic objectives of the FA WSL, the selection process and the terms and conditions set out above.
- We agree that if awarded an FA WSL club licence we shall fulfill all minimum requirements for the relevant FA WSL division.
- To the best of our knowledge and belief, all information which we have provided in our application and Club Development Plan and/or any attachments or appendices, is correct.
- We understand and accept that any false information given or any relevant information withheld may result in an application being turned down or an FA WSL club licence being withdrawn.

We confirm that this application is (please tick relevant box):

For either a FA WSL1 or FA WSL2 licence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Only for a FA WSL1 licence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Only for a FA WSL2 licence	<input type="checkbox"/>

Date:

Name (Block Capitals)

Position

Signature:

Name (Block Capitals)

Position

Signature:

Name (Block Capitals)

Position

Signature: