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The FA Group

Date as Postmark

Dear Club Secretary

APPLICATION TO PLAY AGAINST FOREIGN TEAMS

Affiliated Associations, Leagues and Clubs wishing to play Associations, Leagues or Clubs of another nationality must apply to The Football Association for consent to play **at least 60 days before the date of the intended match** in accordance with FA Rule B.4(b) as follows:

FA RULE B.4(b) Matches with Foreign Associations, Leagues and Clubs, Affiliated Associations, Competitions or Clubs wishing to play a match or series of matches against members of another national association must apply on the prescribed forms to The Association at least 60 days before the date of the intended match or the first of a series of matches. The Association has in its discretion the power to consent or refuse an application. When written consent has been given, The Association will inform the other national associations concerned. An application to participate in a match or a series of matches against members of another National Association involving players of school age shall be required to demonstrate that all such players have received the necessary permission from their head teacher before The Association will give consent. Affiliated Associations, Competitions and their Clubs must not pay a commission of more than 10% of the reimbursements of travelling expenses to organisations or persons arranging their tours. Where a National Association provides in its rules for the membership of all associations, competitions, and clubs within its area, consent for matches with unaffiliated associations, leagues or clubs will not be given.

PERMISSION IS NOT NEEDED FOR ONE-OFF MATCHES AGAINST TEAMS FROM SCOTLAND, NORTHERN IRELAND AND WALES AND, CONSEQUENTLY, NO APPLICATION IS REQUIRED. Documentation IS required for matches against teams from the Republic of Ireland and other FIFA countries.

As soon as The Football Association has consented to a match then it will inform the other Association concerned.

Where a National Association provides in its Rules for the membership of all Associations, Leagues and Clubs within its area, consent for matches with unaffiliated Associations, Leagues or Clubs will not be given.

Clubs must be sure when negotiating for matches that the financial terms are clearly defined and confirmed in writing. Should any dispute arise then The Football Association will take up the matter with the National Association of the opposing Club. Failing any satisfactory decision the matter will then be referred to FIFA. However, if a Club arranges its matches through an agent other than a licensed FIFA or UEFA agent, then The Football Association cannot give assistance in matters of dispute.

If a match is played whereby the visiting team is to have an agreed share of the gate receipts then the home Club must supply a certified match statement to The Football Association and to their opponents.

All matches must be played strictly in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

Clubs will, no doubt, desire to reciprocate the welcome and hospitality given when abroad and will consider the importance of appointing an official liaison officer to the visiting party.

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Attention is drawn to FA Rule B.8 (following page) dealing with the playing season.

All Clubs or organisations given permission to play matches abroad are directed to ensure that, both on and off the field, members of the party should uphold the prestige of The Association and of their Clubs. It is a condition of permission being granted that a Committee Member must travel with the party and must accept full responsibility for the actions and conduct of the party on tour.

Yours sincerely

FA Registrations Manager

B.8 The Playing Season

(a) The Association to Determine

The Association shall determine annually the date on which the playing season shall commence and the season shall terminate not later than the following 1st June. Each Competition shall within the limit laid down by The Association, determine the length of its own playing season.

(b) The Close Season

The "Close Season" shall be defined as the period between 1st June and 30th June inclusive each calendar year, save where The Association makes an order to the contrary.

(c) Matches Which May be Played in the Close Season

No Matches other than the following may be played in the Close Season:

- (i) small-sided Matches as specified in Rule B7, mini-soccer Matches or Matches played according to "The Laws of the Game – 9 v 9" and those organised in connection with works' clubs sports days on private grounds and at fetes and similar sports functions;
- (ii) Matches between Army, Navy and Royal Air Force teams and teams of the Auxiliary Forces in Competitions whilst in camp. Such Competitions shall be strictly confined to the units concerned and gate money shall not be taken;
- (iii) Matches involving members of boys' brigades, scouts and kindred organisations in Competitions whilst in camp;
- (iv) Matches for national representative teams or clubs played under the auspices of FIFA or UEFA; and
- (v) Matches between Clubs in The FA Premier League and The Football League for the following season, and between Clubs in the FA Women's Super League. This sub-paragraph (v) shall also apply to any successor in title to any of the Leagues specified;
- (vi) 11 v 11 matches in sanctioned Leagues or Competitions that meet the criteria in accordance with the "Regulations for the Sanction and Control of Competitions" and approved by The Football Association;
- (vii) Single day, weekend and Bank Holiday competitions and festivals meeting the criteria and receiving sanction; and
- (viii) Pilot projects granted dispensation by The Football Association.

(d) Matches Which May be Played Prior to the Commencement of the Season

After 30th June, and prior to the commencement of the playing season, Matches may be played between teams of the same Club or between teams of different Clubs.

- (e) An appropriation will be made annually from the amount payable to the competing Clubs, The Association and the "Cup Pool" from "The FA Challenge Cup Semi-Finals and Final" of 5.5% and 2.5% from the net receipts of "The FA Community Shield" to which The Football League will contribute 6.3% of the net gate from its "League Cup Semi-Finals and Final". The total amount will then be distributed to Affiliated Associations as decided by The Association.

(f) Eligibility of Players

Players who have not previously been registered or recognised playing members of Clubs, or who have not been engaged for the following season may play in matches after 30th June and prior to the commencement of the playing season.

(g) Special Provisions

- (i) The appropriate sanctioning association, whether it be The Association and/or an Affiliated Association, may grant special permission for Competition and other Matches to be played preceding the dates fixed by The Association for the opening of the playing season and shall attach to the granting of such permission whatever conditions it may deem expedient.
- (ii) Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule B3(b), The Association shall determine in each calendar year, the date on which and the financial conditions under which "The Football Association Community Shield" Match shall be played.
- (iii) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Rule, Affiliated Associations shall determine the dates on which "County Cup" Matches shall be played.