THE FA HANDBOOK 2021/2022

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RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION

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RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION

as adopted by The Association on 23 July 2020.

These Rules must be read in conjunction with the Articles.

A. CONSTITUTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE ASSOCIATION

THE ASSOCIATION

A1 The Association shall have as members (which, for the avoidance of doubt, does not mean 'shareholders' or owners) those Clubs and Affiliated Associations such as Council may approve and which are otherwise qualified hereunder.

All Clubs and Affiliated Associations shall play and/or administer football in conformity with these Rules and also:

A1.1 The Laws of the Game; and

A1.2 the statutes and regulations of FIFA and UEFA which are in force from time to time.

DEFINITION AND INTERPRETATION

A2 In the interpretation of these Rules: any words and expressions, unless otherwise defined herein, shall be words and expressions as defined in the Articles:

2006 Act	means the Companies Act 2006 as amended, including any modification or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force;
Academy	means an establishment for the coaching and education of Academy Players operated by a Club in accordance with the requirements of the Professional Game Youth Development Rules;
Academy Player	means a male player (other than an Amateur Player or a Trialist) who is in an age group between Under 9 and Under 21 and who is registered for and who is coached by or plays football for or at a Club which operates an Academy pursuant to the Professional Game Youth Development Rules, save for a player who: (a) In the reasonable opinion of the Club which holds his registration has developed technical, tactical, physical and psychological skills of such a level that he would not benefit from participating or continuing to participate in its Academy's Coaching Programme and Games Programme; and (b) Is registered as a Contract Player for that Club; and (c) Is at least 18.
Affiliated Association	means an association which is either a County Association or an Other Football Association;
Appeal Board	means any appeal board as established from time to time whose purpose is to hear appeals made by Participants pursuant to its terms of reference from time to time;
Appropriately Qualified Accountant	means any individual who is a member of one of the bodies holding membership of the Consultative Committee of Accountancy;
Articles	means the Articles of Association of The Association (and "Article" shall be interpreted accordingly);
Associate	means, in relation to an individual, any other individual who is: (a) the spouse or civil partner of that individual; or (b) a relative of that individual or of his spouse or civil partner; or (c) the spouse or civil partner of a relative of that individual or of their spouse or civil partner;
Associate Member Club	means a Club accorded the status of an Associate Member Club pursuant to the Rules;
Associated Undertaking	means an undertaking in which another undertaking has a participating interest and over whose operating and financial policy it exercises a significant influence, and which is not a Parent Undertaking or Subsidiary Undertaking;
Board	means the board of directors of The Association for the time being, constituted in accordance with the Articles;

Business Day	means a day other than a Saturday, a Sunday a bank holiday or a public holiday;
CAS	means the Court of Arbitration for Sport;
Certificate of Sponsorship	means a certificate assigned by a Club to an Overseas Player which permits that Overseas Player to play football for that Club;
Chief Executive Officer	means a person appointed from time to time to the office of chief executive officer by the Board in accordance with the Articles;
Chief Regulatory Officer	means the person who is employed by The Association in accordance with clause 4.5 of the Terms of Reference for the Composition and Operation of the Football Regulatory Authority;
Close Season	means the period between 1st June and 30th June inclusive each calendar year, or the period (if any) as otherwise ordered by: (i) the Board; or (ii) Council (in relation to the Competitions comprising the National League System and the men's leagues operating beneath the National League System only);
Club	means any club which plays the game of football in England and is recognised as such by The Association;
Club Official	means any official, Director, secretary, servant or representative of a Club (whether formally appointed or not);
Competition	means any competition (whether a league or knock-out competition or otherwise) sanctioned by The Association and/or an Affiliated Association;
Concert Party	means any Person with which any relevant Person is acting in concert within the meaning of paragraphs (2) to (5) (inclusive) of the definition of "acting in concert" in the City Code on Takeovers and Mergers, or would be so acting in concert if the City Code on Takeovers and Mergers applied in the relevant case;
Connected Person	means any Person who directly or indirectly possesses or is entitled to acquire more than 30 per cent of: (a) the issued ordinary share capital of the company; or (b) the loan capital (save where loan capital was acquired in the ordinary course of the business of lending money) and issued share capital of the company; or (c) the assets of the company which would be available for distribution to equity holders in the event of winding up of the company;
Contract Player	means any player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play under a written contract of employment with a Club;
Control	means the power of a Person to exercise, or to be able to exercise or acquire, direct or indirect control over the policies, affairs and/or management of a Club, whether that power is constituted by rights or contracts (either separately or in combination) and having regard to the considerations of fact or law involved, and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, Control shall be deemed to include: (a) the power (whether directly or indirectly and whether by the ownership of share capital, by the possession of voting power, by contract or otherwise including without limitation by way of membership of any Concert Party) to appoint and/or remove all or such of the members of the board of directors of the Club as are able to cast a majority of the votes capable of being cast by the members of that board; and/or (b) the holding and/or possession of the beneficial interest in, and/or the ability to exercise the voting rights applicable to, Shares in the Club (whether directly, indirectly (by means of holding such interests in one or more other persons) or by contract including without limitation by way of membership of any Concert Party) which confer in aggregate on the holder(s) thereof 30 per cent or more of the total voting rights exercisable at general meetings of the Club. For the purposes of the above, any rights or powers of a Nominee for any Person or of an Associate of any Person or of a Connected Person to any Person shall be attributed to that Person;
Council	means the Council of The Association for the time being constituted in accordance with the Articles and Member of (the) Council shall be any person for the time being appointed to and serving on (the) Council in accordance the with Articles;
County Association	means an association which has been accorded the status of a County Association pursuant to Rule A4.1.1;
Director	means any Person occupying the position of director of a Club whose particulars are registered or registrable under the provisions of section 162 of the 2006 Act and includes a shadow director, that is to say, a Person in accordance with whose directions or instructions the directors of the Club are accustomed to act, or a Person having Control over the Club, or a Person exercising the powers that are usually associated with the powers of a director of a company;
Effective Date	means the date a rule or regulation (or an amendment to a rule or regulation) was adopted by The Association (unless otherwise specified);
FAWC	means The FA Women's Championship;
FAWSL	means The FA Women's Super League;
Fellow Subsidiary Undertaking	has the meaning set out in section 1161(4) of the 2006 Act;
FIFA	means the Fédération Internationale de Football Association or any successor body;

Financial Institution	means any entity which is incorporated in, or formed under the law of any part of the United Kingdom, and which has permission under Part 4 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 to carry on the regulated activity of accepting deposits (within the meaning of section 22 of that Act, taken with Schedule 2 and any order under Section 22) but such definitions shall not include: (a) A building society (within the meaning of section 119 of the Building Societies Act 1986); or (b) A credit union (within the meaning of section 31 of the Credit Unions Act 1979).
Football Creditor	means: (i) The Association and any Parent Undertaking of The Association and any Subsidiary Undertaking of that Parent Undertaking or The Association; (ii) The Premier League; (iii) The EFL; (iv) The National League; (v) The Northern Premier League; (vi) The Southern League; (vii) The Isthmian League; (viii) any member club of any of the organisations listed in (i) to (vii) above; (ix) any full-time or part-time employee of a member club, as defined in (viii) above, or former full-time or part-time employee of such a member club, in respect of sums due to such person by way of arrears of remuneration or expenses; (x) the Professional Footballers' Association; (xi) The Football Foundation; (xii) any Affiliated Association; and (xiii) any other affiliated clubs or leagues, and includes any successor bodies of any of the above;
Football Regulatory Authority or "FRA"	means the football regulatory authority of The Association;
Full Member Club	means a Club accorded the status of a Full Member Club pursuant to Rule A3.4;
GBE	means a Governing Body Endorsement granted by The Association;
Group	shall have the same meaning as defined in section 474(1) of the 2006 Act;
Group Undertaking	has the meaning set out in section 1161(5) of the 2006 Act;
Interim Suspension Order	means an order that a Participant shall be suspended from all or any specific football activity, for such period and on such terms as is considered appropriate;
Intermediary	shall have the meaning ascribed to the term within The Association's Regulations on Working with Intermediaries;
Laws of the Game	means the laws of the game as settled and in force from time to time by the International Football Association Board;
League Appeals Committee	means an appeal committee comprising those persons set out in Rule C1.10.12;
Management Committee Member	means a person responsible for the management and administration of an unincorporated Club;
Manager	means the person at a Club responsible for selecting a Club team;
Match	means a football match sanctioned by The Association and/or an Affiliated Association;
Match Officials	means all match officials recognised by the International Football Association Board, including but not limited to any category of 'on-field match officials' (such as referees, assistant referees, fourth officials, additional assistant referees and reserve assistant referees), and any category of 'video' match officials (such as video assistant referees and assistant video assistant referees).

Misconduct	shall have the meaning set out in Rule E1;
NADO	means National Anti-Doping Organisation;
National Game	means all aspects of football involving and affecting Participants in and at the level of step 1 of the National League System and below;
National League System	means the Competitions which interact with one another by way of promotion and relegation within those steps of the National Game pyramid as determined by Council from time to time;
Nominee	means, in connection to any Person, another Person who possesses rights or powers on his behalf, or which he may be required to exercise at his discretion;
Non-Contract Player	means any Player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play for a Club but has not entered into a written contract of employment;
Non-Member Club	means any Club affiliated to an Affiliated Association which is not a Full Member Club nor an Associate Member Club;
Nursery Club	shall have the meaning set out in Rule A3.9;
Official	means any official, director, secretary, servant or representative of an Affiliated Association or Competition;
Other Football Association	means one or any of the following listed associations: (a) The University of Oxford Football Association; (b) The University of Cambridge Football Association; (c) The Army Football Association; (d) The Royal Navy Football Association; (e) The Royal Air Force Football Association; (f) The Amateur Football Alliance; (g) The Women's Football Conference; (h) The English Schools' Football Association; and (i) The Independent Schools' Football Association;
Out of Contract Player	means a Contract Player whose contract has expired;
Overseas Player	means a contract Player who is not a citizen of the United Kingdom or Ireland and has not acquired permanent residence in the United Kingdom or been granted pre-settled status or settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme.
Parent Association	means the Affiliated Association of which a Club, in membership of more than one Affiliated Association, was first a member;
Parent Undertaking	shall have the same meaning as defined in section 1162 of the 2006 Act;
Participant	means an Affiliated Association, Competition, Club, Club Official (which for the avoidance of doubt shall include a Director), Intermediary, Player, Official, Manager, Match Official, Match Official observer, Match Official coach, Match Official mentor, Management Committee Member, member or employee of a Club and all persons who are from time to time participating in any activity sanctioned either directly or indirectly by The Association;
Person	includes any natural person, legal entity, firm or unincorporated association and in the case of a Person which is incorporated any of its Associated Undertaking, Fellow Subsidiary Undertaking, Group Undertaking, Parent Undertaking or Subsidiary Undertaking;
PBS	means the Points Based System established by the Home Office in conjunction with The Association in force from time to time;
Player Status Rules	means the provisions set out in Rule C of the Rules;
Professional Game	means all aspects of football involving and affecting Participants in and at the levels of the Premier League and the EFL;
Professional Game Board	means a committee of the Board established by the Board from time to time in accordance with the Articles and responsible to the Board for the conduct of the Professional Game, whose composition shall be as determined by the terms of reference of the Professional Game Board from time to time;

Professional Game Youth Development Rules	means the Youth Development Rules of the Premier League and/or the EFL (as applicable).
Regulatory Commission	means any regulatory commission as established from time to time whose purpose is to hear Participants' cases;
Rules	means these rules of The Association (and "Rule" shall be interpreted accordingly);
Scholarship	shall have the meaning set out in Rule C3.1.1;
Shares	means shares or other equity securities;
Subsidiary Undertaking	shall have the same meaning as defined in section 1162 of the 2006 Act;
The Association	means The Football Association Limited;
UEFA	means the Union of European Football Associations or any successor body;
WADA	means the World Anti-Doping Agency.

AFFILIATION OF CLUBS

A3 A3.1 *Application to be a Full Member Club*

A Club may apply to be a Full Member Club on the appropriate form published by The Association. A completed form must be received at The Association before 1st March in any calendar year.

A3.2 *Application to be an Associate Member Club*

A Club may apply to be an Associate Member Club on the appropriate form published by The Association. A completed form must be received by The Association before 1st March in any calendar year.

A3.3 *Control by The Association*

Eligibility to be a Full Member Club or an Associate Member Club shall be under the control of Council which shall have the power to make regulations concerning eligibility criteria and conditions. Notwithstanding that an application may satisfy such criteria and conditions, The Association shall have the power in its absolute discretion to refuse an application to be a Full Member Club or an Associate Member Club, and accordingly, only on the written confirmation of The Association shall a Club be accorded the status of either a Full Member Club or an Associate Member Club.

A3.4 *Rights and Privileges*

Neither a Full Member Club nor an Associate Member Club shall have rights or privileges other than as arise pursuant to the Articles and the Rules.

A3.5 *Resignation by a Full Member Club or an Associate Member Club*

A Full Member Club or an Associate Member Club may resign its status as such to have effect only at the end of the playing season. Written notice of an intention to resign must be received at The Association by 31st December in that playing season.

A3.6 *Termination of Status of a Full Member Club or an Associate Member Club*

Council may at any time decide that a Club shall cease to have the status of a Full Member Club or an Associate Member Club on such terms as it considers appropriate. A Club shall automatically cease to have the status of a Full Member Club or an Associate Member Club if it ceases to be in membership of an Affiliated Association.

A3.7 *Transfer of Membership*

Council may use the following criteria, and any other conditions in Council's absolute discretion, in deciding whether to approve the transfer of membership by a Full Member

Club or an Associate Member Club:

A3.7.1 the shareholders or members of the existing Full Member Club or Associate Member Club have voted to agree the transfer of the membership to the proposed future member;

A3.7.2 all Football Creditors of the existing Full Member Club or Associate Member Club must be fully satisfied;

A3.7.3 all other creditors of the existing Full Member Club or Associate Member Club must be satisfied and evidenced as such;

A3.7.4 the proposed future Full Member Club or Associate Member Club must provide financial forecasts showing their ability to fund the Full Member Club or Associate Member Club for the next 12 months or to the end of the season following transfer (whichever is the longer);

A3.7.5 evidence of funding sources will be required; and

A3.7.5 where the proposed future Full Member Club or Associate Member Club is a company, then it shall be formed and registered in England and Wales under the 2006 Act.

A3.8 *Suspension of Membership/Rights and Privileges*

On such terms and conditions as it considers appropriate, Council may at any time suspend the status, rights and privileges of a Full Member Club or an Associate Member Club.

A3.9 *Nursery Clubs*

Any Club which is under obligation to another Club, written or otherwise, by reason of which it has not the sole and entire control of its own management, finances and Players, shall be deemed to be a "Nursery Club" and is not entitled to be a Full Member Club or an Associate Member Club.

A3.10 *Annual Return of a Full Member Club and an Associate Member Club*

For the year 2020 only, this Rule shall not apply

A3.10.1 Each Full Member Club, Associate Member Club and any other Club which The Association determines from time to time, shall forward to The Association before 1st July in each calendar year a completed Form "A" (in such form as shall be published by The Association from time to time) and shall supply such further information as is required by Council.

A3.10.2 A Club shall report to The Association within 21 days any change in the information set out on the Form A most recently submitted.

A3.10.3 If the Club has failed to submit a fully completed Form A to The Association by 1st July in any calendar year it shall be subject to such fine or other appropriate sanction as may be determined by Council.

A3.11 *Subscription Fees of Full Member Clubs and Associate Member Clubs*

A3.11.1 Each Full Member Club and Associate Member Club shall on or before 1st July in each calendar year, (or on or before 1 September in the year 2020) pay to The Association such subscription fee as shall be determined from time to time. An annual subscription shall not be refundable in any circumstance.

A3.11.2 A Full Member Club or an Associate Member Club which has failed to pay any subscription due to The Association by 1st July in any calendar year (or by 1 September in the year 2020) shall be subject to such fine or other appropriate sanction as may be determined by Council.

A3.12 A Club competing in any one of the Premier League, the EFL, the National League, the Southern Football League, the Isthmian League and the Northern Premier League shall not be permitted to change its playing name (i.e. the name under which the

Club competes in a Competition), as recorded on Form "A", save with the prior written permission of Council.

Any application for a change of playing name must be received by The Association on or before 31 December in a playing season in order for it to be considered by Council for adoption in the following playing season. Council will use its absolute discretion in deciding whether to approve a change in a Club's playing name.

A3.13 Where a Club is a company, that company must be formed and registered in England and Wales under the 2006 Act.

Affiliation to Affiliated Association and Observing the Rules

A3.14 All Full Member Clubs, Associate Member Clubs and Non-Member Clubs shall affiliate to an Affiliated Association from time to time and shall observe the Rules.

AFFILIATION OF ASSOCIATIONS

A4 A4.1 *Conditions of Affiliation*

A4.1.1 Each County Association shall cover a defined area and shall neither extend nor alter such area without first having obtained the written consent of The Association and accordingly, only on the written confirmation by The Association shall an association be accorded the status of a County Association.

A4.1.2 Each Other Football Association shall cover a defined category of membership as determined from time to time by The Association and shall neither expand nor alter such category of membership without first having obtained the written consent of The Association and accordingly, only on the confirmation by The Association shall an association be accorded the status of an Other Football Association.

A4.1.3 Affiliated Associations may admit to membership Clubs within their area, and provide for the proper management and control of such Clubs.

A4.1.4 An annual affiliation fee shall be paid by all Clubs in membership with Affiliated Associations and shall not be less than the amount determined from time to time by The Association.

A4.1.5 All Clubs which are Non-Member Clubs shall observe the Rules.

A4.1.6 Second or reserve teams must always be so described.

A4.2 *Subscription*

A membership fee, payable within one week of approval of application, and an annual subscription payable by 1st July in each calendar year (or by 1 September in the year 2020) shall be as determined from time to time by The Association.

A4.3 *Other Associations and Clubs*

Council shall have the power to admit into membership any association of clubs within the British Commonwealth, or any club in any area where an association has not been established. The annual subscription shall be as determined from time to time by The Association. The membership of either such association or club does not confer the right to send a representative to any meeting of The Association, nor to exercise a vote at any such meeting.

FAILURE TO PAY SUBSCRIPTION

A5 An Affiliated Association whose subscription is unpaid on 1st July in any calendar year shall be subject to such fine or other appropriate sanction as may be determined by Council.

POWERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

A6 Save as expressly provided by these Rules, resolutions and decisions of The Association shall be binding upon all Affiliated Associations, Participants and Clubs and any members thereof, until they are rescinded or varied.

PRIVILEGES OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

A7 Each Member of Council shall be furnished with an annual pass (which shall not be transferable), and all Clubs shall admit the holder to their grounds and stands upon production of such pass without requiring any other authority, except on occasions when Council shall otherwise decide.

B. SANCTIONING OF ASSOCIATIONS, COMPETITIONS AND MATCHES

SANCTIONING OF COMPETITIONS

B1 B1.1 *Applications for Sanction*

Associations, Competitions or other combinations of Clubs, Players or Officials, shall not be formed without the written consent of The Association, or of the Affiliated Association or Affiliated Associations concerned.

All applications for formation of Competitions (in such form as shall be published by The Association from time to time), and applications for continuance must be made in such form annually.

All Affiliated Associations, Competitions or other combinations of Clubs, Players or Club Officials, Officials or Match Officials shall observe the Rules.

Associations or Clubs in membership of or affiliated to The Association and/or an Affiliated Association shall not play against any association or club belonging to any association, competition or combination of clubs to which such consent has not been given.

Clubs being members of more than one Affiliated Association shall be under the jurisdiction of the Affiliated Association of which they first became a member, except in matters arising in a match under the control of another Affiliated Association, or in any other case where The Association, in using its discretion, determines that this position should not apply.

B1.2 *Competition Regulations for Clubs and Players*

Any Competition or other combination of Clubs may, subject to these Rules, make such regulations between their Clubs and Players as they may deem necessary.

Appeals relating to decisions of the Premier League and EFL shall be dealt with in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations of each Competition.

Save for the Premier League and EFL, where a Competition or other combination of Clubs is sanctioned directly by The Association, Council shall cause an appeals commission to be appointed.

Where a Competition or a combination of Clubs is sanctioned by an Affiliated Association an appeals commission shall be appointed by the sanctioning Affiliated Association.

B1.3 Powers of Affiliated Associations over Clubs not in Membership of an Affiliated Association

B1.3.1 An Affiliated Association must not close a ground of a Club of another Affiliated Association. The matter must be dealt with by a joint commission of the Affiliated Associations concerned.

B1.3.2 Clubs entering a Competition of an Affiliated Association of which they are not in membership shall be under the control of that Affiliated Association so far as the rules of the Competition are concerned. If in such matches, Clubs or Players are reported for offences against the Laws of the Game, or the Rules, such offences shall be dealt with by a joint commission of the Affiliated Associations concerned unless otherwise mutually agreed.

NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM

B2

B2.1 There shall be a National League System comprising participating Competitions between which relegation and promotion links shall operate on such basis as shall be determined by Council from time to time.

B2.2 The Competitions and the Clubs participating in the National League System shall be bound by relevant regulations of The Association from time to time in force.

B2.3 The Competitions participating in the National League System shall be as determined by Council from time to time.

CHARITY ASSOCIATIONS, BENEFIT COMPETITIONS AND CHARITY MATCHES

B3 B3.1 *Charity associations and benefit Competitions*

Charity associations and benefit Competitions shall not be formed without the written consent of The Association or the relevant Affiliated Association.

All charity associations or benefit Competitions shall observe the Rules and regulations of The Association.

Associations, Clubs or Players in membership of The Association and/or an Affiliated Association shall not play or take part in any charity association or benefit Competition to which consent has not been given.

B3.2 *Charity Matches*

Individual matches (not competition matches) may be played, for charity, or some similar object approved by The Association and/or an Affiliated Association.

Reasonable expenses not exceeding 20% which may be approved by the consenting association on the application for consent, may be deducted from the gross proceeds.

The balance must be paid over within 14 days of the match being played, and at the same time a return of the sums received and paid together with the necessary receipts, must be sent to the association which gave consent.

A match arranged between two Clubs or teams in which a trophy, medals or other reward is given to the Club or Players is not a Competition within this Rule.

SANCTIONING OF MATCHES

B4 B4.1 *Unaffiliated Football*

Clubs, Players and Club Officials subject to the jurisdiction of The Association and/or an Affiliated Association shall not be associated with nor play with or against any club which is not a member of The Association and/or an Affiliated Association. Those who immediately prior to their association with unaffiliated football organisations were under the jurisdiction of The Association and/or an Affiliated Association, shall not be eligible to participate in football under the jurisdiction of The Association and/or an Affiliated Association without the written consent of The Association and/or an Affiliated Association.

No match between unaffiliated teams shall be played on grounds which are under the jurisdiction of Clubs which are in membership with The Association and/or an Affiliated Association.

B4.2 *International Matches*

B4.2.1 This Rule does not apply to Matches in a Competition sanctioned in accordance with Rule B1.1. or matches in a competition organised by FIFA or one or more of the Confederations.

B4.2.2 Affiliated Associations, Competitions or Clubs wishing to play a match or participate in a competition involving:

(a) members of another national association; or

(b) a member or members of The Association and/or Affiliated Association on the territory of another national association.

B4.2.3 An application for authorisation made in accordance with Rule B4.2.2 above must be made at least 60 days prior to the date of the intended match or the first match of the competition on the prescribed forms published by The Association.

B4.2.4 The Association has in its discretion the power to authorise or refuse an application.

B4.2.5 Where a national association provides in its rules for the membership of all associations, competitions, and clubs within its area, authorisation for matches with unaffiliated associations, leagues or clubs will not be given.

B4.2.6 An applicant Affiliated Association, Competition or Club shall be responsible for providing evidence of any such authorisation to the national association upon whose territory the match or competition is planned (except where that national association is The Association).

FOOTBALL AND RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

B5

B5.1 A Participant cannot be compelled to play football on bona fide occasions where religious observance precludes such activity, save where the Participant:

B5.1.1 has consented to do so on such occasions; or

B5.1.2 is registered as a Player under written contract, which shall be taken as consent to play on such occasions unless otherwise provided for in the contract.

B5.2 Annually, when planning programmes, Competitions shall define and notify agreed dates of such occasions.

SCRATCH TEAMS

B6 Except with the written consent of The Association, or of the Parent Association, no match at which gate money is taken shall be played if either of the competing teams is a scratch team. Where consent is given for such a match the provisions of Rules B7.1 and B7.2 shall apply.

PROCEEDS OF MATCHES OR COMPETITIONS

B7

B7.1 Clubs and Players shall not compete in any Match or Competition (including small - side Matches or Competitions) the proceeds of which are not devoted to a Club or association or some other object approved by The Association or by an Affiliated Association.

Small-Side Matches

B7.2 Small-side Matches and Competitions (not more than seven-a-side) may be arranged provided that:

B7.2.1 the Competition has been sanctioned by The Association or the relevant Affiliated Association in accordance with the agreed procedures laid down from time to time by The Association;

B7.2.2 in the case of single matches, charity Competitions and Competitions played over a short period of days, they must be sanctioned by The Association or the Affiliated Association concerned in accordance with agreed procedures laid down from time to time by The Association;

B7.2.3 the sanctioning of such a match or Competition in this case shall automatically accord to the team and/or Competition the status of an affiliated body and to the Players participating in the match or Competition the status of

affiliated Players for the team for which they play in the match or Competition. A list of the competing teams must be submitted to the sanctioning association;

B7.2.4 the rules governing the eligibility and conduct of the Players shall be under the control of the management committee of the Competition subject always to the overriding authority of The Association or the Affiliated Association concerned and shall in so far as practicable be in conformity with the Rules. In the case of individual Matches the eligibility and conduct of the Players shall be the responsibility of the sanctioning body;

B7.2.5 for small-side games played for charitable objectives a statement of accounts of the event shall be supplied to the sanctioning body concerned within 21 days;

B7.2.6. where two Affiliated Associations cover the same area, the permission must be obtained from the appropriate Parent Association;

B7.2.7 there shall be no Close Season for small- side games; and

B7.2.8 the laws applicable to small-side games are printed elsewhere in this handbook.

THE PLAYING SEASON AND THE CLOSE SEASON

B8 B8.1 *The Playing Season*

B8.1.1 Subject to Rule B8.1.2, the playing season shall commence on the date set by the Board each year and end on 31 May of the following year, unless otherwise extended in accordance with Rule B10.

B8.1.2 Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic it has been necessary for some Competitions to obtain the permission of the Board and /or Council to extend their playing seasons. The Board shall have the power to set the start date of a season at a time when some Competitions may still be completing their previous playing season. Any such Competition must comply with Rule B8.2 when setting the dates for its new playing season.

B8.2 *Time frame for Competitions to commence and conclude*

B8.2.1 Subject to Rule B8.2.2, each Competition shall set the dates of its own playing season provided that it starts no sooner than the date set by the Board and concludes no later than 31 May of the following year, unless otherwise extended in accordance with Rule B10.

B8.2.2 In relation to those Competitions comprising the National League System, Council (including through the relevant committee of Council) has the power to set an end date for such Competitions to conclude by, provided it is within the limit set by the Board at Rule B8.1.1.

B8.3 *The Close Season*

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

B8.3.1 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;

B8.3.2 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;

B8.3.3 Matches involving members of scouts, guides and similar organisations in Competitions whilst in camp;

B8.3.4 Matches for national representative teams or clubs played under the auspices of FIFA or UEFA; and

B8.3.5 Matches between Clubs in the Premier League, the EFL, FAWSL and FAWC for the following season. This sub-paragraph B8.3.5 shall also apply to any successor in title to any of the Competitions specified;

B8.3.6 11v11 matches in sanctioned Competitions that meet the criteria in accordance with the "Regulations for the Sanction and Control of Competitions" and are approved by The Association or sanctioning Affiliated Association;

B8.3.7 Single day, weekend and bank holiday competitions and festivals meeting the criteria and receiving sanction; and

B8.3.8 Pilot projects granted dispensation by The Association or sanctioning Affiliated Association.

B8.4 *Matches Which May be Played Prior to the Commencement of the Season*

Following conclusion of the Close Season, 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.

B8.5 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 EFL 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.

B8.6 *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 following conclusion of the Close Season and prior to the commencement of the playing season.

B8.7 *Special Provisions*

B8.7.1 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.

B8.7.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule B3.2, 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.

B8.7.3 Notwithstanding the provisions of this Rule, Affiliated Associations shall determine the dates on which "County Cup" Matches shall be played.

SUSPENSION OF FOOTBALL

B9 The Board shall have the power to suspend the playing of football at any time in respect of any Competition.

EXTENSION OF THE PLAYING SEASON AND CLOSE SEASON, AND ENDING THE SEASON

B10 B10.1 Save for those Competitions that comprise the National League System and the men's leagues operating beneath the National League System, the Board shall have the power to:

B10.1.1 extend the playing season beyond 31 May;

B10.1.2 change the dates of the Close Season;

B10.1.3 end the playing season.

B10.2 In relation to those Competitions that comprise the National League System and the men's leagues operating beneath the National League System, Council shall have the power to:

B10.2.1 extend the playing season beyond 31 May;

B10.2.2 change the dates of the Close Season;

B10.2.3 end the playing season.

C. RULES RELATING TO PLAYER STATUS AND CONTRACTS

PLAYERS WITH WRITTEN CONTRACTS

C1

C1.1 Failure to comply with any provision of the Player Status Rules may constitute Misconduct.

C1.2 Unless otherwise specified by The Association, all documents to be submitted to The Association pursuant to the Player Status Rules, the Regulations on Working with Intermediaries and/or the Third Party Interest in Players Regulations shall be submitted in electronic copy only by email or by using the appropriate system identified by The Association from time to time. The Association reserves the right to require a Participant to produce hard copy original documentation upon request.

C1.3 Where documents submitted to The Association do not comply with the Rules, The Association reserves the right to reject them and to refuse to take any steps in relation to such documents (including the registration of a Player) and/or require any Participant to amend, clarify or supplement any documents to ensure they are compliant with the Rules.

C1.4 The Association cannot advise on the legality of documents submitted to it. Any steps taken by The Association in relation to documents submitted to it shall not constitute acceptance of the legality of such documents.

C1.5 The Association and/or relevant League will prescribe the form of playing contract that Clubs must enter into with their contract Players. The Association reserves the right to reject a playing contract which:

C1.5.1 is not in the relevant standard form of the Premier League, EFL, FAWSL, FACW and National League System (as applicable); and/or

C1.5.2 contains any clause which conflicts with the mandatory provisions of the relevant standard form playing contract; and/or

C1.5.3 conflicts with the Rules.

C2 C2.1 *Minimum Age*

C2.1.1 A Player under 18 years of age and in receipt of full-time education[1] may not enter into a contract of employment with a Club in membership of The Association and/or an Affiliated Association.

C2.1.2 A Player under 17 years of age may not enter into a contract of employment with a Club in membership with The Association and/or an Affiliated Association, except under a Scholarship as provided for by Rule C4.

C2.2 *Financial Arrangements – Registration*

C2.2.1 Subject to paragraph C2.1 and C2.2.2 to C2.2.7 of this Rule, and to the rules and regulations of the league of which the Club is a member, any Club in membership of The Association and/or an Affiliated Association may negotiate a financial arrangement with its Players.

C2.2.2 All Players under written contract must be registered with The Association.

C2.2.3 No Club may enter in to an Agreement which enables any party, other than the Club itself, to influence materially the Club's policies or the performance of its teams or Players in Matches and/or Competitions.

This Rule shall be applied in conjunction with any regulations governing Third Party Interest in Players as may be adopted by The Association from time to time, and the term "Agreement" shall be construed in accordance with those regulations.

C2.2.4 All payments and/or benefits whatsoever due and/or made to a Player must be set out in a written agreement between the Club and the Player. Any other payments and/or benefits whatsoever due and/or made on behalf of, or in relation to, a Player (not otherwise detailed in the written agreement between the Club and Player) must also be set out in a written agreement, to which the Club shall be a party.

In each case a copy of any such agreement must be provided to The Association.

C2.2.5 All payments made to Players must be must be made by the Club and fully recorded in the accounting records of the Club.

C2.2.6 All salaried payments must be subject to PAYE and National Insurance.

C2.2.7 All salary payments due on written contracts must be stated gross, before PAYE and National Insurance deductions.

C2.2.8 Any Players paid expenses must be reimbursed via an expense claim form. The Club must retain all expense records in a format acceptable to HM Revenue and Customs.

C2.3 *Contract of Employment*

C2.3.1 All contracts must be in the full name of the Club. If the Club is a corporate body, the contract must also include the company registration number.

C2.3.2 Contracts or letters of employment exchanged between a Club and any Club Official, Player or any other employee of the Club, must specify that all emoluments due are paid to the employee concerned and not to any company or agency acting on behalf of the employee.

C2.3.3 All such contracts must also specify that the individual is directly under the disciplinary control of the Club and of The Association.

C2.4 *Form G(1) – Registration for One Calendar Month*

A registration for a period of one calendar month is effected when The Association receives Form "G(1)" (in such form as shall be published by The Association from time to time), signed by the Player.

C2.5 *Form G(2) – Registration Exceeding One Calendar Month*

A registration for a period in excess of one calendar month is effected when The Association receives Form "G(2)" (in such form as shall be published by The Association from time to time), signed by the Player. Such a registration must terminate on the first Saturday in May, or the date of the last league or knock-out Competition match of the Club's first team, whichever is the later, or on 30th June in any calendar year.

C2.6 *Forms to be Returned to The Association*

C2.6.1 Within five days of having been signed by the Player, Forms G(1) or G(2) must be returned to The Association, accompanied by a copy of the contract.

C2.6.2 A Player seeking registration under written contract is not permitted to play under the terms of the contract until the Club registering the Player has received the confirmation of registration from The Association.

C2.7 *Transfers*

C2.7.1 A Player's registration may be transferred from one Club to another using the relevant Form "H" (in such form as shall be published by The Association from time to time). The Player must be re-registered by the Club to which the registration is transferred.

C2.7.2

(a) A player's registration may be transferred from one Club to another,

either temporarily or on a permanent basis.

(b) In the event of a Player's registration being transferred from one Club to another, a copy of the written transfer agreement must be sent to The Association with the transfer and registration forms and the contract of employment.

(c) Any consideration paid in relation to the transfer of a Player must only be paid between the two Clubs (the transferor Club and transferee Club) or otherwise in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Association.

(d) Any transfer agreement or temporary transfer agreement must:

i. state the full name of each contracting club;

ii. set out full particulars of all financial and other arrangements agreed between the transferor club and transferee club;

iii. comply with the requirements of these Rules regarding financial arrangements;

iv. comply with the Third Party Interest in Player Regulations and Regulations on Working with Intermediaries;

v. set out any arrangements between the transferor club and the Player to which the transferee club is privy, whether those arrangements are to take effect upon completion of the transfer or temporary transfer or at any time thereafter; and

vi. be signed by an authorised signatory of each club.

C2.7.3 The following payments must be made through The Association in accordance with the procedures adopted by The Association which are in force from time to time:

In respect of a Player's registration:

(a) A payment to a club which is affiliated with another national association in membership of FIFA; and

(b) A payment by a member of the Premier League or the EFL to a Club which is a member of the National League System (unless Competition rules require otherwise).

Intermediary/Authorised Agent:

(c) Any payment to an Intermediary in accordance with The FA Regulations on Working with Intermediaries; or

(d) Any payment to an Authorised Agent (as defined under the relevant FA Football Agents Regulations in force at the relevant time).

C2.7.4 For leagues sanctioned by The Association, when a Player is temporarily transferred between Clubs in the same league or in different leagues, compliance with the relevant league rules must govern the transfer.

C2.7.5 A copy of the appropriate association or league's temporary transfer form must be submitted to The Association within five days of its signature.

C2.7.6 A Player subject to a temporary transfer must not play until such transfer has been authorised by The Association.

C2.7.7 In the event of a Player under temporary transfer being recalled in accordance with the rules of the league or leagues concerned, a copy of the recall letter or notice must be received and acknowledged by The Association before the Player can play for the Club initiating the recall.

C2.7.8 A transferor Club shall provide to any previous Club with which a Player was registered, and which has a right to sell-on fee in respect of any transfer of that

Player, full details of any compensation fee and any sum(s) payable upon the happening of a contingent event consequent upon the transfer of a player to which it becomes entitled. The Club receiving the information shall not disclose or divulge it directly or indirectly to any third party without the prior written consent of the transferor Clubs save to statutory and regulatory authorities or as may be required by law or to its auditors.

C2.8 *Second Registration Not Permitted*

The signing of a second registration form before The Association has declared the first invalid is an offence.

C2.9 *Registered Players to Play for One Club Only*

C2.9.1 A Player registered with The Association can play only for the Club holding the registration unless:

(a) in the case only of benefit, testimonial and charity matches, the Player obtains by written request special permission of The Association; or

(b) is temporarily transferred in accordance with Rule C2.7.4; or

(c) is registered under a Scholarship in accordance with Rule C4;

or

(d) at steps 1 to 4 of the Women's Football Pyramid (as defined in the Women's Football Pyramid Regulations) only, where a Player attends a higher education establishment, the Player is also permitted to play for that establishment, provided the Player's Club has provided written consent;

(e) has the written permission of the Club, copied to The Association, to play not more than two trial matches for another Club, provided that such matches are not for the first team of that Club in a Competition Match and are both within a period of one month from the date of such permission, which shall not be repeated in the same playing season for the same Player to the same Club.

C2.9.2 Where a Club has a Nursery Club (as defined in Rule A3.9), a Player registered with the Club to which it is under obligation may also play for the Nursery Club without further registration.

C2.10.1 *Contracts*

Clubs must enter into a written contract of employment with their Players on the relevant form approved by The Association), with or without an option. Such contracts must clearly indicate all the terms and conditions of employment, be of stated duration and signed at the same time as a relevant registration Form "G" (in such form as shall be published by The Association from time to time). A copy of the contract of employment must be handed to the Player at the time of signing both documents. Contracts of employment signed by Players who are under the age of 18 at the time of signing must also be signed by a parent or guardian.

C2.10.2 *Options*

(a) The full terms of any option (including provision for any individual bonuses) must be contained in the contract entered into between the Player and the Club in accordance with Rule C2.10.1.

(b) As a result of the exercise of an option, the terms of the contract between the Player and the Club must be the same or no less favourable overall as the terms of the Player's existing playing contract (excluding any signing-on fees).

(c) A Playing contract cannot include an option which, if exercised, would extend the playing contract for a longer duration than the playing contract unless (d) applies.

(d) If the playing contract is entered into after the commencement of the Club's playing season but on or before the first Monday in February, it can include an option which, if exercised, would extend the playing contract for the same duration as the playing contract plus any further period required to ensure the playing contract will expire at the end of that season.

(e) Only one option in a playing contract can be exercised. Once a playing contract has been extended by the exercise of an option, it cannot be extended by the exercise of a further option.

C2.10.3 *Player Retention Process and Compensation*

Sub-Rules C2.10.3 - C2.10.14 shall not apply to Clubs participating in the Premier League and EFL.

C2.10.3 There shall be no right to a compensation or transfer fee by the previous Club of a Player who has attained the age of 24 years on or before 30th June and whose contract with that Club has expired. If a Club wishes to protect its right to compensation, it must comply with the following practice.

C2.10.4 Within 7 days of the first Saturday in May, or the date of the last competitive Match of the Club's first team, whichever is the later, the Club must give notice in writing to the Player indicating that either the Club offers a re-engagement or, if appropriate, exercises any option contained in the agreement.

C2.10.5 If the notice offers re-engagement it must specify the period which the Club is prepared to agree and the terms and conditions to apply, which must be the same or not less favourable overall than those which applied during the initial period of employment – or the option period (if applicable).

C2.10.6 The Player must notify in writing the Club holding the registration within 28 days of receipt of the said notice whether or not the offer of re- engagement is accepted.

C2.10.7 If the offer is rejected the Player is immediately free to negotiate with another Club.

C2.10.8 If the Player does not reply in writing to the offer of re-engagement then at the expiry of a period of 28 days, the Player is free to negotiate with another Club.

C2.10.9 In either of the instances as set out in Rules C2.10.7 and C2.10.8 above, the Club holding the Player's registration has the right to receive compensation. The Player's registration for the new Club will not be accepted until such time as the Club has confirmed in writing to The Association that it will negotiate a compensation fee with the former Club failing which it will abide by any decision taken by a League Appeals Committee.

C2.10.10 An existing agreement shall continue and have full force and effect between the parties on the terms and conditions as those pertaining prior to the expiration of the initial period of employment, or the option period if appropriate, and the Player will continue to train and play as instructed by the Club until 31st August, or the date on which the Player registers for another Club, whichever is the sooner.

C2.10.11 In the event of the Player continuing to play for the Club after the 31st August, a week-to-week agreement must be completed and submitted to The Association under which the Player will continue to be paid in accordance with the terms of the existing agreement.

C2.10.12 In the event of the Player signing for another Club which is unable to reach agreement on the payment of a compensation fee to the Club holding the Player's registration in pursuance of the existing agreement then such fee shall be dealt with by a League Appeals Committee.

C2.10.13 A League Appeals Committee shall comprise one nominated representative from each of the following:

(a) Council (to act as an independent chairman);

(b) the management committee of the appropriate league or leagues; and

(c) the Professional Footballers' Association.

The committee may, at its discretion, order either the Club or the Player to pay all or part of the costs involved in an appeal. The same committee also applies to Rules C2.11, C2.12 and C2.13.

C2.10.14 By 1st June in each calendar year all Clubs must notify The Association of Players who have been offered re-engagement or on whose agreement the option has been exercised.

C2.11 *Cancellation of Agreement*

C2.11.1 Where conditions form part of an agreement other than payment of wages for playing football, in dealing with claims, a league or a League Appeals Committee, will restrict its investigations and decisions solely to the question of wages for playing as stipulated in the agreement.

C2.11.2 Except by mutual consent, a Club or Player is not entitled to determine an agreement between them without the written consent of The Association or in accordance with Rule C2.12.

C2.11.3 When an agreement has been determined by mutual consent, notice signed by the Club and the Player shall at once be sent to The Association who will cancel the registration.

C2.11.4 When an agreement has been determined by mutual consent the Player shall not be permitted to re-register for the original Club within three months at the date of determination except with the written consent of The Association.

C2.11.5 The Association has power to cancel the registration of a Player at any time upon application of the Player or the Player's Club. In the event of a Club ceasing to be a member of a league within the National League System, other than by reason of promotion, relegation or expulsion, as set out in Regulation 4 of the National League System, all contract Players and scholars of the that Club may from the date of cessation elect to terminate their registration with that Club by advising them and The Association in writing of their intention.

The Association shall provide to such Players and scholars written confirmation that their registration has been terminated, which shall stipulate the date on which such termination takes effect.

From that stipulated effective date of termination, such Players and scholars shall be free agents and may sign for another Club without a transfer fee becoming payable to the former Club.

C2.12 *Termination of Agreement*

Where an agreement between Club and Player in any league or other Competition provides for either the Club or Player terminating by 14 days' notice, the following practice shall prevail:

C2.12.1 a Club or Player has the right to appeal to the management committee of the appropriate league or other Competition and a further right of appeal to the appeals committee of that body;

C2.12.2 a Club, on giving 14 days' notice to a Player to terminate the agreement, must state in the notice the name and address of the secretary of the appropriate league or Competition to which the Player may appeal, and must at the same time give notice to the league or Competition of which the Club is a member;

C2.12.3 a Player, on giving 14 days' notice to a Club to terminate the agreement,

must at the same time give notice to the league or Competition of which the Club is a member.

C2.12.4 the notice terminating the agreement must inform the Club or Player of the grounds for such notice;

C2.12.5 a copy of the notice sent to the Club or Player must at the same time be forwarded to The Association;

C2.12.6 either Club or Player shall have the right of appeal to the league or other Competition, but such appeal must be made within seven days of the receipt of a notice; and the management committee must hear such appeal within 14 days of receipt of the notice of appeal;

C2.12.7 if either party is dissatisfied with the decision, there shall be a further right of appeal to the appeals committee of the appropriate league or other Competition but such appeal must be made within seven days of the receipt of the decision of the management committee, and must be heard by the appeals committee within 14 days of the receipt of the notice of appeal;

C2.12.8 the appropriate league or other Competition must report to The Association when the matter is finally determined, and the agreement and registration shall be cancelled by The Association where necessary;

C2.12.9 agreements between Clubs and Players shall contain a clause showing the provisions made for dealing with such disputes and for the cancelling of the agreements and registration by The Association; and

C2.12.10 Clubs belonging to any league or other Competition may make similar regulations which provide for a right of appeal by either party to the Affiliated Association or to The Association.

C2.13 *Disciplinary Suspension*

C2.13.1 In the case of breach by a Player of the training or disciplinary rules or orders of the Club, a Club not wishing to use the larger powers contained in Rule C2.12 shall have the right to suspend such Player for a period not exceeding 14 days or impose a fine not exceeding two weeks' wages and shall state whether or not the Player shall receive his basic wage during the period that the Player is ordered not to attend at the Club.

C2.13.2 The Club shall, within two days, notify The Association and the league(s) in which the Club's first team competes of such suspension or fine.

C2.13.3 Within seven days of receipt of such notice of a fine or suspension the Player has the right to lodge an appeal to the management committee of the more senior league of which the Club is a member who shall hear the appeal within 14 days of receipt of the notice of appeal.

C2.13.4 If either the Club or Player is dissatisfied with the decision of the league each is entitled to appeal to a League Appeals Committee within seven days of receipt of the decision, and be heard within 14 days of receipt of the notice of further appeal. The Player may request that an appeal made in accordance with this Rule shall be dealt with at a personal hearing.

C2.13.5 In any event the suspension or fine shall not operate as a termination or cancellation of the agreement between the Club and Player.

C2.14 *Re-engagement of Players*

C2.14.1 A Player under written contract with a Club who is seeking re-engagement may enter into a new agreement with, and again be registered for, the Club at any time.

C2.14.2 Until the existing agreement or any renewal of it has terminated:

(a) a Player may not enter into any agreement with any other Club in membership with The Association, or an Affiliated Association, or of any other national football association; and

(b) the Player may not be approached by any other Club, or Club Official of any other Club, or any person with a view to inducing the Player to leave the Club for which the Player is registered, except with the written permission of that Club.

C2.14.3 If, by the time specified for such notice to be served, the Player has not received notice exercising an option or offering a further re-engagement under paragraph C2.10 of this Rule, the Player is free to make such enquiries or approaches as thought fit to secure employment when the agreement or renewal of it terminates.

C2.14.4 A Player under suspension may be re-signed by the Club, or any option conferred on the Club may be exercised, subject to the terms of the suspension.

C2.14.5 In the event of a Player registered with a Club in membership with the Premier League or the EFL being offered re-engagement terms in accordance with the regulations of the appropriate league but wishing to accept an engagement as a Player with a Club not in membership with either league, and the Clubs not being able to reach agreement on the payment of a compensation fee, providing the Club concerned has complied with the appropriate league's regulations relating to right to a compensation fee, such compensation fee shall be determined by an appeals committee comprising one nominated representative of each of The Association (who shall act as chairman), the Premier League or the EFL, the Professional Footballers' Association and the other league involved.

C2.14.6 In the event of a Player registered with a Club not in membership of the Premier League or the EFL not having accepted re-engagement terms in accordance with the Rules C2.10.3 to C2.10.15 inclusive and having negotiated terms with another Club, and the Clubs not being able to reach agreement on the payment of a compensation fee, then provided the Club holding the Player's registration has complied with the Rules, such compensation fee shall be determined by an appeals committee comprising one nominated representative of each of The Association (who shall act as chairman), the Professional Footballers' Association and the appropriate league or leagues involved. Where one or both clubs are members of the Football Association of Wales, a representative of that Association shall be entitled to sit on the appeals committee.

Where the compensation fee requested by either party is less than £3,000, such appeals committee may, in using its discretion, make a determination on the basis of written submissions alone.

C2.14.7 When a case is referred to an appeals committee as referred to in this Rule C.14, it will be necessary for both Clubs involved to pay before adjudication a non returnable administration fee of three hundred pounds (£300).

C2.15 *GBEs*

C2.15.1 Clubs and Overseas Players must comply with the PBS in respect of all Overseas Players.

C2.15.2 Overseas Players can register for a Club but cannot undertake any employment duties for the Club until they have obtained a GBE and been assigned a Certificate of Sponsorship by that Club in accordance with the PBS.

PLAYERS WITHOUT WRITTEN CONTRACTS

C3 C3.1 *Regulations Concerning Approaches*

Players who are not under written contract to a Club may be registered with a number of Clubs at any time, subject to the following provisions and those of the Competitions in which they play:

C3.1.1 Competitions sanctioned by The Association under regulation 3 of the "Regulations for the Sanction and Control of Competitions" may make their own regulations for the approach of Players between Clubs of the Competition;

C3.1.2 during the current season any Club wishing to approach a Player known to be registered with or having played for any other Club must give to the secretary of each such Club, seven days' formal written notice of the intention to approach the Player;

Formal written notice of approach need be given by:

(a) a Saturday Club only to all Saturday Clubs;

(b) a Sunday Club only to all Sunday Clubs; and

(c) a midweek Club only to all midweek Clubs;

C3.1.4 following the date of posting of the written notice of approach, or receipt of an acknowledgement:

(a) the Player may be registered on or after the eighth day; and

(b) the Player must have been registered on or before the 21st day;

C3.1.5 the approaching Club: (a) may not approach the same Player a second time in the same playing season; (b) may approach only one (1) Player at a Club at any time subject to Rule C3.1.9 below; and (c) may not approach another Player at the same Club within 28 days of an earlier notice of approach or acknowledgement;

C3.1.6 if an approach is made by a Player to another Club during the current season, that Club shall give the Club(s), for which the Player is known to be registered or has played, seven days' notice of approach as set out in Rule C3.1.1 to C3.1.5 above before registering the Player;

C3.1.7 a Club which is the subject of a complaint alleging failure to give notice in accordance with this Rule may be subject to a charge of Misconduct pursuant to Rule E1.2;

C3.1.8 a Club proved to have breached the provisions of this Rule may have its current registration of the Player cancelled and be subject to such other penalty as The Association or appropriate Affiliated Association deems appropriate, in accordance with relevant regulations of The Association from time to time in force; and

C3.1.9 during the current season a maximum of two Players may be approached in the manner described above if invited to trial at a licensed academy or "Centre of Excellence" of The Association, the Premier League or the EFL.

C3.2 *Conditions*

C3.2.1 All payments made to Players must be made by the Club and fully recorded in the accounting records of the Club.

C3.2.2 All salaried payments must be subject to PAYE and National Insurance.

C3.2.3 Any Player's paid expenses must be reimbursed via an expense claim form. The Club must retain all expense records in a format acceptable to the HM Revenue and Customs.

C3.2.4 A currently registered Player shall not be allowed to register with another Club without first satisfying the Club Officials of the intended Club that all reasonable financial and other liabilities have been discharged to the Club or Clubs with which the Player is or was known to be registered in the current and previous playing seasons.

C3.2.5 A Player approached on or after 1st May in the current season may not play in competitive football for the Club making the approach until the commencement of the following season.

C3.3 *Service Players*

While serving in any branch of Her Majesty's Regular Forces, a Player may not hold a contract of employment with any Club under the jurisdiction of The Association and/or an Affiliated Association.

SCHOLARSHIPS

C4 C4.1 Scholarships

C4.1.1 A Player may be registered as a scholar on terms that shall be as determined under relevant league rules from time to time or the following provisions. On or after the 1st January in the year in which he attains the age of 14 years and in any event on or before the 1st March in his Under 16 year, a Club may offer to enter into a Scholarship Agreement with a student whose registration it holds. The registration of a Player on a Scholarship shall be made on Form "G(4)" (in such form as shall be published by The Association from time to time). Each form, after completion of all particulars, including dates and signatures, must be signed at the same time by the Player on a Scholarship and by a parent or guardian and returned to The Association within five days of such signatures accompanied by a copy of the agreement entered into by the Club and the Player on a Scholarship and also a copy of the birth certificate.

C4.1.2 On or after a Player on a Scholarship's 17th birthday, the Player may remain on a Scholarship or may sign as a Player under written contract subject to the regulations of the league or combination of which the Club is a member, and to the Rules with reference to Players under written contract.

C4.1.3 A Player on a Scholarship shall not play for a Club until such Club registering the Player has received acknowledgement of the registration from The Association.

The Association will from time to time publish the names of Players registered on Scholarships.

C4.1.4 Neither a Club nor any person shall induce or attempt to induce such a Player on a Scholarship to leave the Club for which the Player is registered.

C4.1.5 A Player who is registered on a Scholarship may play for another Club (provided that such Club participates in one of the Premier League, EFL, or Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System), subject to first obtaining the written authorisation of all of the following:

- the Club holding the Player's registration; and
- the Competition of which the Player's Club is a member; and
- the Competition of the Club for which the Player will play.

In addition, copies of all written authorisations must be received by The Association and the Player is not permitted to play for the other Club until The Association has confirmed to that Club that the Player is authorised to play.

C4.1.6 If a Player on a Scholarship wishes to become a Player under written contract, the Club for which the Player was registered on a Scholarship shall be entitled to the registration of such Player as a Player under written contract. If the Club does not wish to exercise its entitlement the Player shall be free to register for any other Club.

C4.1.7 The provisions of Rules C2.12 and C2.13 shall apply in the case of Players on a Scholarship.

AGE GROUPS AND PROVISIONS RELATING TO PLAYERS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

C5 C5.1 **CHILDREN NOT REGISTERED AS ACADEMY PLAYERS.**

The following provisions apply to any child not registered as an Academy Player. All matches must be played in accordance with the correct version of the Laws of the Game appropriate for the format specified:

C5.1.1 *Children Under 6 Years Old*

A child who has not attained the age of six shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match of any kind.

C5.1.2 *Children 6 Years Old and Over – Age Groups, Formats and Related Provisions*

For the purposes of (a) and (b) below,

(a) The relevant age for each player is determined by his or her age as at midnight on 31 August of the relevant playing season.

i.e. Children who are aged 6 as at midnight on 31 August in a playing season (together with those who attain the age of 6 during the playing season) will be classed as Under 7 players for that playing season. Children who are aged 7 as at midnight on 31 August in a playing season will be classed as Under 8 players for that playing season, and so on.

(b) Notwithstanding the above, a child is permitted to "play up" in the age group above his or her chronological age group, irrespective of any difference in format or competition structure, save that a child who attains the age of 6 after 31 August is permitted to play only in the Under 7 age group, and may not play in the Under 8 age group for that playing season.

The age groups that children are eligible to play in are set out in the table below, along with the permitted football formats for each of those age groups. Children shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match between sides of more than the stated number of players, according to their age group (please see following page):

AGE ON 31 AUGUST OF THE RELEVANT PLAYING SEASON	ELIGIBLE AGE GROUPS	MAXIMUM PERMITTED FORMAT
6	Under 7	5v5
	Under 8	
7	Under 8	5v5
	Under 9	7v7
8	Under 9	7v7
	Under 10	
9	Under 10	7v7
	Under 11	9v9
10	Under 11	9v9
	Under 12	
11	Under 12	9v9
	Under 13	11v11
12	Under 13	11v11
	Under 14	

13	Under 14	11v11
	Under 15	
14	Under 15	11v11
	Under 16	
15	Under 16	11v11
	Under 17	
	Under 18	
16	Under 17	11v11
	Under 18	

(c) A child under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31 August in a playing season, shall not be permitted to play in a match during that playing season where any other player is older or younger than that child by two years or more.

(d) However as exceptions to (c) above, The Association may in using its discretion:

(i) Enable disabled children to play football in an age group other than the groups dictated by their birth date, including "playing down";

(ii) In accordance with a current FA dispensation policy, grant dispensation to enable a child to play football in an age group other than the groups dictated by their birth date, including "playing down".

(e) To play in an Under 18 competition, a child must have attained the age of 15 as at midnight on 31 August of the relevant playing season.

(f) To play in an open age competition a child must have attained the age of 16.

C5.1.3 *Children 6 Years Old and Over- Competition Structure*

(a) Under 7 and Under 8 Mini-Soccer

Leagues may organise a maximum of three trophy events per season, each to be played over a maximum period of two weeks, and may publish the results of such events. The remainder of the season may consist of organised development fixtures only, for which leagues and clubs may collect the results and compile league tables, but must not publish either.

(b) Under 9 and Under 10 Mini-Soccer

Leagues may organise a maximum of three trophy events per season, each to be played over a maximum period of four weeks, and may publish the results of such events. The remainder of the season may consist of organised development fixtures only, for which leagues and clubs may collect the results and compile league tables but must not publish either.

(c) Under 11

Leagues may organise a maximum of three trophy events per season, each to be played over a maximum period of six weeks, and may publish the results of such events. The remainder of the season may consist of organised development fixtures only, for which leagues and clubs may collect the results and compile league tables but must not publish either.

(d) Under 12 to Under 18

There is no restriction on the structure of competitions.

C5.1.4 *Sanction Provisions*

The written consent of The Association or of the relevant Affiliated Association or Associations shall be required pursuant to Rules B1 and/or B7 as appropriate for any Competition for Under 18 age groups and below.

C5.1.5 *Gender of Players in Under 7 to Under 18 Matches*

A child in the age groups Under 7 to Under 18 inclusive may play in a match involving boys and girls.

C5.1.6 *Disability Football - Gender of Players in Under 17 Matches and above*

In respect of disability football only, and only in accordance with the current dispensation policy, The Association may, in using its discretion, grant dispensation to permit any team playing at Under 17 level or above to field both male and female players in a match.

C5.1.7 *Priority for School Activities*

(a) Priority must at all times be given to school or school organisation's activities in accordance with the recommendations of the "Memorandum: Children of School Age and School Games" whilst a pupil is receiving fulltime education.

(b) All Clubs and Competitions, excluding those whose matches are played on Sundays, shall include in their rules a provision to the effect that the availability of a pupil must be consented to by the head teacher.

C5.2 PLAYERS OF SCHOOL AGE REGISTERED AS ACADEMY PLAYERS

C5.2.1 Players who reach the age of nine years during the academic year and who are in full-time education may register as an Academy Player.

C5.2.2 The licensing authority for Academies shall comprise the PGB which shall operate under such Professional Game Youth Development Rules as shall be adopted from time to time.

C5.2.3 It shall be deemed to be Misconduct for any Club or Club Official to induce any player of school age registered with a separate Club or Academy to leave school for the purpose of signing a contract of employment.

D. INTERNATIONAL AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES AND CALL-UPS

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

D1 A Player selected for an international or other representative team, tour, squad or other call- up arranged by The Association shall attend at the time and place notified to the Player and comply with the arrangements of The Association in every respect, save where there is good and sufficient cause not to do so.

D2 A Club shall do all things necessary to ensure that a Player referred to in Rule D1 above complies with the arrangements of The Association.

D3 Illness or injury shall constitute good and sufficient cause for the purposes of Rule D1 above by where The Association is satisfied, following receipt of medical evidence, that such illness or injury is of sufficient seriousness. The Player shall, in any event, submit to assessment by a medical adviser appointed by The Association.

INTER-AFFILIATED ASSOCIATION MATCHES

D4 In inter-Affiliated Association Matches, a Player must be a bona fide member of a Club in membership of the Association for which the Player plays, but a Player shall always be eligible to play for the County Association of birth. A Player shall not be eligible to play for more than one Affiliated Association in the same season in Inter-Affiliated Competition matches.

E. MISCONDUCT

Save for where otherwise set out in these Rules, procedural matters concerning Misconduct shall be dealt with in accordance with The Association's Disciplinary Regulations.

E1 The Association may act against a Participant in respect of any Misconduct, which is defined as being a breach of the following:

E1.1 the Laws of the Game;

E1.2 the Rules and regulations of The Association and in particular Rules E3 to E28 below;

E1.3 the statutes and regulations of UEFA;

E1.4 the statutes and regulations of FIFA;

E1.5 the rules or regulations of an Affiliated Association or Competition; and

E1.6 an order, requirement, direction or instruction of The Association.

E2 The same facts or matters may constitute a breach of more than one rule, regulation, statute or law referred to above, The Association may bring a charge or such charges as it sees fit.

GENERAL BEHAVIOUR

E3

E3.1 A Participant shall at all times act in the best interests of the game and shall not act in any manner which is improper or brings the game into disrepute or use any one, or a combination of, violent conduct, serious foul play, threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting words or behaviour.

E3.2 A breach of Rule E3.1 is an "Aggravated Breach" where it includes a reference, whether express or implied, to any one or more of the following :- ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, religion or belief, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation or disability.

E3.3 Where an Aggravated Breach of Rule E3.1 is committed in youth football by a Player aged under 12, no disciplinary charge will be brought. In such cases, the Player will be subject to an education programme, the details of which will be provided to the Player by The Association.

E3.4 Where two or more Participants from a Club commit any Aggravated Breach of Rule E3.1 in any twelve month period, regardless of whether any such breach falls within sub-paragraph E3.4, the Club itself will be liable to a sanction imposed by a Regulatory Commission.

DISCRIMINATION

E4 A Participant shall not carry out any act of victimisation as defined in the Equality Act 2010, or any act of discrimination by reason of ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, religion or belief, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, disability, age, pregnancy, maternity, marital status or civil partnership, unless otherwise permitted by law and The Rules or regulations of The Association.

INTEGRITY MATTERS IN RELATION TO MATCHES AND COMPETITIONS

E5

E5.1 A Participant shall not, directly or indirectly, seek to influence for an improper purpose the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of, or occurrence in or in connection with, a football match or competition.

E5.2 A Participant shall not, directly or indirectly, offer, agree to give, give, solicit, agree to accept or accept any bribe, gift or reward or consideration of any nature which is or could appear to be related in any way to:

E5.2.1 that Participant, or any other Participant, failing to perform to the best of their ability; or

E5.2.2 that Participant or any other person (whether a Participant or not), directly or indirectly, seeking to influence for an improper purpose, the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of, or occurrence in or in connection with, a football match or competition.

E6 A Participant shall immediately report to The Association any offer, incidents, facts or matters which are or could appear to be contrary to Rule E5 above,

The terms 'football match' and 'competition' as used in Rule E5 include:

E6.1 any Match or Competition (as appropriate); and

E6.2 any other football match or competition not within those definitions, including but not limited to any football match or competition sanctioned by UEFA, or FIFA, or by any other association, federation or governing body.

TICKETS

E7 A Participant shall not:

E7.1 Sell a ticket for any football match; or

E7.2 Otherwise dispose of such a ticket to another person or entity,

unless he is authorised to do so in writing by the organisers of the match.

BETTING

E8 References to "Participant" in Rule E8 shall be construed in accordance with the following:

Rule E8.4 applies to any Match Official, Match Official coach or Match Official observer operating at Level 4 or below, and any other person who is a Participant by virtue only of their involvement at a Club below Step 4 in the National League System, or at a Club at Steps 3-7 inclusive of the Women's Football Pyramid. Such Participants are not subject to Rule E8.1, E8.2 and E8.3.

All other Participants are subject to Rule E8.1, E8.2 and E8.3 and are not subject to Rule E8.4.

All Participants are subject to Rule E8.5.

E8.1 A Participant shall not bet, either directly or indirectly, or instruct, permit, cause or enable any person to bet on -

E8.1.1 the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of, or occurrence in or in connection with, a football match or competition; or

E8.1.2 any other matter concerning or related to football anywhere in the world, including, for example and without limitation, the transfer of players, employment of managers, team selection or disciplinary matters.

E8.2 Where a Participant provides to any other person any information relating to football which the Participant has obtained by virtue of his or her position within the game and which is not publicly available at that time, the Participant shall be in breach of this Rule where any of that information is used by that other person for, or in relation to, betting.

E8.3 It shall be a defence to a charge brought pursuant to sub-paragraph E8.2 if a Participant can establish, on the balance of probability, that the Participant provided any such information in circumstances where he did not know, and could not reasonably have known, that the information provided would be used by the other person for or in relation to betting.

E8.4 A Participant shall not bet, either directly or indirectly, or instruct, permit, cause or enable any person to bet on –

E8.4.1 the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of, or occurrence in or in connection with, a football match or competition:

(a) in which the Participant is participating, or has participated in that season; or

(b) in which the Participant has any influence, either direct or indirect; or

E8.4.2 any other matter concerning or related to any Club participating in any league Competition, as defined in Rule A2, that the Participant is participating in or has participated in during that season, including, for example and without limitation, the transfer of players, employment of managers, team selection or disciplinary matters.

For these purposes, without limitation to the application of this Rule to other circumstances, all Employees and Officials of a Club are deemed to participate in every football match played by that Club while they are so employed or acting as a Club Official; all Players registered with a Club are deemed to participate in every football match played by that Club while they are so registered.

E8.4.3 Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-paragraph E8.4.1 and E8.4.2 a Participant shall not bet, either directly or indirectly, or instruct, permit, cause or enable any person to bet, on the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of, or occurrence in, any football match played at under 18 level or below.

E8.4.4 A Participant shall not use any information relating to football which the Participant has obtained by virtue of his or her position within the game and which is not publicly available at that time for or in relation to betting.

E8.4.5 Where a Participant provides to any other person any information relating to football which the Participant has obtained by virtue of his or her position within the game and which is not publicly available at that time, the Participant shall be in breach of this Rule where any of that information is used by that other person for or in relation to betting.

E8.4.6 It shall be a defence to a charge brought pursuant to sub-paragraph E8.4.5 if a Participant can establish, on the balance of probability, that the Participant provided any such information in circumstances where he did not know, and could not reasonably have known, that the information provided would be used by the other person for or in relation to betting.

E8.5 An individual Participant, when acting in a personal capacity, shall not be permitted to advertise or promote any betting activity that the Participant is prohibited from engaging in by Rule E8.1, E8.2 or E8.4.

E8.6 An individual Participant, when acting in any capacity, shall not deliberately participate in the production of audio, or audio visual content (for publication on any platform whatsoever) where the conduct and/or words of the Participant could reasonably be considered to be actively encouraging the engagement in betting activity which the Participant is prohibited from engaging in by Rule E8.1, E8.2 or E8.4.

E8.7 A Club shall not instruct, compel, permit, cause, or enable any Participant to be in breach of Rule E8.6.

ATTEMPTS AND AGREEMENTS TO BREACH

E9 An attempt by a Participant or any agreement with any other person (whether or not a Participant) to act in breach of any provision contained in these Rules shall be treated for the purposes of these Rules as if a breach of the relevant provisions had been committed.

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISIONS, INCLUDING SUSPENSIONS

E10 Each Participant shall comply with a decision made pursuant to the Rules and regulations of The Association.

E11 A Participant shall not participate in any activity with another Participant suspended from carrying out such activity.

E12 A Club shall do all things necessary to ensure that a Player associated with it complies with a penalty or order imposed pursuant to the Rules and regulations of The Association.

E13 An Affiliated Association, Competition, or Club shall not appoint to any position, or allow to continue in such position, any individual who has been suspended from holding such position.

REPORTING MISCONDUCT

E14 A Participant shall immediately report to The Association any incident, facts or matters which may constitute Misconduct. This shall include (but not be limited to) any incident, facts or matters which may:

E14.1 Constitute a potential or actual breach of The Association's Safeguarding Children Regulations and/or Adults at Risk Regulations; or

E14.2 Relate to an approach made to a Participant by any person, whether or not that person is a Participant, in relation to betting on football contrary to FA Rules.

For the purposes of this Rule, a report to an Affiliated Association shall constitute a report to The Association.

E15 A report to The Association of any incidents, facts or matters shall not be made for vexatious or frivolous reasons.

INTERIM SUSPENSION ORDERS

The provisions below are without prejudice to any powers of The Association to order interim suspensions, or other interim measures, in accordance with any regulations in force from time to time.

E16

Suspension before charge

E16.1 Prior to a charge being brought, a Regulatory Commission shall have the power to issue an Interim Suspension Order in relation to a Participant associated with a Club in the Premier League, the EFL, The National League, Isthmian League, Northern Premier League, Southern League or The FA Women's Super League for such period and on such terms and conditions as the Regulatory Commission considers fit where:

E16.1.1 the Participant is under investigation for an alleged breach of, or an attempt or agreement to breach, FA Rule E5 and / or E8, or of rules or regulations of the Premier League, the EFL, The National League, Isthmian League, Northern Premier League or Southern League, UEFA or FIFA, or any alleged criminal offence which may involve such an alleged breach or attempt or agreement to breach, and has not been charged by The Association or other relevant authority; and

E16.1.2 The Association, The Professional Footballer's Association (in the case of a Player who is a PFA member), and the relevant league have each agreed to an application being made to the Regulatory Commission for an Interim Suspension Order.

E16.2 An application made for an Interim Suspension Order pursuant to Rule E16.1 shall proceed in accordance with the Interim Suspension Order Regulations.

Grounds

E16.3 A Regulatory Commission may only issue an Interim Suspension Order pursuant to sub-paragraph E16.1 where it is satisfied that the serious nature and / or factual circumstances of the allegation(s) under investigation are such that the Participant's

continued participation in football presents a real risk that either:

E16.3.1 the integrity of football would be affected; and / or

E16.3.2 the public's confidence in the integrity of football would be affected;

to such an extent that either or both of these factors outweigh(s) the Participant's interest in continued participation in football.

Suspension after charge

E16.4 The Association, acting by the Chief Regulatory Officer or his or her nominee, shall have the power to issue an Interim Suspension Order in relation to a Participant associated with a Club in the Premier League, the EFL or The National League, Isthmian League, Northern Premier League, Southern League or The FA Women's Super League for such period and on such terms and conditions as The Association considers fit where:

E16.4.1 The Participant has been charged by The Association, the Premier League, the EFL, National League, UEFA or FIFA in relation to any alleged act of Misconduct, or with any criminal offence; and

E16.4.2 The Association, the Professional Footballers' Association (in the case of a Player who is a PFA member), and the relevant league have each agreed to the Interim Suspension Order.

Periodic review

E16.5 A Participant subject to an Interim Suspension Order imposed pursuant to either Rule E16.1 or E16.4 shall be entitled to have the Order reviewed by a Regulatory Commission. Such review shall proceed in accordance with the Interim Suspension Order Regulations.

E17 An Interim Suspension Order shall not last beyond the date upon which the related investigation or charge(s) of Misconduct or criminal offence or other disciplinary proceedings is / are decided or brought to an end.

E18 Notification of any Interim Suspension Order issued shall be given as soon as reasonably practicable to the individual concerned and/or the Club with which the individual is associated.

ATTENDANCE AT AND PARTICIPATION IN MATCHES

E19 An individual may take part in or attend at a Match only on condition that such individual observes the Rules, and each Affiliated Association, Competition and Club is required to observe and enforce such Rules.

E20 Each Affiliated Association, Competition and Club shall be responsible for ensuring:

E20.1 that its directors, players, officials, employees, servants, representatives, spectators, and all persons purporting to be its supporters or followers, conduct themselves in an orderly fashion and refrain from any one or combination of the following: improper, violent, threatening, abusive, indecent, insulting or provocative words or behaviour, (including, without limitation, where any such conduct, words or behaviour includes a reference, whether express or implied, to any one or more of ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, religion or belief, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation or disability) whilst attending at or taking part in a Match in which it is involved, whether on its own ground or elsewhere; and

E20.2 that no spectators or unauthorised persons are permitted to encroach onto the pitch area, save for reasons of crowd safety, or to throw missiles, bottles or other potentially harmful or dangerous objects at or on to the pitch.

E21 Any Affiliated Association, Competition or Club which fails effectively to discharge its said responsibility in any respect whatsoever shall be guilty of Misconduct. It shall be a defence in respect of charges against a Club for Misconduct by spectators and all persons purporting to be supporters or followers of the Club, if it can show that all events, incidents or occurrences complained of were the result of circumstances over which it had no control, or for reasons of crowd safety, and that its responsible officers or agents had used all due diligence to ensure that

its said responsibility was discharged.

This defence shall not apply where the Misconduct by spectators or any other person purporting to be a supporter or follower of the Club included a reference, whether express or implied, to any one or more of ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, religion or belief, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation or disability.

E22 Any individual referred to in Rule E20 above may be removed from any ground, and such force used as may be necessary for the purpose of effecting such removal.

E23 Each Club is expected to provide a private way from the playing area to dressing room wherever this is practicable.

E24 Each Club shall have bills printed and posted in their grounds, threatening with expulsion anyone responsible for any insulting or improper conduct towards a Match Official.

ANTI-DOPING

E25 A Participant shall comply with the provisions of any anti-doping regulations and any social drugs regulations of The Association from time to time in force.

SUSPENSION FOR SERIOUS CRIMINAL OFFENCES

E26 Council shall have the power to order that a Participant be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it considers fit where the Participant has been convicted of a criminal offence and where Council considers there to be a risk of physical harm to another Participant or Participants through the convicted Participant's continuing participation in the game.

F. POWERS OF INQUIRY

POWERS OF INQUIRY OF THE ASSOCIATION

F1 The Association shall have the power to monitor the compliance by each Participant with the Rules, the Laws of the Game, the statutes and regulations of FIFA and UEFA and the rules and regulations of each Affiliated Association and Competition to which a Participant is subject and/or inquire into any incident, facts or matters which may constitute misconduct under these Rules. It is for The Association to determine in its absolute discretion the manner in which it conducts an inquiry.

F2 In carrying out its functions under Rule F1, The Association shall have the power to require of any Participant upon reasonable notice:

F2.1 his or her attendance to answer questions and provide information at a time and place determined by The Association; and

F2.2 the provision to The Association of documents, information or any other material of any nature held by the Participant; and

F2.3 the procurement and provision to The Association of documents, information or any other material of any nature not held by the Participant but which the Participant has the power to obtain.

It is for The Association to determine the nature and extent of any material required for disclosure in accordance with F2.2 or F2.3.

Where a Participant is interviewed by The Association pursuant to sub-paragraph F2.1 above, such interview may be recorded by any method determined by The Association in its absolute discretion to be appropriate, including tape-recording.

A copy of any such recording shall be provided to the Participant as soon as practicable after the interview.

F3 Any failure by a Participant to comply with any requirement under Rule F2 may constitute Misconduct under the Rules and The Association may bring a charge or such charges as it sees fit.

F4 Each Affiliated Association, Competition, or Club shall ensure the compliance by its officials, directors, players, representatives or servants with a requirement to answer questions and provide information and/or produce any one or a combination of documents, information or other material in whatever form held.

F5 In carrying out its functions under Rule F1, The Association may request any person who is not a Participant to assist it by producing any one or a combination of documents, information or other material in whatever form held and/or answering questions and providing information.

F6 The powers of The Association, as set out in Rules F1 to F5 above, shall be exercised on the authority of Council as it sees fit.

F7 The Association may share information that it holds about any Participant with a public body (including, but not limited to, UK Anti-Doping, WADA and the Gambling Commission) sports governing body or competition organiser (including, but not limited to, UEFA and FIFA), where The Association reasonably considers such sharing is necessary in order to -

F7.1 carry out its functions under Rule F1; and / or

F7.2 protect the integrity of football or sport generally.

The Association will ensure that any sharing of information is carried out in accordance with data protection law.

F8 Save in respect of any matter to be dealt with under Rules F1 to F5 above, a commission of inquiry may be appointed by the chairman of the Football Regulatory Authority from time to time (or, in his or her absence, the deputy chairman of the Football Regulatory Authority) as it sees fit and may consist of such persons and have such terms of reference as are considered appropriate. The terms of reference of the commission of inquiry may be published at the time of its appointment. The terms of reference may relate to any matter connected with the affairs of The Association.

F9 A commission of inquiry may adopt such procedures as it considers appropriate; and shall have the same powers as set out under Rules F2, 4 and 5 above.

F10 A commission of inquiry shall present a report to the chairman of the Football Regulatory Authority (or, in his or her absence, the deputy chairman of the Football Regulatory Authority).

The chairman of the Football Regulatory Authority from time to time (or, in his or her absence, the deputy chairman of the Football Regulatory Authority) may publish a report in any way considered appropriate, subject to law or statute, and taking into account matters of confidentiality and/or commercial sensitivity.

G. DISCIPLINARY POWERS

JURISDICTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

G1 Misconduct under Rule E1.1 shall be dealt with by The Association, or an Affiliated Association on its behalf, notwithstanding that the alleged breach may constitute Misconduct under the rules and regulations of an Affiliated Association or Competition.

G2 The Association shall have the power to take disciplinary action in all cases where facts or matters give rise to alleged Misconduct under Rule E1.2 to E1.6 inclusive and these powers of The Association shall be exercised on the authority of Council as it sees fit.

G3 Facts or matters giving rise to alleged Misconduct under Rule E1.2 to E1.6 inclusive, which also give rise to an alleged breach of the rules and/or regulations of:

G3.1 the Premier League or the EFL, may be dealt with by The Association under the Rules and regulations of The Association, unless The Association and either the Premier League or the EFL as appropriate, agree that either league shall act; or

G3.2 a Competition other than those referred to at Rule G3.1 above, shall be dealt with by the Competition having jurisdiction under its rules and regulations, unless The Association and/or an Affiliated Association acts. A Competition shall not act before The Association or Affiliated Association acts.

G4 The power to impose a penalty or other order for Misconduct shall be exercised on the authority of Council as it sees fit. The power to impose an interim or provisional suspension order where possible Misconduct is alleged or under investigation shall be exercised on the authority of Council as it sees fit.

H. APPEALS TO AN APPEAL BOARD

H1 There shall be a right of appeal to an Appeal Board under the Rules and regulations of The Association only where the Rules and regulations of The Association expressly provide for such an appeal or in any other case where The Association, acting by the Chief Executive Officer (or his or her nominee), agrees to an appeal taking place.

H2 There shall be no right of appeal to an Appeal Board under the Rules and regulations of The Association where an appeal has been heard by the Premier League, or the EFL, or an Affiliated Association in respect of a decision of a Competition, or in respect of decisions arising out of competitions of Affiliated Associations where the rules and regulations provide that such decisions are final.

H3 An Appeal may be made only by:

H3.1 the person or body who is the subject of the original decision appealed against;

H3.2 The Association; or

H3.3 in respect of certain decisions made under and prescribed by the Anti-Doping Regulations, FIFA, WADA, or the NADO.

H4 An appeal shall be dealt with under the relevant regulations of The Association from time to time in force.

I. FINANCIAL RECORDS

I1 I1.1 *Records to be Kept*

An Affiliated Association, Competition or Club shall keep accounting records for recording the fact and nature of all payments and receipts so as to disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position including the assets and liabilities of the Affiliated Association, Competition or Club.

I1.2 *Records to be Retained*

An Affiliated Association, Competition or Club must retain accounting records for six years.

I1.3 *Corporate Bodies and Charitable Bodies – Accounts*

An Affiliated Association, Competition or Club which is formed and registered under the 2006 Act, the Cooperative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 or is registered as a charity or charitable incorporated organisation with the Charity Commission shall, on demand, forward to The Association a copy of its annual accounts most recently approved by its board of directors. Such accounts must be prepared and reported on in accordance with any legal and any other applicable regulatory requirements.

An affiliated Association, Competition or Club is required to file a set of annual accounts with any applicable Regulator (e.g the Registrar of Companies) within the period available for delivering such accounts in accordance with any applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

If the Affiliated Association, Competition or Club is a Subsidiary Undertaking, then the annual accounts of any Group of which it is a member most recently approved by its board of directors shall also on demand be forwarded to The Association.

I1.4 *Unincorporated Bodies – Financial Statements*

An Affiliated Association, Competition or Club which does not prepare annual accounts in accordance with Rule I1.3 or Rule I1.5 shall prepare annual accounts that must:

I1.4.1 include a profit and loss account and balance sheet;

I1.4.2 be forwarded to The Association on demand;

I1.4.3 be prepared within nine months of the accounting period end of the Affiliated Association, Competition or Club; and

I1.4.4 be prepared, approved and reported on in accordance with the constitution of the Affiliated Association, Competition or Club and any applicable regulatory or legal requirements.

I1.5 *Bodies Required to Prepare only a Receipts and Payments Statement*

An Affiliated Association, Competition or Club that is not a member of the Premier League, the EFL, The National League, the Isthmian League, the Northern Premier League or the Southern League and is not a Full Member or Associate Member of The Association and does not own gross assets exceeding ten thousand pounds, and is not required to prepare accounts under the provisions of Rules I1.3 or I1.4 must as a minimum prepare an annual Receipts and Payments Statement in a form acceptable to The Association.

Such a Receipts and Payments Statement must be prepared within nine months of the accounting period end of the Affiliated Association, Competition or Club and must be approved by its executive committee.

A copy of any Receipts and Payments Statement shall, on demand, be forwarded to The Association or relevant Affiliated Association.

I1.6 *Errors and Omissions to be Reported*

Any material errors or omissions in the accounting records of an Affiliated Association, Competition or Club must be reported by such body to The Association or, in the case of a Competition not sanctioned by The Association, or a Club not being a Full Member Club nor an Associate Member Club, to the relevant Affiliated Association.

I1.7 *Documentation of Loans Made to a Club*

All loans extended to a Club should be documented. Copies of the documentation should be retained by the Club. The loan document should include the following information:

I1.7.1 the value of the loan;

I1.7.2 the length of the loan;

I1.7.2 the interest rate charged, and whether this is fixed or variable;

I1.7.3 repayment terms;

I1.7.5 the full names of the individual or corporate body extending the loan; and

I1.7.6 the terms in the event of a default on the loan, and the document should be signed by two Club Officials or Management Committee Members who are independent of the party extending the loan

I1.8 *Gate Records to be Kept by Clubs*

When a Club charges for admission to a match, it is necessary for that Club to have a system that enables them to:

I1.8.1 record the full gate receipts for each Match;

I1.8.2 account for the full gate receipts in the Club's accounting records and bank account; and

I1.8.3 accurately record the number of entrants into the ground for each Match. The Club should retain documentation supporting this system for six years.

PROVISIONS RELATING TO CLUBS

I2 I2.1 *Form of Clubs*

A Club must not be a sole trader and must have Articles of Association, rules or other form of written constitution in a form acceptable to The Association that as a minimum is capable of complying with the following provisions.

I2.2 *General Provisions*

A Club shall include the following provisions in its Articles of Association (where a corporate body) or Club rules (where an unincorporated association):

I2.2.1 "The members and the directors of the company shall so exercise their rights, powers and duties and shall where appropriate use their best endeavours to ensure that others conduct themselves so that the business and affairs of the company are carried out in accordance with the Rules and regulations of The Football Association Limited for the time being in force.

I2.2.2 No proposed alteration to the provisions set out herein shall be effective unless the proposed alteration has been approved in writing by The Football Association Limited 14 days or more before the day on which the alteration is proposed to take place.

I2.2.3 The office of (a/an Director/Officer or Official) shall be vacated if such person is subject to a decision of The Football Association Limited that such person be suspended from holding office or from taking part in any football activity relating to the administration or management of a football club."

I2.3 *Club Companies – Winding Up Provisions*

A Club which is incorporated under the 2006 Act shall have the following provisions in its Articles of Association:

"On the winding-up of the Company the surplus assets shall be applied, first, in repaying the Members the amount paid on their shares respectively. If such assets are insufficient to repay the said amount in full, they shall be applied rateably, so that the loss shall fall upon the Members in proportion to the amount called up on their shares respectively. No Member shall be entitled to have any call upon other Members for the purpose of adjusting the Members' rights; but where any call has been made and has been paid by some of the Members such call be enforced against the remaining Members for the purpose of adjusting the rights of the Members between themselves.

If the surplus assets shall be more than sufficient to pay to the Members the whole amount paid upon their shares, the balance shall be given by the Members of the Club, at or before the time of dissolution as they shall direct, to The Football Association Benevolent Fund, or to some Club or Institute in the [here insert the name of the appropriate city or county] having objects similar to those set out in the Memorandum of Association or to any local charity, or charitable or benevolent institution situate within the said [here insert the name of the appropriate city or county].

In default of any such decision or apportionment by the Members of the Club, the same to be decided upon and apportioned by a Judge of the High Court of Justice having jurisdiction in such winding-up or dissolution and as he shall determine.

Alternatively such balance may be disposed of in such other manner as the Members of the Club may, with the written consent of The Football Association Limited, determine."

Where a Club is registered as a Community Interest Company under the 2006 Act or as a registered society under the Cooperative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, it shall include all of the above provisions in its Articles of Association or rules. Should these

provisions not be acceptable to the relevant Regulator, any proposed variation from the above provisions must receive prior written approval from The Association. The Association will consider any such variations on a case by case basis.

I2.4 *Unincorporated Clubs – Winding Up Procedures*

A Club which is an unincorporated association shall have the following provisions in its Rules:

"Any surplus assets remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Club shall be transferred to another Club, Competition, Parent Association or The Association for use by them for related community sports".

I2.5 *Notifiable Changes*

A Club shall not alter its constitution or make a material change to its financial structure without prior notification to The Association or if not a Full or Associate Member Club then the Parent Association of the Club. Any new entity shall be deemed, for the purposes of playing status in a Competition, to be a new Club.

For the purposes of this Rule, an alteration in constitution or material change in financial structure shall include such as winding-up of a Club, incorporation of an unincorporated Club, an agreement by which all the assets and goodwill of the Club are sold or transferred, entry into compulsory or voluntary liquidation, the convening of a meeting of creditors or the appointment of a receiver, administrative receiver, manager or administrator or if the Club ceases for any reason to carry on business or becomes a Parent Undertaking or Subsidiary Undertaking.

CLUB BANK ACCOUNTS

I3 Each Club must submit to The Association an authority signed by two directors (or two authorised signatories where the Club is not a limited company) in respect of a specified bank account, to be registered with a Financial Institution in the name of and controlled by the Club, from which The Association shall receive, and into which The Association shall pay, monies in accordance with and subject to these Rules.

If the Club has assigned its entitlement to such monies or any part of them, payment will be made by The Association as directed in the assignment. For the avoidance of doubt such assignment will only be permitted if it is in accordance with The FA Third Party Interest Regulations, in particular Regulation B relating to Permitted Club Agreements (as defined under those Regulations).

J. RULES, REGULATIONS AND LAWS OF THE GAME

J1 J1.1 *Alterations to Rules*

Subject to any procedural provisions as set out in the Articles, The Association may make alterations to these Rules as and when considered necessary, so as to conform to any alterations to the Memorandum of Association of The Association or the Articles.

J1.2 *Forms*

The Association shall settle the forms required by these Rules from time to time.

J1.3 *Rules and Regulations*

J1.3.1 The Association shall have the power to make or alter such regulations as are deemed necessary to provide for matters arising from or to implement these Rules in so far as any such regulation is not in conflict with any Rule.

J1.3.2 Affiliated Associations and Clubs in membership with The Association and/or an Affiliated Association, as well as all other Participants, shall be deemed to have knowledge of and be bound by the said Rule or regulation if the same shall have been published by The Association, the production of which shall constitute at all times undisputed proof of the validity of such Rule or regulation.

J1.4 *Regulations Concerning Cup Competitions and Match Officials*

The Association is authorised to make such regulations with reference to "Cup Competitions" and Match Officials, as it may deem expedient.

J1.5 *Laws of the Game*

The Laws of the Game as amended at a meeting of the International Football Association Board in each calendar year shall come into force on such a date as is directed by the International Football Association Board.

J1.6 *Owners and Directors*

A Participant shall comply with the provisions of any regulations relating to "Owners and Directors" as shall be in force from time to time as determined by The Association.

J1.7 *Safeguarding Children*

A Participant shall abide by any regulations for safeguarding children as determined by The Association from time to time.

ADVERTISING ON PLAYER'S CLOTHING

J2 Advertising on Player's wearing apparel is permitted providing such advertising complies with relevant regulations as determined by The Association from time to time in force.

MIXED FOOTBALL

J3 Players in a Match must be of the same gender save for matches in a playing season in the age groups Under 7 to Under 18 inclusive (as defined at Rule C).

K. ARBITRATION

AGREEMENT TO ARBITRATION

K1 K1.1 Subject to Rule K1.2, K1.3 and K1.4 below, any dispute or difference between any two or more Participants (which shall include, for the purposes of this section of the Rules, The Association) including but not limited to a dispute arising out of or in connection with (including any question regarding the existence or validity of):

K1.1.1 the Rules and regulations of The Association which are in force from time to time;

K1.1.2 the rules and regulations of an Affiliated Association or Competition which are in force from time to time;

K1.1.3 the statutes and regulations of FIFA and UEFA which are in force from time to time; or

K1.1.4 the Laws of the Game,

shall be referred to and finally resolved by arbitration under these Rules.

K1.2 No arbitration shall be commenced under these Rules unless and until the party or parties wishing to commence an arbitration under these Rules (the "Claimant(s)") has exhausted all applicable rights of appeal pursuant to the Rules and regulations of The Association.

K1.3 Rule K1.1 shall not apply to any dispute or difference which falls to be resolved pursuant to any rules from time to time in force of any Affiliated Association or Competition.

K1.4 Rule K1.1 shall not operate to provide an appeal against the decision of a Regulatory Commission or an Appeal Board under the Rules and shall operate only as the forum and procedure for a challenge to the validity of such decision under English law on the grounds of ultra vires (including error of law), irrationality or procedural unfairness, with the Tribunal exercising a supervisory jurisdiction.

K1.5 The parties agree that the powers of the court under Sections 44, 45 and 69 of the Arbitration Act 1996 are excluded and shall not apply to any arbitration commenced under these Rules.

COMMENCEMENT OF ARBITRATION

K2 K2.1 In order to commence an arbitration under these Rules the Claimant(s) shall serve on the other party or parties to the dispute (the "Respondent(s)") a written notice of arbitration (the "Notice of Arbitration") which shall set out:

K2.1.1 the names and addresses of the parties to the arbitration;

K2.1.2 a brief statement describing the nature and circumstances of the dispute and specifying the relief claimed;

K2.1.3 any proposals in relation to the procedures for the arbitration including any proposed variation of the Standard Directions set out under Rule K4.2 below; and either

K2.1.4 a proposal that a single arbitrator be appointed; or

K2.1.5 the name and address of the Claimant(s)'s appointed arbitrator (between them if more than one), who must have confirmed to the Claimant(s) his or her willingness and availability to accept the appointment.

K2.2 Within 14 days of service of the Notice of Arbitration, the Respondent(s) shall each serve on the Claimant(s) and any other Respondent(s) a response to the Notice of Arbitration (the "Response(s)") which shall set out:

K2.2.1 an admission or denial of all or part of the claims set out in the Notice of Arbitration;

K2.2.2 a brief statement of the nature and circumstances of the Respondent(s)'s denial, if any, and of the nature and circumstances of any counterclaim;

K2.2.3 a response to any proposals made by the Claimant in the Notice of Arbitration in relation to the procedures for the arbitration, together with any proposals that the Respondent(s) may have;

K2.2.4 a response to any proposal made by the Claimant that a single arbitrator be appointed, stating whether or not that proposal is agreed to;

K2.2.5 where either the Respondent does not agree to a proposal made by the Claimant that a single arbitrator be appointed, or where no such proposal is made, the name and address of the Respondent(s)'s appointment to act as appointed arbitrator (between them if more than one), who must have confirmed to the Respondent(s) his or her willingness and availability to accept the appointment.

K2.3 Where the Claimant(s) proposes that a single arbitrator be appointed in accordance with Rule K2.1.4 and this is not agreed to by the Respondent in the Response, the Claimant(s) shall have a further 7 (seven) days from receipt of the Response to notify the Respondent in writing of the name and address of the Claimant(s)'s appointed arbitrator (agreed between them if more than one), who must have confirmed to the Claimant(s) his or her willingness and availability to accept the appointment.

K2.4 Where the parties agree to the appointment of a sole arbitrator, the parties shall, within 14 days of service of the Response(s) agree the identity of the sole arbitrator. Where the parties cannot agree on the identity of the sole arbitrator within 14 days of service of the Response(s):

K2.4.1 in a dispute to which The Association is not a party, the Chairman of the FRA or his or her nominee shall appoint the sole arbitrator; or

K2.4.2 in a dispute to which The Association is a party, the President of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators shall appoint the sole arbitrator.

THE TRIBUNAL

K3 K3.1 In these Rules, "Tribunal" means the arbitrator or arbitrators appointed pursuant to these Rules to determine the dispute. Subject to the appointment of a single arbitrator under Rule K2, K3.3.1, K3.3.2 or K.3.4 below, the Tribunal shall consist of three arbitrators. Where the Tribunal comprises a sole arbitrator, the sole arbitrator shall undertake the duties of both the Tribunal and the chairman of the Tribunal.

K3.2 The Claimant(s) and the Respondent(s) shall within 14 days of service of the Response(s) agree to the appointment of a third arbitrator who shall act as chairman of the Tribunal.

K3.3 Where:

K3.3.1 in a dispute to which The Association is not a party, any party fails to serve a Response under Rule K2.2 above within 14 days of service of the Notice of Arbitration, the Chairman of the FRA or his or her nominee shall appoint either a single arbitrator, where the Claimant(s) consents to this, or an arbitrator on behalf of the Respondent(s) and the chairman of the Tribunal. Such appointments will ordinarily be made within 14 days after the date upon which the Response(s) should have been served, but may be made later. A Respondent shall have no right to oppose such arbitrator(s) who shall be treated as if appointed (or agreed to in respect of the appointment of a single arbitrator or the chairman of the Tribunal) by the Respondent(s);

K3.3.2 in a dispute to which The Association is a party, any party fails to serve a Response under Rule K2.2 above within 14 days of service of the Notice of Arbitration, the Claimant shall forward a copy of the Notice of Arbitration to the President of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators who shall appoint either a single arbitrator, where the Claimant consents to this, or an arbitrator on behalf of the Respondent(s) and the chairman of the Tribunal. Such appointments will ordinarily be made within 14 days after the date upon which the Response(s) should have been served, but may be made later. A Respondent shall have no right to oppose such arbitrator(s) who shall be treated as if appointed (or agreed to in respect of the appointment of a single arbitrator or the chairman of the Tribunal) by the Respondent(s); and

K3.3.3 the parties cannot agree on the appointment of a third arbitrator who shall act as chairman of the Tribunal under Rule K3.2 above:

(a) in a dispute in which The Association is not a party, the Chairman of the FRA or his or her nominee shall appoint the chairman of the Tribunal as appropriate; or

(b) in a dispute in which The Association is a party, the President of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators shall appoint the chairman of the Tribunal as appropriate.

K3.4 Each arbitrator must be, and remain, impartial and independent of all the parties to the arbitration at all times. Each arbitrator must be resident in England.

K3.4.1 Any arbitrator may be challenged if circumstances exist that give rise to justifiable doubts as to the arbitrator's impartiality or independence. A party who intends to challenge an arbitrator shall send to the other party or parties a notice of challenge setting out the reasons for its challenge within 14 days after notification of the appointment of the challenged arbitrator, or within 14 days from the date when the party making the challenge is informed of the facts and circumstances upon which the challenge is based if such date is subsequent to the receipt of such notification. A copy of the notice shall be sent at the same time to the arbitrator who is challenged and the other members of the Tribunal and The Association or the President of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (in the event that either appointed the arbitrator challenged). The notification shall be in writing and shall state the reasons for the challenge.

K3.4.2 If the other party or parties do(es) not agree to the challenge or the challenged arbitrator does not withdraw, the decision on the challenge will be made, in a dispute in which The Association is not a party, by the Chairman of the FRA or his or her nominee, or in a dispute in which The Association is a party, by the President of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. If the challenge is sustained, a replacement arbitrator shall be appointed pursuant to Rule K3.6.

K3.5 In the event that the procedure for the appointment of any arbitrator fails, upon the application by any party or parties, the Chairman of the FRA or his or her nominee (in a dispute to which The Association is not a party) or, the President of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (in a dispute to which The Association is a party) shall make such appointments as are necessary.

K3.6 If, for any reason, an arbitrator becomes unable to act or refuses to act, a replacement shall be appointed in the same manner as the original appointment.

PROCEDURE

K4 K4.1 The periods referred to in this Rule K4 shall be calculated from (as appropriate) the date on which the chairman of the Tribunal has been appointed or the date on which the sole arbitrator is appointed (referred to hereafter as the Tribunal having been "Fully Constituted").

K4.2 Subject to Rule K4.3 below, the following Standard Directions shall apply to the conduct of an arbitration under these Rules:

K4.2.1 within 21 days, the Claimant(s) shall serve its (their) Points of Claim;

K4.2.2 within 42 days, the Respondent(s) shall serve its (their) Points of Defence;

K4.2.3 within 70 days, the parties shall exchange statements of the witnesses they will rely upon;

K4.2.4 within 98 days, the parties shall exchange and serve on the Tribunal their written submissions; and

K4.2.5 within 119 days, the hearing shall take place.

K4.3 In the event that any or all of the parties wish to vary the Standard Directions, or wish for any other direction to be given (such as in relation to disclosure or expert evidence), then:

K3.1 the parties shall be free to agree to a variation of the Standard Directions, or for other directions to be given; or

K3.2 in the event that the parties cannot reach an agreement as to directions, either party may at any time apply in writing to the Tribunal for the directions to be varied, or for any other directions to be given.

K4.4 In varying the Standard Directions, or making other directions, the Tribunal shall exercise its powers with a view to obtaining a fair resolution of the dispute without unnecessary delay or expense, and shall make its directions as soon as reasonably practicable.

K4.5 Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, the powers of the Tribunal under Rules K 4.3 and K 4.4 shall be carried out by the chairman of the Tribunal on his or her own.

K4.6 The parties shall be entitled to agree all other procedural and evidential matters, failing which such matters shall be determined by the Tribunal. These matters may include (but are not limited to):

K4.6.1 whether to apply strict rules of evidence or any other rules as to the admissibility, relevance or weight of any material tendered by a party on any matter of fact or expert opinion and to determine the true manner and form in which

material should be exchanged between the parties and presented to the Tribunal; and

K4.6.2 whether there should be a hearing or hearings before the Tribunal or whether the dispute should be determined on the basis of written submissions and documents alone.

K4.7 In the event of default by either party in respect of any matter under these Rules or of any order or direction of the Tribunal (or of an Interim Tribunal under Rule K8.3 below), the Tribunal shall have the power, upon application by any party or of its own motion:

K4.7.1 to debar that party from further participation, in whole or in part, in the arbitration; and/or

K4.7.2 proceed with the arbitration and deliver its award; and/or

K4.7.3 make such other order as it sees fit.

K4.8 Parties may be represented in an arbitration conducted under these Rules by a Solicitor or Barrister or any other individual of their choice.

THE TRIBUNAL'S GENERAL POWERS

K5 The Tribunal shall have power to:

K5.1 determine any question of law or fact arising in the course of the arbitration;

K5.2 determine any question as to its own jurisdiction

K5.3 order a stay or adjournment of the arbitral proceedings, provided that it is just and equitable to do so;

K5.4 summarily determine the claim, including having the power to grant summary award or strike-out if it is just and equitable to do so;

K5.5 order the Claimant to provide security for costs of the arbitration;

K5.6 allow either party upon such terms (as to costs and otherwise) as it shall think fit to amend any statement of case (including the Notice of Arbitration, Response, Points of Claim and Points of Defence);

K5.7 give directions in relation to the preservation, custody, detention, disclosure, inspection or photographing of property owned by or in the possession of a party to the arbitration;

K5.8 give directions as to the preservation of evidence in the custody or control of a party;

K5.9 direct that a witness be examined on oath;

K5.10 require each party to give notice of identity of witnesses it intends to call;

K5.11 require exchange of witness statements and any experts' reports;

K5.12 appoint one or more experts to report to it on specific issues;

K5.13 require a party to give any such expert any relevant information or to produce or provide access to any relevant document or property;

K5.14 order that a transcript be taken of the proceedings;

K5.15 extend or abbreviate any time limits provided under Rule K or by the directions ordered by the Tribunal;

K5.16 require the parties to attend such procedural meetings as it deems appropriate to identify or clarify the issues to be decided and the procedures to be adopted; and

K5.17 give such other lawful directions as it shall deem necessary to ensure the expeditious, economical, just and final determination of the dispute.

DUTIES OF THE PARTIES

K6 The parties shall do all things necessary for the proper and expeditious conduct of the arbitration and shall comply without delay with any directions of the Tribunal as to procedural or evidential matters.

REMEDIES

K7 The Tribunal shall have the power to:

K7.1 make a declaration as to any matter to be determined in the proceedings;

K7.2 order the payment of a sum of money;

K7.3 award simple or compound interest;

K7.4 order a party to do or refrain from doing anything;

K7.5 order specific performance of a contract (other than a contract relating to land); and

K7.6 order the rectification, setting aside or cancellation of a deed or other document.

INTERIM APPLICATIONS

K8

K8.1 Section 44 of The Arbitration Act 1996 shall not apply to the arbitrations commenced under this Rule K.

K8.2 Following the Tribunal having been Fully Constituted, the parties shall make any application for interim relief to the Tribunal, which shall determine any such applications as it sees fit with the Tribunal exercising the powers provided under Rule K5 and Rule K7 above.

K8.3 In the event that a party wishes to seek interim relief prior to the Tribunal being Fully Constituted, then that party shall be entitled to seek such relief in accordance with the following procedure:

K8.3.1 The party seeking interim relief (the "Applicant") shall serve its application on the other party and file its application (the "Application") with Sport Resolutions (UK), contact details for which can be obtained from the Disciplinary Department at The Association.

K8.3.2 Within 2 Business Days of being served with the Application, Sport Resolutions (UK) shall appoint a single arbitrator, who shall be a Barrister or Solicitor of seven or more years' standing, to hear the Application (the "Interim Tribunal");

K8.3.3 The Interim Tribunal shall decide all procedural and evidential matters and shall give directions within 2 Business Days of its appointment. The directions shall include without limitation:

(a) the extent to which there shall be oral or written evidence or submissions;

(b) whether to have an oral hearing to determine the Application, or whether to determine the Application on paper.

K8.3.4 In determining the Application the Interim Tribunal shall exercise the powers provided under Rule K5 and Rule K7 above.

K8.3.5 The Interim Tribunal's award shall be in writing and shall be provided to both parties and to the Tribunal.

K8.3.6 Subject to Rule K 8.3.7 below, the Applicant shall be responsible for the costs of the Interim Tribunal.

K8.3.7 The Interim Tribunal shall have the power but not the obligation to:

(a) make such order against one or more of the parties as it considers

appropriate as to the costs of the Application, which shall include:

(i) the fees and expenses of the Interim Tribunal and any hearings;

(ii) the parties' legal and other costs in the Application, including administrative costs (if any); and,

(iii) the parties' legal and other costs incurred in any cost assessment or determination under Rule K8.3.9 below.

(b) order that the costs of the Application be reserved to the Tribunal.

K8.3.8 In appropriate cases the Interim Tribunal may award costs on an indemnity basis.

K8.3.9 The Interim Tribunal shall have the power to assess or determine the costs of the Application (either summarily or upon detailed representations by the parties) if requested to do so by either party.

PROVISIONAL AWARD

K9 The Tribunal shall have the power to make provisional awards during the proceedings including without limitation requiring a party to make an interim payment on account of the claim or the costs of the arbitration. Any such provisional award shall be taken into account when the final award is made.

AWARD

K10

K10.1 The Tribunal shall make its award ("the Award") in writing and, unless all parties otherwise agree in writing, shall state the reasons for its decision. The Award shall be dated and signed by the Tribunal. Without prejudice to its obligations under Rule K11, the Tribunal shall inform The Association of its Award and provide The Association with a copy of any written decision.

K10.2 Subject to the provisions of sections 67 and 68 of the Arbitration Act 1996, the Award shall be final and binding on the parties from the date that it is made, who shall be deemed to have waived irrevocably any right to appeal, review or recourse to a court of law, arbitral body or any other body of any nature.

K10.3 Where there were three arbitrators and the Tribunal fails to agree on any issue, the arbitrators shall decide that issue by a majority. Failing a majority decision on any issue, the chairman of the Tribunal shall decide that issue.

CONFIDENTIALITY

K11

K11.1 The parties shall preserve and respect the confidentiality of the arbitration proceedings, including the issues in the dispute and the evidence and arguments presented by the parties.

K11.2 Subject to Rules K11.3 to K11.5, no disclosure shall be made to any third party of the existence of the proceedings, the contents of any documents or other evidence produced in the arbitration or any procedural decision of the Tribunal or its Award, or any part of them save and to the extent that the disclosure may be required of a party by legal duty, to protect or pursue a legal right or to enforce an award, except with the prior written agreement of the parties to the arbitration.

K11.3 Where The Association is party to an arbitration, unless otherwise agreed between the parties the Award shall be made public, subject to appropriate redaction to protect third party confidentiality.

K11.4 Where the Association is not a party to an arbitration, a copy of any Award, interim award or other award or decision (whether provisional or otherwise) of a Tribunal,

single arbitrator or Interim Tribunal must be provided to The Association within 24 hours of it having been made by any parties to the proceedings. Where The Association considers, in its absolute discretion, that the terms of any such Award, interim award or other award or decision are of general importance to Participants, The Association may, subject to appropriate redaction to protect confidentiality, produce (in such a manner and to such Participants as it considers appropriate) a summary of it.

K11.5 In such cases, The Association shall provide the summary to the chairman of the Tribunal, or Interim Tribunal, or single arbitrator (as applicable) and shall provide them with a reasonable opportunity to provide comment prior to publication. However, the final content and timing of any publication shall be at the sole discretion of The Association.

COSTS

K12

K12.1 The Tribunal shall have the power but not the obligation to make such order against one or more of the parties as it considers appropriate as to the costs of the arbitration, which shall include:

K12.1.1 the fees and expenses of the arbitrators and any hearings;

K12.1.2 the parties' legal and other costs in the arbitration, including administrative costs (if any); and,

K12.1.3 the parties' legal and other costs incurred in any cost assessment or determination under Rule K12.3 below.

K12.2 In appropriate cases the Tribunal may award costs on an indemnity basis.

K12.3 The Tribunal shall have the power to assess or determine the costs (either summarily or upon detailed representations by the parties) if requested to do so by either party.

SERVICE OF DOCUMENTS

K13

K13.1 Any document served under this Rule K (including any Notice of Arbitration or Response) will be deemed to be received by the relevant party on a particular day, if it is received by that body or person (as appropriate) at or before 17:00 hours on a Business Day. If it is received at any time thereafter, or if it is received during a non-Business Day, it will be deemed to have been received the next Business Day (the "Date of Receipt"). Any time periods stipulated in this Rule K are deemed to commence from the Date of Receipt.

K13.2 Any document served under this Rule K shall be deemed to be served:

K13.2.1 in person: On that day, if it is delivered on a Business Day before 17:00, failing which it will be deemed to be served on the next following Business Day after it is delivered;

K13.2.2 by first class post or by registered post: On the second Business Day after the date of posting; or

K13.2.3 by facsimile or email transmission: On that day, if it is transmitted on a Business Day before 17:00, failing which it will be deemed to be served on the next Business Day after it is transmitted.

K13.3 Where The Association is not a party to the dispute, the Claimant(s) and Respondent(s) must:

K13.3.1 send a copy of all statements of case (including the Notice of Arbitration, Response, Points of Claim and Points of Defence), applications, evidence and written submissions to The Association at the same time that such documents are sent to the other party or parties to the dispute; and

K13.3.2 provide The Association with a copy of any decision, order or award of the Tribunal, or of any Interim Tribunal, upon receipt of the same.

GOVERNING LAW AND SEAT OF THE ARBITRATION

K14

K14.1 These Rules and any arbitration pursuant to them shall be governed by English law.

The Tribunal shall apply English law (both procedural and substantive) in determining any dispute referred to arbitration under the Rules.

K14.2 The seat of any arbitration under this Rule K shall be England and Wales and, unless otherwise agreed between the parties and The Association, the arbitration shall be conducted in the English language.

L. FAIR PLAY IN FOOTBALL

L1 Fair play in football means that EVERYONE connected with football:

L1.1 shows understanding of and respect for the Laws of the Game;

L1.2 supports the belief that the game should be played in an entertaining and positive way; and

L1.3 behaves on and off the field in a sporting manner towards all others involved, be they players, officials or spectators, irrespective of results.

M. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

M1 The Rules of The Association and all regulations made there under in force immediately prior to the Effective Date shall be applied in relation to all disputes in connection with proceedings which have been commenced on or before the Effective Date until the conclusion of such proceedings.

M2 All Full Member Clubs, Associate Member Clubs, County Associations and Other Football Associations who are recognised as such immediately prior to the Effective Date shall, for the purposes of Rules A3.3 and A4.1.1 and A4.1.2, be accorded their respective status by The Association as on the Effective Date.