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Welcome to The Football Association Handbook, the essential guide to the rules and regulations of football.

The FA has the privilege and the responsibility of overseeing football in England as a whole. We do so in an effective partnership with stakeholders from across all levels of the game. Football has rules to protect those who take part in it, and we approach it with one set of values, which allows the game to be successfully and effectively played in facilities all over the country.

The Handbook has been published every year since 1895, excluding the war years, and should prove again this year to be an invaluable companion to people involved in football at all levels.

We hope that every recipient of the 2026-2027 Handbook, whatever your involvement in the game, will find it a helpful reference book during what we hope will be another exciting season.

**DEBBIE HEWITT MBE, CHAIR
THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

The FA Handbook may be subject to change throughout the playing season. For the most up-to-date version, please visit [The FA's website](#).