

Guidance in relation to the application of FA Rule B (Supervision of Competitions and Matches and FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches) to friendly matches played by a Club affiliated to The Association

1. Background

- 1.1 The purpose of this Guidance is to clarify The Association's position on the application of Rule B to friendly matches (including friendly matches played behind closed doors) involving one or more Clubs affiliated to The Association. All defined terms used in this Guidance are taken from the Rules of The Association. In event of a conflict between the Rules and this guidance, the Rules take precedence.
- 1.2 If after reviewing this Guidance a Club is still unsure about whether or not a match requires authorisation, it should contact sanctioning@thefa.com for clarification.

2 Friendly matches in England between Clubs affiliated to The Association

- 2.1 The Association's Rules B4 and B5 state that Clubs may not participate in matches and competitions played in England, including friendly matches, unless they have been authorised by FIFA or UEFA, or by The Association or an Affiliated Association.
- 2.2 The Association hereby provides its consent for Clubs to participate in friendly matches (including friendly matches played behind closed doors) during the 2023/24 playing season provided that such matches are played: (a) in England; and (b) against Clubs that are affiliated to The Association.
- 2.3 Any such friendly match must also comply with FA Rules and Regulations and the Statutes and Regulations of FIFA.
- 2.4 Clubs should therefore note that they are not required to make individual applications for such friendly matches.
- 2.5 For the avoidance of doubt, such matches remain under the jurisdiction of The Association, including in particular in respect of any disciplinary matters that may arise.

3 Friendly matches not in England and/or involving Clubs not affiliated to The Association

- 3.1 Under Rule B12 and FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches, the prior written consent of The Association is required for a Club to participate in a friendly match (including a friendly match played behind closed doors) or a competition that is played outside England, or that involves one or more teams affiliated to other FIFA member associations, unless the match or competition is organised by FIFA or UEFA or another FIFA confederation.
- 3.2 Clubs wishing to participate in such matches or competitions must apply for the required consent from The Association by completing the standard application form and submitting it

by email to sanctioning@thefa.com at least 28 days before the date of the match in question or the date of the first match in the competition in question.

This Guidance will remain in place unless withdrawn or varied by The Association.

Any queries in relation to the above should be emailed to sanctioning@thefa.com.

Approved by:

Council

3 July 2023

End