

COVID-19 – EMERGENCY CHANGES TO FA REGULATIONS



A. NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM REGULATIONS

No.	Regulation	Amendment
1.	Regulation 4	<p>RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR PROMOTION, RELEGATION AND MOVEMENT OF CLUBS</p> <p>The Committee shall provide for the seasonal promotion, relegation or movement of Clubs <u>in accordance with the detailed provisions of these Regulations.</u></p>
2.	Regulation 5.2	<p>This regulation is to be disapplied for the remainder of the 20/21 season only and replaced with the temporary regulation set out below.</p> <p><u>Temporary Regulation 5.2 for end of 20/21 season</u></p> <p><u>The following will apply for Step 1 and Step 2, subject to any decision made by FA Council following a recommendation from the Committee.</u></p> <p><u>Steps 1 and 2</u></p> <p><u>These regulations do not deal with promotion from Step 1.</u></p> <p><u>The Clubs finishing in the bottom four places at Step 1 at the end of the Playing Season will be relegated to a feeder pool and placed in the most geographically appropriate division at Step 2 for the following Playing Season. They will be replaced by the Clubs finishing in 1st position in each of the divisions at Step 2 together with a further two Clubs determined by a series of Play Off Matches. Where a Club finishes in 1st position but does not meet the criteria for participation at the next Step, the Club finishing in 2nd Position shall be promoted. The Clubs finishing in 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th positions shall be eligible to take part in the Play Off Matches. The Play Off Matches shall be played so that in each Step 2 division there is a qualifying round, semi-finals and a promotion final with all ties being played over a single leg at the ground of the higher placed Club. The winner of the promotion final in each Step 2 division will be</u></p>

COVID-19 – EMERGENCY CHANGES TO FA REGULATIONS



		<p><u>promoted. If a Club is not eligible to enter Step 1 then it shall not take part in any Play Off Matches. In that event, such Club shall not be replaced and the Play Off Matches structure and draw shall be adjusted as necessary by the Competition on the basis of the remaining Clubs' final league positions.</u></p> <p><u>There shall be no relegation from Step 2 to Step 3.</u></p> <p><u>Steps 3 - 6</u></p> <p><u>No Clubs in Step 3 through to Step 6 shall be promoted or relegated in season 2020/2021, save for any adjustments which may be necessary to fill any vacancies that may arise or in order to effect any restructure of Steps 4, 5 and 6 approved by FA Council following a recommendation from the relevant Committees.</u></p> <p>Prior to the commencement of the 2021/22 season, this temporary Regulation 5.2 shall be deleted and the original wording of Regulation 5.2 shall be reinstated (subject to any further amendments approved ahead of the 2021/22 season).</p>
3.	Regulation 5.3	<p>This regulation is to be disapplied for the remainder of the 20/21 season only.</p> <p>Prior to the commencement of the 2021/22 season, Regulation 5.3 shall be deleted or amended as appropriate ahead of the 2021/22 season.</p>
4.	Regulation 5.5	<p>This regulation is to be disapplied for the remainder of the 20/21 season only and replaced with the temporary regulation set out below.</p> <p><u>Temporary Regulation 5.5 for end of 20/21 season</u></p> <p><u>In the event that a vacancy arises anywhere within Steps 1 to 6 before the commencement of the 2021/2022 season, the Committee shall determine whether or not and how any vacancy is filled at its absolute discretion.</u></p>

COVID-19 – EMERGENCY CHANGES TO FA REGULATIONS



		<p>Prior to the commencement of the 2021/22 season, this temporary Regulation 5.5 shall be deleted and the original wording of Regulation 5.5 shall be reinstated (subject to any further amendments approved ahead of the 2021/22 season).</p>
5.	Regulation 5.8	<p>This regulation is to be disapplied for the remainder of the 20/21 season only and replaced with the temporary regulation set out below.</p> <p><u>Temporary Regulation 5.8 for end of 20/21 season</u></p> <p><u>Ground grading requirements will be in accordance with the Rules and the following requirements will apply.</u></p> <p><u>Step 1 – Clubs must comply fully with the requirements of Grade A</u></p> <p><u>Step 2 – Clubs competing at Step 2 must comply fully with the requirement of Grade B. To be considered for promotion to Step 1 or to be included in the Play Off Matches, Clubs must meet the requirement of Grade B together with any additional requirements by 31st March in the year in which they seek promotion. Club must also attain Grade A by 31st March in the year following promotion.</u></p> <p><u>Step 3 - Clubs competing at Step 3 must comply fully with the requirements of Grade C.</u></p> <p><u>Step 4 - Clubs promoted to Step 4 in the 2019/20 season must comply fully with the requirements of Grade E by 31st March 2022 and comply fully with the requirements of Grade D by 31st March 2023. Clubs competing at Step 4 must comply fully with the requirements of Grade D.</u></p> <p><u>Step 5 - Clubs competing at Step 5 must comply fully with the requirements of Grade F.</u></p> <p><u>Step 6 - Clubs competing at Step 6 must comply fully with the requirements of Grade G.</u></p> <p><u>Any inspections for clubs at Steps 3 to 6 which were scheduled to take place by 31st March 2021 will instead take place by 31st March 2022.</u></p>

COVID-19 – EMERGENCY CHANGES TO FA REGULATIONS



		Prior to the commencement of the 2021/22 season, this temporary Regulation 5.8 shall be deleted and the original wording of Regulation 5.8 shall be reinstated (subject to any further amendments approved ahead of the 2021/22 season).
6.	Regulation 5.9	<p>This regulation is to be disapplied for the remainder of the 20/21 season only.</p> <p>Prior to the commencement of the 2021/22 season, the original wording of Regulation 5.3 shall be reinstated (subject to any further amendments approved ahead of the 2021/22 season).</p>
6.	NEW 13	<p><u>Leagues at Steps 1 to 6 of the NLS shall apply the temporary changes to the Standardised Rules stipulated by The Association (to the extent applicable) so that these provisions are binding between the Leagues and their Clubs. These temporary changes are consequential amendments following the decision of FA Council on 18 March 2021 to end the season at Steps 3 to 6 of the NLS with no promotion or relegation.</u></p> <p>Prior to the commencement of the 2021/22 season, this temporary Regulation 13 shall be deleted.</p>
7.	Appendix A (Feeder League appendix) Regulation 2	<p>This regulation is to be disapplied for the remainder of the 20/21 season only and replaced with the temporary regulation set out below.</p> <p><u>Temporary Regulation 2 for end of 20/21 season</u></p> <p><u>No Clubs in Feeder Leagues shall be promoted to Step 6 in the 2020/2021 season, save for any adjustments which may be necessary to fill any vacancies that may arise or in order to effect any restructure of Steps 4, 5 and 6 approved by FA Council following a recommendation from the relevant Committees.</u></p> <p>Prior to the commencement of the 2021/22 season, this temporary Regulation 2 shall be deleted and the original wording of Regulation 2 shall be reinstated (subject to any further amendments approved ahead of the 2021/22 season).</p>

B. STANDARDISED RULES

No.	RULE	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
1.	Rule 2.6	<p>Rule 2.6 is to be disapplied for the remainder of the 2020/2021 season only and replaced with the temporary Rule set out below.</p> <p><u>Temporary Rule 2.6 for end of 2020/2021 season</u></p> <p><u>Each Club in membership must attain the grade provided for in the Criteria Document by 31 March 2021 (for Steps 1 and 2), 31 March 2022 (for Steps 3 – 6) or by a later date agreed at the sole discretion of The FA’s Alliance Leagues Committee (Steps 1 to 4) or Leagues Committee (Steps 5 & 6). The grade applicable for each Club for the commencement of a Playing Season shall be that existing at the previous 31st July (or by a later date which was agreed at the sole discretion of The FA’s Alliance Leagues Committee (Steps 1 to 4) or Leagues Committee (Steps 5 & 6) such grading to be ascertained by an inspection carried out on or before 31st March or as soon as practicable thereafter. Any Club not maintaining the grade set for the Competition may be relegated at the end of the Playing Season to a step determined by The FA.</u></p> <p><u>[Any delay in inspection shall in no way release a Club from its obligation to have its ground ready for inspection. If for any reason a Club’s existing ground, or any new ground in which it proposes to play its home matches in the season following inspection, is not available for grading by 31st March prior to commencement of the relevant season then the Club must, by the 31st March, submit to the Board in writing its proposals for a venue for its home matches in the following season (“alternative proposal”), such alternative proposal to be considered (and if appropriate) approved at the next Board Meeting after 31st March. The alternative proposal must, inter alia, contain documentary evidence in support of any ground sharing arrangements and evidence that the proposed ground is demonstrably suitable at a level which the relevant club will be competing. The alternative proposal may not be for a continuation of any ground share arrangement if the Club has had a ground sharing arrangement for the previous 2 seasons, or any part thereof, even if those arrangements have related to more than one ground.</u></p> <p><u>Any approval of the alternative proposal will be subject to the issue of a grading certificate. The Board will use all reasonable endeavours to inspect the ground after receiving the alternative proposal and prior to the Board meeting, but if it is unable to do so then any approval of the alternative proposal will be subject to the issue of a</u></p>

COVID-19 – EMERGENCY CHANGES TO FA REGULATIONS



		<p><u>satisfactory grading certificate. In the event of a Club not having received a grading certificate by 31st March and not having had its alternative proposal approved at the relevant Board Meeting, it shall be relegated forthwith at the end of the playing season to a level determined by The Football Association.]</u></p> <p>Prior to the commencement of the 2020/21 season, this temporary Rule 2.6 shall be deleted and the original wording of Rule 2.6 shall be reinstated (subject to any further amendments approved ahead of the 2020/21 season).</p>
2.	Rule 12.1 – 12.2.5	<p>Rules 12.1 to 12.2.5 shall be disapplied in relation to leagues at Steps 3 to 6 for the remainder of the 2020/2021 season only. Prior to the commencement of the 2021/22 season, the original wording shall be reinstated (subject to any further amendments approved ahead of the 2021/22 season).</p>
3.	Rule 12.3	<p>Rule 12.3 is to be disapplied in relation to leagues at Steps 3 to 6 for the remainder of the 2020/2021 season only and replaced with the temporary Rule set out below:</p> <p><u>Any movement of Clubs shall be in accordance with the principles established by the Committee and the provisions of the National League System Regulations.</u></p> <p>Prior to the commencement of the 2021/22 season, this temporary Rule 2.6 shall be deleted and the original wording shall be reinstated (subject to any further amendments approved ahead of the 2021/22 season).</p>
4.	Rule 12.4	<p>To the extent that a League has inserted provisions under this Rule, those are disapplied for the remainder of the 2020/2021 season in relation to leagues at Steps 3 to 6:</p> <p>[each League to insert provisions for promotion and relegation not covered by the LC]</p> <p>Prior to the commencement of the 2021/22 season, the original wording shall be reinstated (subject to any further amendments approved ahead of the 2021/22 season).</p>
5.	Rule 12.5	<p>This Rule is to be disapplied for the remainder of the 2020/2021 season:</p>

COVID-19 – EMERGENCY CHANGES TO FA REGULATIONS

		<p>If no Clubs are eligible or wish promotion, the number of Clubs to be relegated will be reduced.</p> <p>Prior to the commencement of the 2021/22 season, the original wording shall be reinstated (subject to any further amendments approved ahead of the 2021/22 season).</p>
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