

**THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
MEN'S PLAYERS - POINTS BASED SYSTEM
2026/2027 SEASON**

The rules and criteria set out in this document will apply for the 2026/27 season and will be effective from 15 June 2026. The criteria will be reviewed across the 2026/27 season in order that revised criteria can be issued in advance of the summer transfer window in 2027.

For any queries regarding these criteria or the application process, please contact Freddie Carter (Player Status Department) at Freddie.Carter@thefa.com (or GBE@thefa.com).

The FA is the approved governing body for Football in England. The FA has the ability (subject to other requirements being met) to issue a Governing Body Endorsement for a player, coach or manager who is intended to participate in any of the following:

- any match that has been organised and/or sanctioned by The FA, FIFA or UEFA;
- any match that has been organised by either the Premier League or the English Football League and that has also been sanctioned by The FA; or
- any match or category of match whereby consent of the FA has been given for that player, coach or manager's club to play.

Please note that this guidance should be reviewed in conjunction with the relevant advice issued by the Home Office. The FA is not registered to give advice on immigration routes or processes or to advise on an individual's immigration status and clubs should fully apprise themselves of their duties and responsibilities as sponsors. Information on aspects of immigration policy and law can be found on the Home Office website at www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration. You may also wish to seek advice from an Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) registered advisor or someone who is appropriately qualified but otherwise exempt from such a registration requirement, for example, a qualified solicitor. The UK Visas and Immigration Centre can be contacted on 0300 123 2241.

If a club is seeking a GBE during a transfer window, any application should be submitted to The FA by midday on the relevant transfer deadline day (at the latest) in order for The FA to process the application that day. If a club signs and registers a Player who does not have a GBE, it should do so in the knowledge that the Player may not be granted a GBE if his application does not comply with the terms of these criteria and the Player may not be able to undertake any employment duties for the applicant club. Clubs are also advised to allow sufficient time for entry clearance or permission to stay to be granted. The time taken may vary depending upon where the player is making his application from. A guide to visa processing times is available on the Home Office website. at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/visa-processing-times

Please note that an individual's personal and immigration history may be taken into account when their application is being considered.

Consideration will be given to the following when applying the criteria: injury; a period of paternity leave; serious illness or any legitimate medical reasons; suspension; international duty; bereavement; or family crisis.

In order to obtain the GBE, the individual must not be subject to a provisional suspension or any unexpired period of ineligibility from playing and/ or coaching activities in any jurisdiction as a result

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of being charged with or found guilty of a corruption offence and/ or a doping offence and/ or another misconduct.

In reviewing these criteria, the Football Association confirm we have reread the Code of Practice for Sports Governing Bodies and agree to our roles and responsibilities as set out within. We confirm we have acted in full compliance with the principles of the Code during this annual review.

Prior to contacting the Home Office during the annual review of this criteria, the Football Association confirm that full consultation has been carried out, this includes any organisation that could be interpreted as an interested party, such as clubs, bodies, or player associations related to football in the UK. The Football Association confirms the Irish Football Association, the Scottish Football Association, and the Football Association of Wales have been fully consulted regarding the contents of this document.

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GLOSSARY

Aggregated FIFA World Rankings means the aggregated rankings list for senior men's international teams over the International Reference Period that are published by The FA following publication of the FIFA World Rankings. This list is available on www.TheFA.com.

Auto Pass Percentage means the percentage set out in Table 1 of this criteria.

Available Continental Minutes means the total number of minutes (including, for the avoidance of doubt, any injury time or added time) played by the Player's club (in the group stages onwards) in a Continental Competition during the Reference Period, minus the number of minutes that the Player was Unavailable for Selection.

Available Domestic Cup Minutes means the total number of minutes (including, for the avoidance of doubt, any injury time or added time) played by the Player's club in a Domestic Cup during the Last Season, minus the number of minutes that the Player was Unavailable for Selection.

Available Domestic League Minutes means the total number of minutes (including, for the avoidance of doubt, any injury time or added time) played by the Player's club in its domestic league competition during the Reference Period (including any play-off games), minus the number of minutes that the Player was Unavailable for Selection.

Available International Matches means the total number of matches played by the Player's National Association in Senior Competitive International Matches during the International Reference Period, minus the number of matches that the Player was Unavailable for Selection. If less than 30% of the matches played by the Player's National Association during the International Reference Period were Senior Competitive International Matches, Available International Matches shall also include International Friendlies.

Available Minutes means the Available Continental Minutes, Available Domestic Cup Minutes, Available Domestic League Minutes and/or Available International Matches (as applicable).

Band 1 means the English Premier League, the Bundesliga, La Liga, Serie A and Ligue 1.

Band 1 Continental Competition means the UEFA Champions League and the Copa Libertadores.

Band 2 means the Portuguese Primeira Liga, Eredivisie, Belgian First Division A, Campeonato Brasileiro Série A and the English Championship.

Band 2 Continental Competition means the UEFA Europa League, UEFA Europa Conference, the Copa Sudamerica and the FIFA Club World Cup.

Band 3 means the USA's Major League Soccer, Primera División of Argentina, Liga MX, the Turkish Super Lig and the Scottish Premiership.

Band 3 Continental Competition means any continental competition which is not a Band 1 Continental Competition or Band 2 Continental Competition.

Band 4 means the Czech First League, Croatian First Football League, the Swiss Super League, La Liga 2, Bundesliga 2, Ukrainian Premier League, the Greek Superleague, the Colombian Categoría Primera A, the Austrian Football Bundesliga, the Danish Superliga, Russian Premier League, the Japanese J1 League and Ligue 2.

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Band 5 means the Serbian SuperLiga, the Polish Ekstraklasa, , the Chilean Primera División, the Uruguayan Primera División, the Swedish Allsvenskan division, the Norwegian Elitserien division, the Italian Serie B, the Hungarian Nemzeti Bajnokság I, the South Korean K League 1, the Australian A-League and the EFL League One.

Band 6 means all leagues not in Band 1, Band 2, Band 3, Band 4 or Band 5.

Certificate of Sponsorship means a certificate assigned to a Player pursuant to a club's Sponsor's Licence.

Continental Competition means a Band 1 Continental Competition, a Band 2 Continental Competition or a Band 3 Continental Competition.

Continental Progression means the progress made by the Player's Last Club in a Continental Competition in the Last Season.

Current Club means, subject to the points below:

- 1) the Player's Last Club, if the application for a GBE is made after the club the Player plays for as at the date of the application has completed its season; or
- 2) the club the Player is registered for as at the date the application is made, if the application for a GBE is made before the club the Player plays for as at the date of the application has completed its season (i.e. mid-season).

If the Player is a Free Agent, the Player's Current Club is the club the Player played in the half of the season immediately before the date the application is made. If the Player is a Free Agent and was not registered for any club in the half of the season immediately before the date the application is made, he shall not be granted any points for the criteria which adopt this definition.

If a Player has not been named in a match day squad list within the first transfer window of the season for the club the Player is registered for as at the date the application is made, the Player's Current Club is the Player's Last Club.

Domestic Cup means any domestic cup competition which is open to clubs in the country's top domestic division and provides a route for qualification to a Band 1 Continental Competition or Band 2 Continental Competition.

English Club means a club affiliated to The FA.

Exceptions Panel means a panel appointed by The FA to consider an application for a GBE in accordance with paragraphs 48-55.

Extended GBE means a new GBE applied for by a Club in respect of a Player who has already received a GBE as a Player for that Club which is due to expire.

FIFA means the Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

Final League Position means the final league position of the Player's Last Club at the end of the Last Season. If the Last Season did not finish but a final league table was compiled, the Last Club's league position shall be taken from that final league table.

Free Agent means a Player who is not registered for any club as at the date that the application for a GBE is made.

GBE means Governing Body Endorsement.

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Home Associations means The Scottish Football Association, the Football Association of Wales and The Irish Football Association.

International Friendlies means any match played by the National Association's senior team which is not a Senior Competitive International Match.

International Reference Period means:

- 1) the twenty four months prior to the date of the application for a GBE, if the Player is not a Youth Player; or
- 2) the twelve months prior to the date of the application for a GBE, if the Player is a Youth Player.

ISP means the International Sportsperson route.

ISP (long term) means an application for a period of stay exceeding 12 months.

ISP (short term) means an application for a period of stay of 12 months or less.

Last Club means the club the Player played for in the Last Season. If the Player played for two (or more) clubs during the Last Season, the Player's Last Club is the club the Player played for at the end of the Last Season. If the Player is a Free Agent and was not registered for any club at the end of the Last Season, he shall not be granted any points for the criteria which adopt this definition.

Last Season means the last full season prior to the date of the application for a GBE.

National Association means a football association that is a member of, and recognised by, FIFA.

PBS means the Home Office Points Based System.

Player means any player who is not a citizen of the United Kingdom or Ireland and has not acquired permanent residence in the United Kingdom, been granted pre-settled status or settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Player's Domestic Cup Minutes means the percentage of Available Domestic Cup Minutes the Player played in.

Player's Domestic League Minutes means the percentage of Available Domestic League Minutes the Player played in.

Player's Continental Minutes means the percentage of Available Continental Minutes the Player played in.

Player's International Appearances means the percentage of Available International Matches the Player played in.

Player's National Association means the National Association the Player plays for, or has declared for, as at the date of the application for a GBE.

Reference Period means the twelve months prior to the date of the application for a GBE.

Relevant Interested Parties means a representative of (i) the league in which the Player plays, or will play if the application for a GBE is successful, and (ii) the Professional Footballers' Association.

Season means the period between 1 June and 31 May (inclusive). For example, a reference to the 2026/27 Season means 1 June 2026 to 31 May 2027.

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Senior Competitive International Matches means any match played by the National Association's senior team in the following tournaments:

- 1) FIFA World Cup Finals;
- 2) FIFA World Cup Qualifying Groups; and
- 3) Continental Cup Qualifiers and Finals:
 - a) UEFA European Championships and Qualifiers;
 - b) UEFA Nations League Groups and Final Stages;
 - c) CAF African Cup of Nations and Qualifiers;
 - d) AFC Asia Nations Cup and Qualifiers;
 - e) CONCACAF Gold Cup;
 - f) CONCACAF Nations League;
 - g) CONMEBOL & UEFA Finalissima
 - h) UNCAF Nations Cup;
 - i) CONMEBOL Copa America; and
 - j) OFC Nations Cup.

Sponsor's Licence means a licence obtained from the Home Office under the PBS.

Stakeholders means The FA, The Premier League, The English Football League and The Professional Footballers' Association.

The FA means the Football Association.

Unavailable for Selection means:

- a) The player was not available to play due to injury, on-field suspension, or the player was called up for a Senior Competitive International Match, International Friendlies or a Youth Competitive International Match. For the avoidance of doubt, a player may not be classed as injured (and therefore Unavailable for Selection) if he was listed as a substitute in a match and was not used and such matches may not be eligible for exclusion when calculating the Available Minutes (as applicable). In international competitions where players are listed as substitutes regardless of whether or not they are injured, players may be classed as injured (and therefore Unavailable for Selection) if sufficient evidence is provided of their injury; or
- b) The player was available to play (to include being listed as a substitute in match but not being used), but their availability formed part of a contemporaneous programme of rehabilitation following an injury, provided sufficient evidence is produced in support. For the avoidance of doubt, where the player is deemed Unavailable for Selection in these circumstances, any minutes accumulated by the player in those matches shall be excluded when calculating the Available Minutes (as applicable).

Guidance: For the avoidance of doubt a Player cannot be classed as Unavailable for Selection for the parent club if he is on loan at another club.

Youth Player means a Player who is born on or after 1 January 2005.

Youth Competitive International Match means any match played by a National Association's youth team in either:

- (a) The following tournaments (including any qualification rounds): the Olympic Games, any FIFA Youth World Cup, U20 Arab Championship, U17 Arab Championship, UEFA U21 Championship, UEFA U19 Championship, UEFA U17 Championship, AFC U23

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Championship, AFC U20 Asian Cup, AFC U19 Championship, AFC U17 Asian Cup, CAF Africa U23 Cup of Nations, CAF Africa U20 Cup of Nations, CAF Africa U17 Cup of Nations, CONCACAF U20, CONCACAF U17, CONMEBOL Sudamericano U20, CONMEBOL Sudamericano U17, OFC U19 Championship or the OFC U17 Championship; or

- (b) The following tournaments (excluding any qualification rounds): Tournei Maurice Ravello, Pinatar Cup U18, Pinatar Cup U17, Torneio Internacional Algarve U17, U17 Nordic Football Championship, AFF U23 Championship or the West Asia Championship U23.

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GOVERNING BODY ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS

GBE STATUS

1. A Player can register for a club without a GBE but, in order to play any football or undertake any employment duties for the club (including participation at training and in friendly matches), he must have obtained a GBE, been assigned a Certificate of Sponsorship by that club and secured permission to stay under the International Sportsperson route (ISP) of the PBS (subject to satisfying any other eligibility requirements of The FA and any competitions the club participates in).
2. A club can apply for a GBE for a Player at any time during the Season. In order to apply for a GBE, a club must hold a valid Sponsor's Licence under ISP of the PBS. In order to apply for and obtain a valid Sponsor's Licence, a club must have obtained an endorsement letter for a Sponsor's Licence from the FA. If a Club's Sponsor's Licence is revoked, any Player who has obtained a GBE in order to play for the Club may have his permission curtailed and may have to make a change in employment application which must be granted before the Player can undertake any employment duties for the new club.
3. Clubs in the Premier League or English Football League are eligible for a Sponsor's Licence. Clubs in other leagues within the men's football pyramid are not permitted to field Players unless:
 - a. The Player has obtained a visa outside the GBE system which permits them to play football (on such terms as they in fact play); and
 - b. The Player's employment by the club complies with the terms and conditions of their visa and any relevant immigration law, including the Immigration Rules (or any successor legislation), and including but not limited to in relation to the requirements regarding professional sportspersons.
4. If The FA grants an application for a GBE for a Player in accordance with these criteria, the club is permitted to assign a Certificate of Sponsorship to the Player for the period covered by the GBE. The GBE must be presented to the Home Office when the club applies for entry clearance on behalf of a player, which must be done within 2 months of a Certificate of Sponsorship being assigned. Any Certificate of Sponsorship and a copy of the player's biometric residence permit or eVisa must be submitted to The FA and relevant league by the club within 3 months of being assigned via iFAS. Clubs must keep a copy of the relevant page of the Player's passport evidencing their entitlement to work and contact details for the Player, which must be provided to The FA upon request. The club will also have to comply with any other criteria set by the Home Office in order to secure permission to stay under ISP of the PBS.
5. A GBE under ISP (long term) of the PBS will be granted for three years or the length of the player's contract (whichever is shorter) and a GBE under ISP (short term) of the PBS will be granted for twelve months or the length of the player's contract (whichever is shorter). A Player will not be eligible to play for the club beyond the expiry date of the GBE unless the club has applied for and obtained an Extended GBE before the existing GBE has expired in accordance with these criteria and the PBS.

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Extensions to or transfers of a GBE

6. An application for an Extended GBE or to transfer a GBE may only be made under the GBE criteria pursuant to which the individual was originally endorsed. Where an individual seeks an extension or transfer in respect of a different role (for example, as a Manager), the individual must satisfy the full requirements of the applicable GBE criteria for that role.
7. An Extended GBE under ISP of the PBS can be obtained for three years or the length of the player's contract (whichever is shorter).
8. A Player who has been granted a GBE under ISP (short term) of the PBS can apply (in country) to transfer to a GBE under ISP (long term) of the PBS. The club must submit a new application for a GBE and provide a pass certificate, or other written confirmation containing an appropriate reference number, from an accredited English language test centre that the Player has passed the English language test required to secure permission to stay under ISP (long term) of the PBS (in addition to the documents listed in paragraph 17).
9. A Player who has been granted a GBE must submit a new application for a GBE if he wishes to permanently transfer (or has permanently transferred) to another club. If the GBE is granted, the player must submit a change of employment application to the Home Office, which must be granted before the Player can undertake any employment duties for the new club.
10. Any application for an Extended GBE (in accordance with paragraph 7), a transfer of a GBE (in accordance with paragraph 8) or a new club application for a GBE (in accordance with paragraph 9) shall be considered as follows:
 - a. If the Player's International Appearances meet the Auto Pass Percentage set out in Table 1 of the criteria, a new or Extended GBE will be granted (as appropriate).
 - b. If the Player's International Appearances do not meet the Auto Pass Percentage set out in Table 1 of the criteria, but the value of the Player's Domestic League Minutes for the applicant Club is at least 30% a new or Extended GBE will be granted (as appropriate).
 - c. If the Player achieves 15 points or more in accordance with paragraphs 34 to 47 below, a new or Extended GBE will be granted (as appropriate).
 - d. If the Player does not satisfy the requirements in either paragraph a, b or c above, the club must submit details of the Player's Domestic League Minutes for the last 12 months and any other information which it considers to be relevant to its application to The FA. The FA will then provide this information to the Relevant Interested Parties by email. The FA and the Relevant Interested Parties shall consider this information, and any other information which they deem to be relevant in their absolute discretion, to determine whether the player remains of sufficient quality to be awarded a GBE. The FA and the Relevant Interested Parties shall make a decision by simple majority and if a majority of The FA and the Relevant Interested Parties recommend that the player should be awarded a GBE, a new or Extended GBE will be granted (as appropriate).

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- e. The player shall not have a new or Extended GBE granted (as appropriate) other than in accordance with paragraphs a, b, c or d above.

11. If a Player:

- a. does not turn up for employment;
- b. is absent for more than 10 working days without permission;
- c. has his contract terminated during the period that a GBE is effective;
- d. is no longer sponsored by the club for any other reason; or
- e. experiences significant changes in his circumstances (such as a change in job title, salary or location of employment),

the club must inform the Home Office within 10 days.

- 12. The club must also inform the Home Office if there is a change of circumstances at the club within 20 working days. A change in circumstances might include changes of name, address or contact details, changes in structure (including mergers, takeovers and de-mergers), changes in financial circumstances (such as administration, receivership, company voluntary arrangement, debt arrangement scheme, liquidation or sequestration).

Temporary Transfers/Loans

- 13. If a Player who has been granted a GBE in accordance with these criteria is loaned to another club during the period of validity of the GBE, the Player's club must notify the Home Office of the loan and change of location via the Sponsor Management System within 10 working days (regardless of the jurisdiction in which the loanee club is based). The loaning club will retain responsibility as the Player's sponsor.
- 14. If a Player is loaned from an English Club to another English Club (a "Domestic Loan"), no GBE application will be required by the loanee club. If the Player is loaned from an English Club to a club affiliated to another Home Association, or another National Association, the governing body endorsement process of that association will have to be satisfied by the loanee club.
- 15. If a Domestic Loan is made permanent, the new club will be required to submit an application for a GBE (which must comply with the requirements set out in these criteria). If the GBE is granted, the player will need to make a change of employment application. Provided the Domestic Loan continues until the date on which the change of employment application is granted, the Player can continue to play for the new club in the interim period.
- 16. If a Player is loaned from a club affiliated to another National Association (including any of the Home Associations) to an English Club, a GBE application will be required (which must comply with the requirements set out in these criteria) save for where a Player is loaned from a club affiliated to the Football Association of Wales which participates in the Premier League or English Football League..
- 17. When a Player returns to his parent club after a loan period, no GBE application will be required by the parent club (provided the GBE remains valid beyond the date of the Player's return).

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GBEs will not be issued in respect of Players who are trialling with an English Club. If a Club wishes to trial a Player, it should contact the Home Office.

APPLICATION PROCESS

18. A club must submit any application for a GBE to The FA's Player Status Department along with any evidence in support of the application, including:
 - a. A fully completed application form
 - b. A fully completed application spreadsheet
 - c. A transfer agreement (or loan agreement) in respect of the Player (in draft or final form).
 - d. A playing contract in respect of the Player (in draft or final form).
 - e. Written evidence to support any claim made by the applicant club that a Player was Unavailable for Selection for a particular match, including the reason(s).
 - f. Written evidence to support any claim made by the applicant club that exceptional circumstances prevented the Player from achieving 15 points (where appropriate, in accordance with paragraph 27.
 - g. Written evidence to support any claim made by the applicant club that a Youth Player has significant potential and is of sufficient quality to enhance the development of the game in England and justify the Exceptions Panel recommending that a GBE be awarded (where appropriate, in accordance with paragraph 27.
19. The club must also pay an administration fee of £500 plus VAT for each application, which must be paid before the application will be considered by The FA. Each club shall bear its own costs in respect of any application.
20. If any information submitted as part of the GBE application process is amended (including the terms and conditions of a Player's contract):
 - a. before a GBE has been granted and before the Player is registered with The FA, the club must inform The FA who may require a new application to be submitted (and a new fee to be paid);
 - b. after a GBE has been granted but before the Player is registered with The FA, the club must inform The FA who may require a new application to be submitted (and a new fee to be paid);
 - c. after a GBE has been granted and after the Player is registered, the club must inform the Home Office via the Sponsorship Management System. The Home Office will confirm whether they require a new application to be submitted (and a new fee to be paid).
21. If a new application is required in accordance with paragraph 20, it will be assessed by reference to the criteria set out in this document and the Club must comply with paragraphs 18-19 of these criteria in respect of the new application. The FA may also inform the Home Office who may curtail the Player's right to work.

CRITERIA

22. All Players shall be assessed in accordance with paragraphs 34-47.
23. The FA will grant a GBE if the Player's International Appearances meet the Auto Pass Percentage set out in Table 1 of the criteria.

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24. If a Player is not granted a GBE in accordance with paragraph 23 above, The FA will grant a GBE if a Player achieves 15 or more points in accordance with paragraphs 34-47.
25. If a Player is not granted a GBE in accordance with paragraphs 23 or 24 above, the club may request that an Exceptions Panel consider the application if the Player achieves between 10 and 14 points in accordance with paragraphs 48 to 55 and the club can evidence that exceptional circumstances prevented the Player from achieving 15 points.
26. If a Player is not granted a GBE in accordance with paragraphs 23 to 25 above, the club may apply for the Player to be granted a GBE as an ESC Player in accordance with the provisions set out in Appendix 1.
27. If a Player is not granted a GBE in accordance with paragraphs 23 to 26 above, the club may request that an Exceptions Panel consider the application if the Player
 - a. is a Youth Player and the club can evidence that the Youth Player shows significant potential and is of sufficient quality to enhance the development of the game in England. If a Player is granted a GBE in accordance with this paragraph, they shall be deemed as an ESC Player and occupy an ESC Place (see Appendix 1).
28. If the Club requests an Exceptions Panel, the procedure in paragraphs 48-55 shall apply.
29. If a Player is not granted a GBE in accordance with paragraph 23 to 28, the club will have no further opportunity to apply for a GBE for that player, under any GBE Criteria, in the same transfer window unless his circumstances change.

Calculations

30. If a Player has played for two (or more) clubs during the Reference Period, or a Player is or has been a Free Agent during the Reference Period, the Player's Continental Minutes, Player's Domestic Cup Minutes and Player's Domestic League Minutes (each, the "**Minutes**") will be calculated in accordance with paragraphs 30-32 below.
31. For each of the Minutes criteria, the applicant club should calculate a weighted average (using the available minutes spreadsheet) as follows:
 - a. Calculate the number of days during the Reference Period the Player has been registered for each/any club or no club (as appropriate).
 - b. Calculate the percentage of the overall Reference Period that each of those periods of time represents.
 - c. Calculate the percentage of Minutes played as a proportion of the total Available Continental Minutes, Available Domestic Cup Minutes or Available Domestic League Minutes (respectively).
 - d. Multiply each of the numbers at (b) by their corresponding number at (c).
 - e. Add each of the numbers at (d) to find the weighted average value for the Minutes.
32. If only one of the clubs played in a Continental Competition, the Player's Continental Minutes shall be the percentage the Player played in for that club.

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33. If the calculation of a Player's International Appearances, Player's Domestic League Minutes, Player's Domestic Cup Minutes or Player's Continental Minutes (or any other percentage) results in:
- a. a decimal number of .5 or higher, the number will be rounded up to the next whole number; or
 - b. a decimal number of lower than .5, the number will be rounded down to the next whole number.

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Player's International Appearances

34. A Player shall be granted the number of points set out in Table 1 in respect of the Player's International Appearances.

Table 1					
	Aggregated FIFA World Ranking of the Player's National Association				
Player's International Appearances	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-50	51+
90-100%	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	2
80-89%	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	1
70-79%	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	0
60-69%	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	10	0
50-59%	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	10	8	0
40-49%	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	9	7	0
30-39%	Auto Pass	10	8	6	0
20-29%	10	9	7	0	0
10-19%	9	8	0	0	0
1-9%	8	7	0	0	0

Player's Domestic League Minutes

35. A Player shall be granted the number of points set out in Table 2 in respect of the Player's Domestic League Minutes.

36. A Youth Player shall be granted the number of points set out in the final row of Table 2 if he made his debut (on the pitch) for the senior team of a club during the Reference Period. Subject to paragraph 37, a Youth Player shall only be granted points for one debut during the Reference Period.

Table 2						
Player's Domestic Minutes	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5	Band 6
90-100%	12	10	8	6	4	2
80-89%	11	9	7	5	3	1
70-79%	10	8	6	4	2	0
60-69%	9	7	5	3	1	0
50-59%	8	6	4	2	0	0
40-49%	7	5	3	1	0	0
30-39%	6	4	2	0	0	0
20-29%	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-19%	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-9%	0	0	0	0	0	0
Debut for Youth Player*	6	5	4	3	2	1

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Guidance: Where a Domestic League format may include splits or multiple sections, the FA will seek guidance from the relevant National Association to confirm which minutes should be classified as Domestic League Minutes.

37. If a Player is eligible for points in multiple columns of Table 2, including where:
- the Player has made an appearance in two domestic league competitions during the Reference Period; or
 - a Youth Player made multiple domestic league competition debuts during the Reference Period during the Reference Period; or
 - a Youth Player has made his first appearance for the senior team of a club during the Reference Period but has also played in a sufficient percentage of minutes to be eligible for points elsewhere,
- the Player shall be granted the higher of the points he is eligible for in Table 2.

Player's Continental Minutes

38. A Player shall be granted the number of points set out in Table 3 in respect of the Player's Continental Minutes.

Player's Continental Minutes	Band 1 Continental Competition	Band 2 Continental Competition	Band 3 Continental Competition
90-100%	10	5	2
80-89%	9	4	1
70-79%	8	3	0
60-69%	7	2	0
50-59%	6	1	0
40-49%	5	0	0
30-39%	4	0	0
20-29%	0	0	0
10-19%	0	0	0
1-9%	0	0	0

39. If the Player has made an appearance in two Continental Competitions during the Reference Period, the Player shall be granted the higher of the points he is eligible for in Table 3.

Final League Position of Player's Last Club

40. A Player shall be granted the number of points set out in Table 4 in respect of the Final League Position of the Player's Last Club, provided (i) the Player appeared on the matchday squad list for the Player's Last Club for at least one match in its domestic league competition or (ii) the value of the Player's Domestic Cup Minutes was at least 1%, during the Last Season.

Last Club's Final League Position	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5	Band 6
Title winner*	6	5	4	3	2	1

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Qualified for group stages of a Band 1 Continental Competition / league conference winner**	5	4	3	2	1	0
Qualified for qualifiers of a Band 1 Continental Competition	4	3	2	1	0	0
Qualified for group stages of a Band 2 Continental Competition	3	2	1	0	0	0
Qualified for qualifiers of a Band 2 Continental Competition	2	1	0	0	0	0
Mid-table	1	0	0	0	0	0
Relegation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Promotion	N/A	1	1	1	1	1

*For the purposes of this Criteria, a League cannot have more than one Title winner in any season. The FA will consult with the relevant National Association to confirm the identity of the sole Title winner.

**Applicable where the Last Club (a) wins part of a split league/season format competition and (b) by virtue of that win, qualifies for a Continental Competition. For example, the winner of the Eastern or Western Conference in the USA's Major League Soccer competition.

41. For the avoidance of doubt, a Player shall only be granted the higher of the points he is eligible for in Table 4.

Continental Progression of Player's Last Club

42. A Player shall be granted the number of points set out in Table 5 in respect of the Continental Progression of the Player's Last Club, provided (i) the Player appeared on the matchday squad list for the Player's Last Club for at least one match in its domestic league competition or a Continental Competition or (ii) the value of the Player's Domestic Cup Minutes was at least 1%, during the Last Season. Where the Player has made an appearance in a Continental Competition which has commenced following the end of the Last Season, the Continental Progression made by the Player's club in that Continental Competition may be used.

Continental Progression	Band 1 Continental Competition	Band 2 Continental Competition	Band 3 Continental Competition
Final	10	7	2
Semi-Finals	9	6	1
Quarter-Finals	8	5	0
Round of 16	7	4	0
Round of 32 / knockout phase play-offs	6	3	0
Group stage / league phase	5	2	0
Other	0	0	0

43. If the relevant Continental Competition is knock-out only, the Player will be awarded the points listed for group stage in Table 5 for any round prior to the Round of 32.

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44. For the avoidance of doubt, a Player shall only be granted the higher of the points he is eligible for in Table 5.

League Quality of Player's Current Club

45. A Player shall be granted the number of points set out in Table 6 in respect of the band of the Player's Current Club, provided (i) the Player appeared on the matchday squad list for the Player's Current Club for at least one match in its domestic league competition or a Continental Competition or (ii) the value of the Player's Domestic Cup Minutes was at least 1%, during the Reference Period.
46. For the purposes of paragraph 45, Available Domestic Cup Minutes shall be calculated by reference to the Reference Period rather than Last Season.

Band of Player's Current Club	Points
Band 1	12
Band 2	10
Band 3	8
Band 4	6
Band 5	4
Band 6	2

47. If a Player has been loaned to a club in a lower band than his parent club and has made a first team appearance (on the pitch) for his parent club during the Reference Period, he shall be granted the higher of the points he would have been eligible for in accordance with Table 6 if his parent club was the Player's Current Club.

EXCEPTIONS PANELS

48. If a club requests an Exceptions Panel in accordance with paragraph 25 or 27, The FA will appoint an independent panel of three members, which shall include one legally qualified chair and two panel members who have relevant experience at the top level of the game (the "Panel Members").
49. The FA may also, at its absolute discretion, refer any question in relation to the interpretation or application of any aspect of these criteria to either a legally qualified chair of the Exceptions Panel or an Exceptions Panel (as appropriate) to determine. Any decision made by a chair of the Exceptions Panel or an Exceptions Panel under this paragraph shall be final and binding.
50. A fee of £5,000 plus VAT will be charged for every Exceptions Panel, which must be paid by the club before the application will be considered by the Exceptions Panel.
51. The club will be notified of the identity of the Panel Members and have the opportunity to challenge the appointment of any Panel Member on the basis of an actual or perceived conflict of interest. Each Panel Member shall also have the opportunity to declare an actual or perceived conflict of interest (of him or herself or any other Panel Member) to the Chair or, if the conflict of interest relates to the Chair, to The FA. The Chair, or The FA respectively, shall then determine whether the Panel Member should be excluded from

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participating in the application. If the Panel Member is excluded from participating in the application, The FA will appoint a replacement Panel Member (to whom this paragraph shall also apply).

52. The Exceptions Panel can request any further information from The FA's Player Status Department, the applicant club or any third party (via The FA's Player Status Department) that it deems necessary, in its absolute discretion, in order to make its decision. If an Exceptions Panel meeting has been convened or is in progress when a request for further information is made, the Chair may adjourn the meeting to allow the information to be gathered. Where it is able to do so, the applicant club or The FA's Player Status Department will supply the further information to the Exceptions Panel within a reasonable timescale.
53. The Exceptions Panel shall only recommend to The FA that a GBE be granted if it is satisfied that either:
 - a. exceptional circumstances prevented the Player from achieving 15 points, and if those exceptional circumstances did not apply, the Player would have achieved 15 points; or
 - b. the Youth Player shows significant potential and is of sufficient quality to enhance the development of the game in England and justify the Exceptions Panel recommending that a GBE be awarded.
54. The Exceptions Panel will make its decision, based on the papers submitted to it, at an in-person or virtual meeting at which The FA's Player Status Department will provide appropriate secretarial support. Each Panel Member has one vote and the decision will be made by a simple majority, with the chair having a casting vote.
55. If the Exceptions Panel recommends to The FA that a GBE be granted, The FA will consider whether to grant a GBE (but is under no obligation to do so).

Written reasons for the decision will be supplied by the Exceptions Panel to the applicant club. Written reasons will also be provided to the relevant league Stakeholder with a redacted copy provided (on a confidential basis) to all Stakeholders.

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Appendix 1 – 'Elite Significant Contribution ("ESC")

ESC Players

Unless otherwise stated, references to paragraphs below are references to paragraphs within this Appendix.

SECTION I: CRITERIA

1. A Player may be granted a GBE as an ESC Player provided that:
 - 1.1. The Player was born on or after 1st January 2003; and
 - 1.2. the club has evidenced to The FA's satisfaction that the Player is an elite player and will make a significant contribution to the sport. Guidance in respect of this will be issued by The FA from time to time but, as a minimum, The FA expects the Player to have, within the ESC Player Reference Period, satisfied one or more of the following:
 - 1.2.1. played in at least one Youth Competitive International Match for a National Association ranked in the top 50 places in the Aggregated FIFA World Rankings;
 - 1.2.2. played in at least five Youth Competitive International Matches for a National Association ranked outside the top 50 places in the Aggregated FIFA World Rankings;
 - 1.2.3. played in at least one Continental Youth Competition Match;
 - 1.2.4. played in at least five Domestic Youth Competition Matches;
 - 1.2.5. played in at least one Senior Competitive International Match for a National Association ranked in the top 50 places in the Aggregated FIFA World Rankings;
 - 1.2.6. played in at least five Senior Competitive International Matches for a National Association ranked outside the top 50 places in the Aggregated FIFA World Rankings;
 - 1.2.7. played in at least one match in a Continental Competition; or
 - 1.2.8. played in at least five Domestic Senior Competition Matches.

SECTION II: ESC PLACES AND WEIGHTED EQP MINUTES PERCENTAGE

ESC Places

2. For the 2026/27 Season, each club in the:

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- 2.1. Premier League and EFL Championship shall have up to four ESC Places available at any one time as determined by its Weighted EQP Minutes Percentage, as set out in Table 1 below.
- 2.2. EFL League One and EFL League Two shall have up to two ESC Places available at any one time as determined by its Weighted EQP Minutes Percentage, as set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1

Weighted Minutes Percentage	EQP	Number of Available ESC Places			
		Premier League	EFL Championship	EFL League One	EFL League Two
≥35%		4	4	2	2
≥30%		3	3	1	1
≥25%		2	2	-	-
≥20%		1	1	-	-

Guidance: A reduction in ESC Places shall have no impact on the ESC Players already permanently or temporarily registered with a club and their ability to play for that club.

However, in circumstances where: (a) the number of ESC Players registered at a club exceeds the number of ESC Places available to the club; and (b) one of the club's existing ESC Players leaves the club or transitions to become a Non-ESC Player, the club would not be able to recruit a replacement ESC Player until it has an available ESC Place.

For example:

- Club A participates in the EFL Championship and its Weighted EQP Minutes Percentage means it has four available ESC Places (each of which it has filled).
 - Club A is subsequently relegated to EFL League One where it is entitled to two ESC Places (based on its Weighted EQP Minutes Percentage).
 - The four ESC Players registered with Club A remain registered, and can play for, Club A.
 - During the next Registration Period, two ESC Players leave Club A.
 - Club A is unable to recruit further ESC Players until such time as the club is promoted back to the EFL Championship (and its Weighted EQP Minutes Percentage is ≥30%).
3. The ESC Places available to clubs in the Premier League and EFL Championship shall not, at any time, exceed 4 and the ESC Places available to Clubs in EFL League One and EFL League Two shall not, at any time, exceed 2.
 4. Where the registration of an ESC Player is permanently transferred to another club, that ESC Player shall immediately be excluded from the calculation of how many of the selling club's ESC Places are filled.
 5. Where the registration of an ESC Player is temporarily transferred to another club, that ESC Player shall fill an ESC Place of both the parent club and the loaning club for the duration of the temporary transfer. A club shall only be permitted to recruit an ESC Player on a temporary transfer if they

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have an available ESC Place that has not been filled. On expiry of the temporary transfer, the ESC Player shall no longer fill an ESC Place of the loaning club. Where the ESC Player has transitioned out of an ESC Place during a temporary transfer that player's ESC Place will become available for both the parent and the loaning club.

Weighted EQP Minutes Percentage Calculation

6. A club's Weighted EQP Minutes Percentage for the EQP Reference Period shall be calculated by The FA in accordance with the following procedure:

6.1. For each EQP Qualifying Match played by the club during the EQP Reference Period, the following figures shall be calculated:

6.1.1. EQP Minutes.

6.1.2. Non-EQP Minutes.

6.1.3. Total Minutes (i.e. EQP Minutes plus Non-EQP Minutes).

6.2. For each EQP Qualifying Match played by the club during the EQP Reference Period where an EQP was unavailable as a result of being an Injured Player, the Pro-Rata EQP Minutes for each Injured Player will be added to the club's EQP Minutes and Total Minutes figures.

6.3. The EQP Minutes Percentage for each EQP Qualifying Match played by the club during the EQP Reference Period shall then be calculated as follows:

$$(EQP\ Minutes / Total\ Minutes) \times 100 = EQP\ Minutes\ Percentage$$

6.4. Each EQP Qualifying Match during each Season of the EQP Reference Period will then be ranked from highest to lowest by reference to the EQP Minutes Percentage calculated for those matches ("**EQP Qualifying Match Ranking**").

6.5. The top four and bottom four matches from the EQP Qualifying Match Ranking for each Season of the EQP Reference Period shall be disregarded. The remaining matches across all Seasons of the EQP Reference Period will then be combined to create a list of Relevant EQP Qualifying Matches

6.6. The following figures shall then be calculated from the Relevant EQP Qualifying Matches:

6.6.1. Cumulative EQP Minutes.

6.6.2. Cumulative Non-EQP Minutes.

6.6.3. Cumulative Total Minutes (i.e. Cumulative EQP Minutes plus Cumulative Non-EQP Minutes).

6.7. Where the club has temporarily transferred an EQP on a Qualifying Loan during the EQP Reference Period, fifty percent of the Loan Player Minutes or fifty percent of the Pro-Rata EQP Minutes (as applicable) will be added to the parent club's Cumulative EQP Minutes and Cumulative Total Minutes.

6.8. The Weighted EQP Minutes Percentage shall then be calculated as follows:

$$(Cumulative\ EQP\ Minutes / Cumulative\ Total\ Minutes) \times 100 = Weighted\ EQP\ Minutes\ Percentage$$

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Additional ESC places

7. Subject to paragraph 4 above, a club shall be granted up to two additional ESC Places (in addition to the number of ESC Places a club has been allocated as a result of its Weighted EQP Minutes Percentage) in accordance with the below:
 - 7.1. One additional ESC Place if, on average per Season within the EQP Reference Period, three or more of the club's English Qualified Players:
 - 7.1.1. made at least three appearances of 45 minutes or more in England Senior Competitive International Matches; and
 - 7.1.2. played in 30% or more of the Available Minutes (ESC).
 - 7.2. One additional ESC Place if, on average per Season within the EQP Reference Period, three or more of the club's English Qualified Players who are also Youth Players have, made at least three appearances of 45 minutes or more for the England U20 and/or U21 teams.

***Guidance:** The maximum number of ESC Places available to any club is four. As such, if a club has 3 ESC Places as a result of its Weighted EQP Minutes Percentage and would be entitled to 2 additional ESC Places under paragraph 7 above, it will still only have 4 ESC Places available.*

Where applicable, a player can count towards the requirements of both paragraph 7.1 and 7.2.

***Guidance:** The requirements of both paragraph 7.1 and 7.2 will be assessed as an average per Season within the EQP Reference Period.*

For example, a club would meet the requirement in paragraph 7.1 if, for example, three players met those conditions in the first Season, no players met those conditions in the second Season but six players met those conditions in the third Season. The players meeting those conditions in each Season can be the same players.

SECTION III: TRANSITION - ESC PLAYER TO A NON-ESC PLAYER

Transition

7 A Club can apply for an ESC Player to transition to a Non-ESC Player if:

- a. The application is made and processed within an open Registration Period; and
- b. At least one full domestic Registration Period has passed since the date that the player was registered; and
- c. the ESC Player satisfies one of the following requirements:

7.3. the Player's International Appearances meet the Auto Pass Percentage;

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- 7.4. the ESC Player achieves 15 points or more in accordance with paragraphs 33 to 46 of the main body of this document; or

Guidance: For the purposes of an ESC Transition application submitted on the first day of the Registration Period for the Summer 2026 window only (i.e. 15 June only), where a club can evidence that a Youth Player satisfied the Debut for Youth Player points criteria under the 2025/26 GBE Criteria at the date of application, The FA will consider the application in consultation with the Home Office.

- 7.5. the ESC Player has, within the 12 months following the date on which he was granted a GBE:

7.5.1. played in 25% or more of the club's EQP Qualifying Matches; and

7.5.2. played in the required percentage of Available Minutes (ESC) as set out in Table 3 below.

Table 3

League in which ESC Player's Club Participates	Required percentage of Available Minutes (ESC)	
	Under 21 ESC Player	21 and over ESC Player
Premier League	15%	30%
EFL Championship	50%	50%
EFL League One	60%	60%
EFL League Two	70%	70%

Guidance: For the purposes of this paragraph7:

- The ESC Player's age shall be their age at the beginning of the 12 month period referred to in paragraph 7.5, regardless of whether they become 21 years old during the course of that 12 month period.
- Where the league in which the ESC Player's club participates changes during the 12 month period referred to in paragraph 7.5, the required percentage of Available Minutes (ESC) referred to in paragraph 7.5.2 shall be calculated separately with reference to the period of time participating in each league competition.

For example:

- Club A participates in the Premier League.
- Player A, an Under 21 player, joins Club A as an ESC Player during the January transfer window.
- Club A is relegated from the Premier League at the end of that Season and participates in the EFL Championship in the following Season.

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- *To meet the required percentage of Available Minutes (ESC) for the 12-month period in those circumstances, Player A would need to play in:*
 - *15% of Available Minutes (ESC) for the period in which Club A participated in the Premier League; and*
 - *50% of Available Minutes (ESC) for the period in which Club A participated in the EFL Championship.*

Guidance: *The requirements set out in this paragraph 7 apply irrespective of whether an ESC Player remains with their original club or transfers to another club.*

SECTION IV: MISCELLANEOUS

Extensions or transfers of a GBE

8. For the purposes of paragraph 10 of the main body of this document, if an ESC Player applies for an extended GBE (in accordance with paragraph 7 of the main body of this document), a transfer of a GBE (in accordance with paragraph 8 of the main body of this document) or makes a new club application for a GBE (in accordance with paragraph 9 of the main body of this document), the ESC Player's club must also evidence to The FA's satisfaction that the ESC Player continues to comply with the requirements set out at paragraph 1 above.
9. If the ESC Player has not transitioned out of an ESC Place, the ESC Place will be transferred to the new permanent domestic club upon any successful extension application.

Reviewing GBE System

10. Without prejudice to what is set out below at paragraph 11, The FA will review how ESC Player registrations are used on an annual basis and reserves all its rights to make any changes it considers, in its absolute discretion, to be necessary to the criteria set out in this Appendix.
11. In the event that the League EQP Minutes Percentage in any one of the Premier League, EFL Championship, EFL League One or EFL League Two League is:
 - 11.1. 25% or less at the end of any Season, (subject to any alternative arrangements that may be formulated through consultation between The FA and interested parties, and presented to the Home Office for approval by The FA); the application of the criteria set out in this Appendix will be automatically stopped; and
 - 11.2. between 26% and 30% at the end of any Season, the application of the criteria set out in this Appendix will be reviewed.

Definitions

Unless otherwise stated, definitions are as set out in the glossary at the beginning of this document or as set out below:

Available Minutes (ESC) means the total number of minutes (including any injury time or added time) played by the club in EQP Qualifying Matches minus the number of minutes that the EQP or ESC Player (as applicable) was Unavailable for Selection.

Continental Youth Competition Match means any match played in a youth club competition organised by one or more of UEFA, CONMEBOL, CAF, CONCACAF, AFC or OFC.

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Cumulative EQP Minutes means the total number of EQP Minutes from the Relevant EQP Qualifying Matches.

Cumulative Non-EQP Minutes means the total number of Non-EQP Minutes from the Relevant EQP Qualifying Matches.

Cumulative Total Minutes means total number of Cumulative EQP Minutes and Cumulative Non-EQP Minutes accumulated by a club in Relevant EQP Qualifying Matches.

Domestic Senior Competition Match means any match played in those leagues set out in the definitions of Band 1, Band 2, Band 3, Band 4 or Band 5.

Domestic Youth Competition Match means any match played in: (i) a youth competition organised and administered by any of the leagues referred to in the definitions of Band 1, Band 2, Band 3, Band 4 or Band 5; or (ii) any domestic youth competition organised and administered by a national association in which the member clubs of a league referred to in the definitions of Band 1, Band 2, Band 3, Band 4 or Band 5 participate.

English Qualified Player (or EQP) means a player who was eligible to play for the England Senior Men's Team at the time the player was first permanently registered with the club.

***Guidance:** If a player subsequently becomes ineligible to play for the England Senior Men's Team pursuant to FIFA's Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes (RGAs) (for example by electing to play for a Senior Men's Team of another National Association in an official competition), the player shall still be regarded as an EQP at that club (and any loaning club). For the avoidance of doubt, if that player subsequently permanently registers with a different club, the player will not be regarded as an EQP for that new club.*

EQP Minutes means the total number of minutes (including any added time or extra time) played by EQPs in an EQP Qualifying Match or Relevant EQP Qualifying Match (as applicable).

EQP Minutes Percentage means the percentage figure calculated in accordance with paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2, rounded to the nearest whole number.

EQP Qualifying Match means:

1. Where the club is participating in the Premier League, matches in the following competitions in which the club has played:
 - a. matches in the Premier League;
 - b. matches in the: (i) UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League, and/or UEFA Europa Conference League and qualification matches in respect of any of these competitions; (ii) UEFA Super Cup; and (iii) FIFA Club World Cup;
 - c. matches played at the quarter final stage and onwards of The FA Cup; and
 - d. matches played at the semi-final stage and onwards of the EFL Cup.

2. Where the club is participating in the EFL Championship, EFL League One or EFL League Two matches in the following competitions in which the club has played:
 - a. matches played in the EFL Championship, EFL League One or EFL League Two (as applicable) and play off matches in respect of any of these league competitions;

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- b. matches in the: (i) UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League, and/or UEFA Europa Conference League and qualification matches in respect of any of these competitions; (ii) UEFA Super Cup; and (iii) FIFA Club World Cup;
- c. matches played in the fifth round and onwards of The FA Cup; and
- d. matches played at the quarter-final stage and onwards of the EFL Cup.

Guidance: Where a club competes in more than one league competition during the EQP Reference Period, the relevant EQP Qualifying Matches will vary by reference to the league competition in which the club played in each Season.

EQP Qualifying Match Ranking shall have the meaning given to it in paragraph 5.

EQP Reference Period means the three Seasons prior to the current Season (i.e. 1 June 2020 to 31 May 2023).

ESC Place means a place available to a club for the purposes of recruiting an ESC Player, as calculated by The FA in accordance with Section II of this Appendix. For the avoidance of date, such places are non-transferrable.

ESC Player means a player granted a GBE in accordance with this Appendix.

ESC Player Reference Period means the twenty-four months prior to the date on which the application for an ESC Player GBE is made.

Injured Player means a player who has been injured while on international duty for England.

League EQP Minutes means the total number of minutes (including added time or extra time) played by all EQPs at all clubs in a particular league in EQP Qualifying Matches.

Guidance: League EQP Minutes means the total number of minutes played by all EQPs at all clubs in one league i.e. in the Premier League this would be all minutes played by all EQPs at all Premier League Clubs in EQP Qualifying Matches.

League EQP Minutes Percentage means League EQP Minutes divided by Total League Minutes.

Loan Player Minutes means the total number of minutes (including any added time or extra time) played by an EQP who has been temporarily transferred on a Qualifying Loan in a Qualifying Loan Match during the EQP Reference Period.

Non-EQP Minutes means the total number of minutes (including any added time or extra time) played by players who are not EQPs in an EQP Qualifying Match or Relevant EQP Qualifying Match (as applicable).

Non-ESC Player means a player that has transitioned from an ESC Player to a Non-ESC Player in accordance with paragraph 7.

Pro-Rata EQP Minutes means the total number of minutes (including any added time or extra time) played by an Injured Player in EQP Qualifying Matches over the 12 months immediately preceding the date of his injury divided by the total number of EQP Qualifying Matches in the same period.

Guidance: Where applicable, Pro-Rata EQP Minutes shall only form part of the Weighted EQP Minutes Percentage calculation from the 2025/26 Season.

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Qualifying Loan means a temporary transfer from a club in the Premier League to a club in the EFL Championship or a club participating in any of the leagues at Band 1 or Band 2.

Qualifying Loan Match means:

- For clubs in the EFL Championship, an EQP Qualifying Match.
- For clubs participating in any of the leagues in Band 1 or Band 2, any match played in the relevant league competition or any match played in a Band 1 Continental Competition or a Band 2 Continental Competition.

Registration Period means the period in which players may be registered for a club as notified by The FA from time to time and approved by FIFA.

Relevant EQP Qualifying Matches means the list of matches created in accordance with the procedure set out at paragraph 7.5.

Total League Minutes means the total number of minutes (including added time or extra time) played by all players at all clubs in a particular league in EQP Qualifying Matches.

***Guidance:** Total League Minutes means the total number of minutes played by all players (including EQPs and non-EQPs) at all clubs in one league i.e. in the Premier League this would be all minutes played by all players (including EQPs and non-EQPs) at all Premier League Clubs in EQP Qualifying Matches.*

Total Minutes means the total number of EQP Minutes and Non-EQP Minutes accumulated by a club in an EQP Qualifying Match.

Weighted EQP Minutes Percentage means the percentage figure calculated in accordance with the procedure set out at paragraph 6, rounded to the nearest whole number.

Youth Competitive International Match means any match played by a National Association's youth team in either:

- (c) The following tournaments (including any qualification rounds): the Olympic Games, any FIFA Youth World Cup, U20 Arab Championship, U17 Arab Championship, UEFA U21 Championship, UEFA U19 Championship, UEFA U17 Championship, AFC U23 Championship, AFC U20 Asian Cup, AFC U19 Championship, AFC U17 Asian Cup, CAF Africa U23 Cup of Nations, CAF Africa U20 Cup of Nations, CAF Africa U17 Cup of Nations, CONCACAF U20, CONCACAF U17, CONMEBOL Sudamericano U20, CONMEBOL Sudamericano U17, OFC U19 Championship or the OFC U17 Championship; or
- (d) The following tournaments (excluding any qualification rounds): Tournei Maurice Ravello, Pinatar Cup U18, Pinatar Cup U17, Torneio Internacional Algarve U17, U17 Nordic Football Championship, AFF U23 Championship or the West Asia Championship U23.